

Digital Productivity Tool Roundup

Here are some of our favorites.

Recommended Time Trackers:

Rescuetime- (Free basic version + Paid) for all devices: Rescuetime is the ultimate time management app on the market. The free version runs in the background and tracks your digital life. You'll know exactly how long you're spending on what websites and activities online. Youtube, email, twitter, facebook, ebay... you name it.

The paid version comes with additional bells and whistles, like the ability to block sites for however long you set it for. You can also set goals, track offline obligations by merging with a calendar app, and receive a daily "productivity score" that's based on how well you did for the day.

Intent- Chrome Extension (Free): This is Kingshuk, our content strategist's current favorite. It's dead simple to install and use, tracks where you spend your time, and checks in with you weekly to see how happy you are with how you spent your time. If you're not happy, it makes recommendations (which are automated by the extension!). We wish all extensions and apps were built with this much thoughtfulness.

Other Trackers and Blockers:

Heyfocus- (Paid) For Mac: Focus is a Mac app that blocks distracting websites (like Facebook and Reddit) on all browsers (Safari, Chrome and Firefox). Focus can also block other Mac applications like Twitter, Skype or Mail. This is what Srini uses.

Focusme- (Paid) For Mac, Android, and PC: Powerful app and website blocker. King used this for years and had no complaints. Settings are completely customizable, so you can preset different time blocks and categories of sites to block.

Freedom- (Paid) For Mac: Freedom is the world-famous Internet, social media, and app blocker. Block websites and apps on your iPhone, iPad, Mac, and Windows computers. Doesn't

track, but for blocking out time to work uninterrupted, it's damn near perfect. Only downsides are no android support, and it's \$100 for an unlimited license.

Findfocus- (Free + Paid) For Mac and PC: Powerful website blocker. King switched from Focusme to Findfocus because it comes with tutorials on how to get the most out of the app. Very similar to Focusme, but better tutorials and a little more intuitive to use.

Focus@will- (Paid) For all devices: Focus at will doesn't block anything. It's not meant to do that. Instead, they use Neuroscience backed research to play different styles of music to keep you focused on the task at hand.

We haven't used it, but word is that Focus@will+noise cancelling headphones=productivity.

HiddenMe- (Free) For Mac: Hidden me is a free tool that allows mac users to hide all desktop icons with the click of a button. If you want desktop zero for a while or have a presentation, HiddenMe hides the clutter (but doesn't make it go away permanently- that's still up to you).

Facebook News Feed eradicator- (Free) Chrome extension: This is a pretty straightforward extension. When you log onto facebook, your main feed will be gone. No endless updates, no bad news delivered by friends, no distractions.

Adblock Plus- (Free) Chrome extension: While not strictly a productivity app, it's nice because it blocks most advertising on websites. The best feature however, is a little option to block elements on websites- if you don't want the newsfeed on twitter or on facebook, you can highlight the element on the site and block it.

Appblock- (Free) App for Android and Iphone: This app adds an additional layer between you and distracting apps. Schedule your productive times and if you try to open instagram or facebook, the app will automatically close them. While this isn't foolproof (you can delete the app and disable it), it adds an additional layer between you and the distracting apps. Often this is enough to keep you on track.