

Smartphone Tips and Tricks

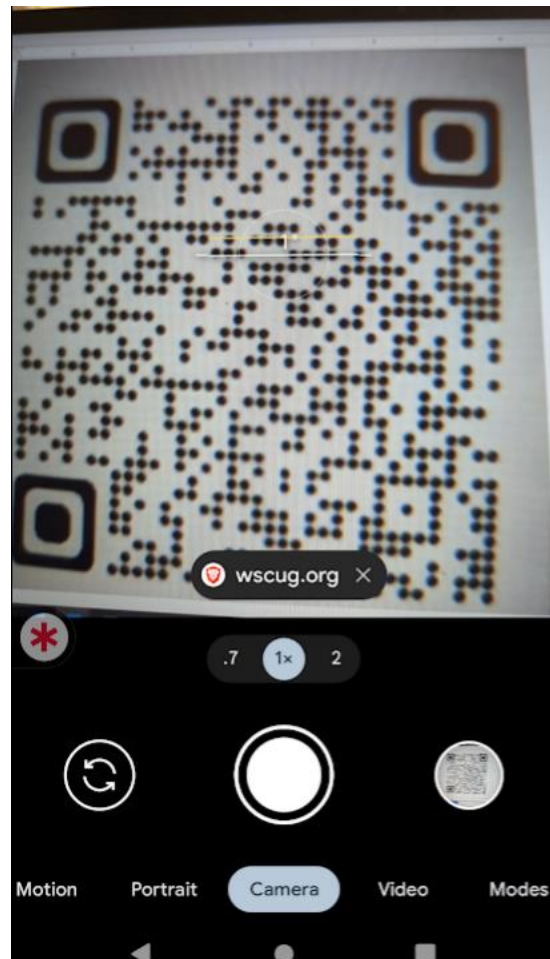
QR Codes

What is a QR Code?

QR stands for Quick Response. It is a way to embed a large amount of information in a picture, basically a variety of barcode such as you find on store items, that will allow a QR code reader to access the information. Its uses include linking email addresses, URLs, texts, WIFI passwords, social media links such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Pinterest. Increasingly restaurants are using QR codes to take guests to an online menu. There are several types of QR codes for different uses.

How do I use a QR code?

Depending on your phone it may be possible to scan a QR code directly from your camera app. Point your camera at the QR code and then tap on the popup that appears on screen. If your phone camera doesn't support QR code reading you can download an app from the Play Store for Android or the Apple Store for iPhones. In that case you would open the app and then point your camera at the QR code.



Scanning on a computer

If you have a laptop with a camera or an add on camera for a desktop, you can scan a QR code if you install an app. You can find qr code readers in the Microsoft store.

Install the app, print the barcode you want to scan and hold it steady in front of the camera, or, if supported by the app, you can scan from an image of the barcode that is visible on your computer.

Be cautious with QR codes. Sometimes you will see a QR code on a bulletin board or phone pole. On April Fools Day the following appeared in the sky over Dallas. People who followed it were taken to a YouTube video of Rick Astley singing “Never Gonna Give You Up”. While this was benign it is possible to direct people to places they wouldn’t want to go such as sites that can infect your device.

