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I'm not robot


reCAPTCHA

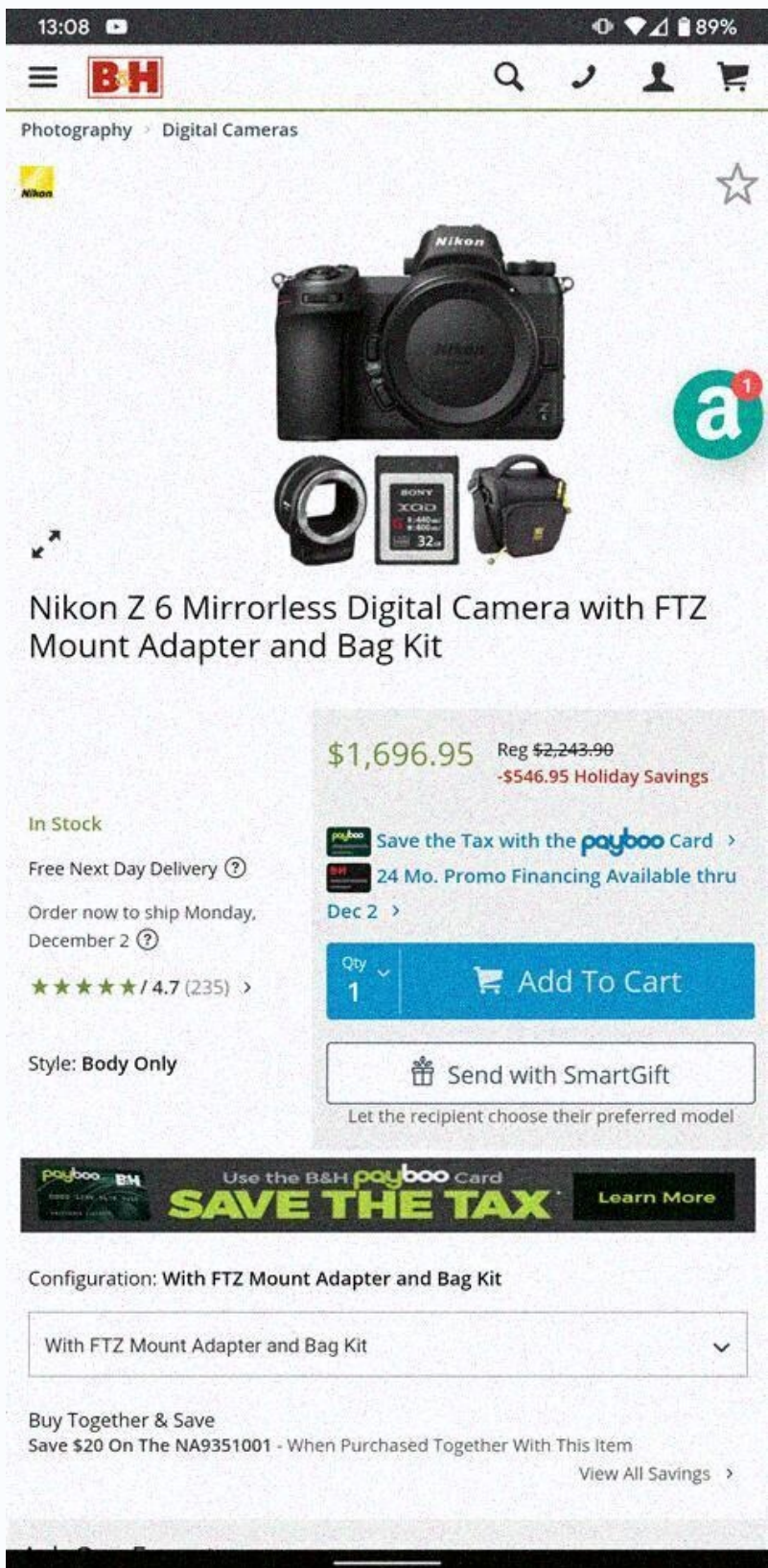
I am not robot!

Amazon assistant uninstall.

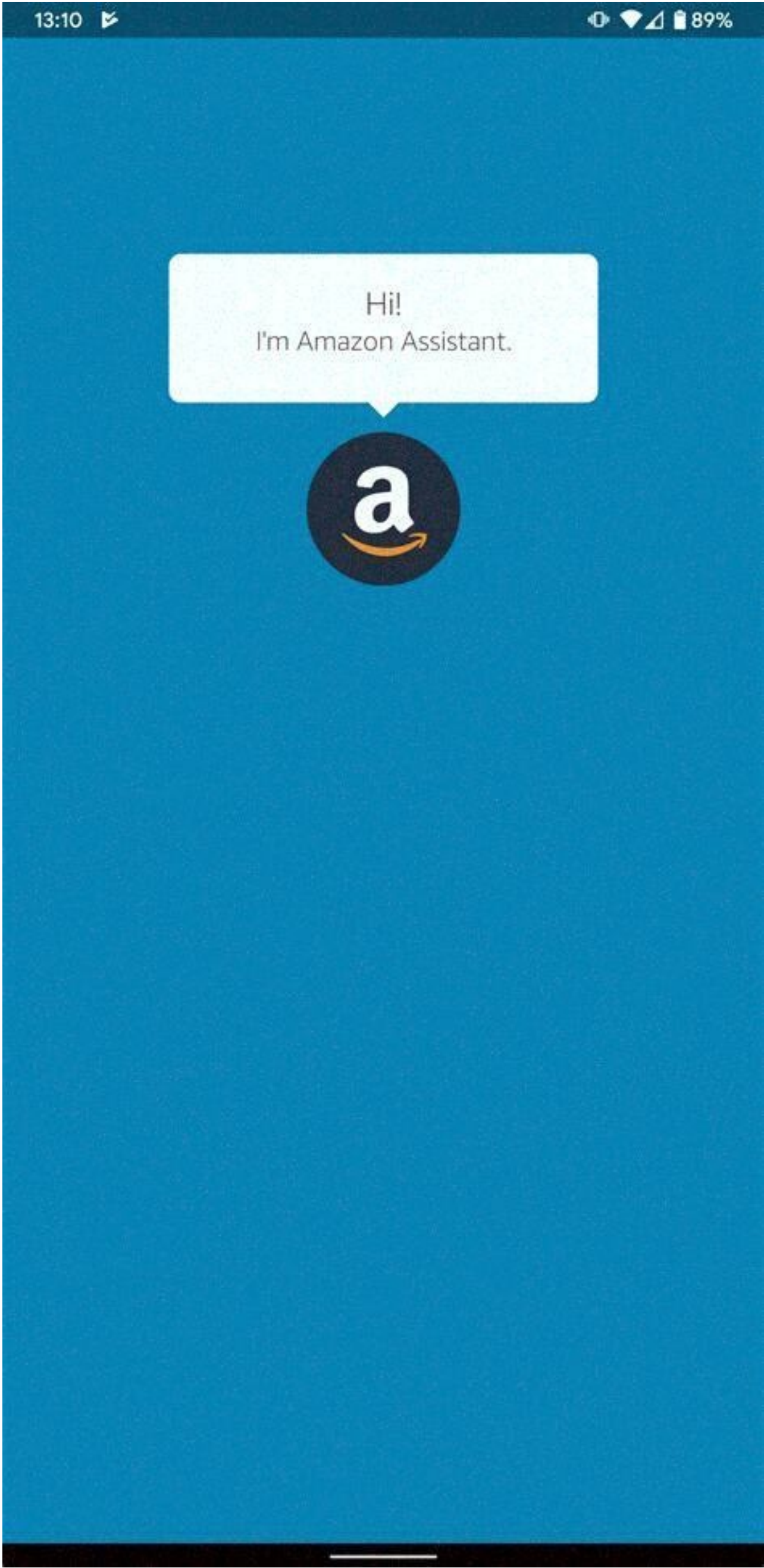
(Image credit: Shutterstock) Amazon is quietly killing a seriously useful feature designed to help shoppers save money. And we're just a few days away from the plug being pulled. Say goodbye to the Amazon Assistant browser extension as it's being discontinued in just a couple of weeks. A note on the Amazon Assistant landing page, and also visible on the extension itself, reads: "At Amazon, we're always experimenting and evaluating the potential of our products. We have made the decision to discontinue Amazon Assistant on March 28, 2023." The message also apologizes for any inconvenience this decision may cause, and explains that any Amazon List created via Amazon Assistant will still be accessible beyond the extension's shutdown date. If you've never used Amazon Assistant, it is a pretty useful tool that works across browsers including Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge and Mozilla Firefox. While it offers multiple functions, its primary purpose is to facilitate quick price comparisons between Amazon and rival retailers. (Image credit: Future)So, for example, if you were shopping for an LG C2 OLED deal at Best Buy, you could bring up the Amazon Assistant extension to see if your selected model was cheaper at Amazon. You could also see its Amazon rating without needing to visit the site directly. Plus, from the extension, you could instantly add the product to your cart or add it to an Amazon wishlist. The app would even offer a selection of additional products for you to consider instead.Amazon Assistant has long been a useful way to ensure you're not overpaying for an item when online shopping. And we also appreciated that Amazon opted not to lock it behind a Prime subscription. The Assistant extension was instead made available for free to anybody with an Amazon account. That is assuming of course you were comfortable giving Amazon access to your browser backend and search history. No reason whyAmazon has not given a concrete reason for why the browser extension is being discontinued, but based on the wording within the announcement post we can assume it is primarily due to low user engagement. Presumably, not enough people were using the feature to justify the maintenance required to keep it functioning smoothly and securely.As of yet, there's no indication that Amazon Assistant's functionality will be rolled into another Amazon product, so for now, at least, it would seem that after March 28, comparing prices between Amazon and rival retailers will become a little more difficult. Fortunately, there are still several highly useful deal comparison websites out there such as Slickdeals.net.



More from Tom's Guide Upgrade your life with the Tom's Guide newsletter. Subscribe now for a daily dose of the biggest tech news, lifestyle hacks and hottest deals. Elevate your everyday with our curated analysis and be the first to know about cutting-edge gadgets. I love Amazon for making online shopping so easy. I now do most of my own shopping online. And, thanks to the hidden features of Amazon, I end up saving a ton of time and money every year.



You could also see its Amazon rating without needing to visit the site directly. Plus, from the extension, you could instantly add the product to your cart or add it to an Amazon wishlist. The app would even offer a selection of additional products for you to consider instead.Amazon Assistant has long been a useful way to ensure you're not overpaying for an item when online shopping. And we also appreciated that Amazon opted not to lock it behind a Prime subscription. The Assistant extension was instead made available for free to anybody with an Amazon account. That is assuming of course you were comfortable giving Amazon access to your browser backend and search history. No reason whyAmazon has not given a concrete reason for why the browser extension is being discontinued, but based on the wording within the announcement post we can assume it is primarily due to low user engagement. Presumably, not enough people were using the feature to justify the maintenance required to keep it functioning smoothly and securely.As of yet, there's no indication that Amazon Assistant's functionality will be rolled into another Amazon product, so for now, at least, it would seem that after March 28, comparing prices between Amazon and rival retailers will become a little more difficult. Fortunately, there are still several highly useful deal comparison websites out there such as Slickdeals.net. This third-party website can help you find the best price when shopping for in-demand items. More from Tom's Guide Upgrade your life with the Tom's Guide newsletter. Subscribe now for a daily dose of the biggest tech news, lifestyle hacks and hottest deals. Elevate your everyday with our curated analysis and be the first to know about cutting-edge gadgets. I love Amazon for making online shopping so easy. I now do most of my own shopping online. And, thanks to the hidden features of Amazon, I end up saving a ton of time and money every year. It's even better when you throw in the core benefits of Prime and the newer benefits of Prime. But there's one thing I don't recommend: Amazon Assistant. In this article, you'll learn three things: What is Amazon Assistant? Why should you avoid using it? Which are the better alternatives you can use to mimic some of its best features? What Is Amazon Assistant? It was earlier called 1Button App. Now, Amazon Assistant is a browser extension and mobile app that aims to improve your overall online shopping experience. Its features include: Order Updates: As your Amazon orders progress from Ordered to Shipped to Delivered, you can get every update straight in the app in real-time. Price Comparisons: When shopping on other online retailer sites, get direct price comparisons for the same item on Amazon. This lets you get the best deals all the time, whether they're on Amazon or elsewhere. Registries and Lists: One of Amazon's best features is its wish lists and registries. With Amazon Assistant, you can even add items from other online retailers to your Amazon lists, thus keeping everything in one place and organized. Deal Alerts: Set up alerts on specific items and get browser alerts when the price goes down so you can snatch them up as soon as they're affordable. Image Search: When shopping in a brick-and-mortar store, you can snap photos of items or their barcodes to instantly arrive at that item's Amazon page if it exists. Amazon Shortcuts: One-click navigation to popular Amazon pages, such as Your Orders, Your Lists, Today's Deals, and Warehouse Deals. These features are useful. But, there are some major drawbacks to consider before hopping aboard the Amazon Assistant train. The primary reason to avoid Amazon Assistant is concerns over privacy. We highly recommend reading the Amazon Assistant Conditions of Use, wherein you'll find this chunk of text: "The Amazon Assistant collects and stores information based on your interactions with and use of the features of the Amazon Assistant. For example, if you use the Amazon Assistant to add a product to your Amazon Wishlist or use the Product Comparison feature . . . we will collect and store information such as . . . your Amazon account, your search query, and other information necessary to . . . show you related Amazon products." Followed by this bit of text: "In some cases, we may associate that information with your identity and Amazon account information." And that's not all: "The Amazon Assistant may also collect information about the websites you view when you are not interacting with the Amazon Assistant, but we do not associate that information with your Amazon account or identify it with you except as required by law." What kind of information? "Examples of the information we collect and analyze include . . .



This third-party website can help you find the best price when shopping for in-demand items. More from Tom's Guide Upgrade your life with the Tom's Guide newsletter. Subscribe now for a daily dose of the biggest tech news, lifestyle hacks and hottest deals. Elevate your everyday with our curated analysis and be the first to know about cutting-edge gadgets. I love Amazon for making online shopping so easy. I now do most of my own shopping online. And, thanks to the hidden features of Amazon, I end up saving a ton of time and money every year. It's even better when you throw in the core benefits of Prime and the newer benefits of Prime. But there's one thing I don't recommend: Amazon Assistant. In this article, you'll learn three things: What is Amazon Assistant? Why should you avoid using it? Which are the better alternatives you can use to mimic some of its best features? What is Amazon Assistant? It was earlier called 1Button App. Now, Amazon Assistant is a browser extension and mobile app that aims to improve your overall online shopping experience. Its features include: Order Updates: As your Amazon orders progress from Ordered to Shipped to Delivered, you can get every update straight in the app in real-time. Price Comparisons: When shopping on other online retailer sites, get direct price comparisons for the same item on Amazon. This lets you get the best deals all the time, whether they're on Amazon or elsewhere. Registries and Lists: One of Amazon's best features is its wish lists and registries. With Amazon Assistant, you can even add items from other online retailers to your Amazon lists, thus keeping everything in one place and organized. Deal Alerts: Set up alerts on specific items and get browser alerts when the price goes down so you can snatch them up as soon as they're affordable. Image Search: When shopping in a brick-and-mortar store, you can snap photos of items or their barcodes to instantly arrive at that item's Amazon page if it exists. Amazon Shortcuts: One-click navigation to popular Amazon pages, such as Your Orders, Your Lists, Today's Deals, and Warehouse Deals. These features are useful. But, there are some major drawbacks to consider before hopping aboard the Amazon Assistant train. The primary reason to avoid Amazon Assistant is concerns over privacy. We highly recommend reading the Amazon Assistant Conditions of Use, wherein you'll find this chunk of text: "The Amazon Assistant collects and stores information based on your interactions with and use of the features of the Amazon Assistant.



This third-party website can help you find the best price when shopping for in-demand items. More from Tom's Guide Upgrade your life with the Tom's Guide newsletter. Subscribe now for a daily dose of the biggest tech news, lifestyle hacks and hottest deals.



The Assistant extension was instead made available for free to anybody with an Amazon account. That is assuming of course you were comfortable giving Amazon access to your browser backend and search history. No reason whyAmazon has not given a concrete reason for why the browser extension is being discontinued, but based on the wording within the announcement post we can assume it is primarily due to low user engagement. Presumably, not enough people were using the feature to justify the maintenance required to keep it functioning smoothly and securely.As of yet, there's no indication that Amazon Assistant's functionality will be rolled into another Amazon product, so for now, at least, it would seem that after March 28, comparing prices between Amazon and rival retailers will become a little more difficult. Fortunately, there are still several highly useful deal comparison websites out there such as Slickdeals.net. This third-party website can help you find the best price when shopping for in-demand items. More from Tom's Guide Upgrade your life with the Tom's Guide newsletter. Subscribe now for a daily dose of the biggest tech news, lifestyle hacks and hottest deals. Elevate your everyday with our curated analysis and be the first to know about cutting-edge gadgets. I love Amazon for making online shopping so easy. I now do most of my own shopping online. And, thanks to the hidden features of Amazon, I end up saving a ton of time and money every year. It's even better when you throw in the core benefits of Prime and the newer benefits of Prime. But there's one thing I don't recommend: Amazon Assistant. In this article, you'll learn three things: What is Amazon Assistant? Why should you avoid using it? Which are the better alternatives you can use to mimic some of its best features? What is Amazon Assistant? It was earlier called 1Button App. Now, Amazon Assistant is a browser extension and mobile app that aims to improve your overall online shopping experience. Its features include: Order Updates: As your Amazon orders progress from Ordered to Shipped to Delivered, you can get every update straight in the app in real-time. Price Comparisons: When shopping on other online retailer sites, get direct price comparisons for the same item on Amazon. This lets you get the best deals all the time, whether they're on Amazon or elsewhere. Registries and Lists: One of Amazon's best features is its wish lists and registries. With Amazon Assistant, you can even add items from other online retailers to your Amazon lists, thus keeping everything in one place and organized. Deal Alerts: Set up alerts on specific items and get browser alerts when the price goes down so you can snatch them up as soon as they're affordable. Image Search: When shopping in a brick-and-mortar store, you can snap photos of items or their barcodes to instantly arrive at that item's Amazon page if it exists. Amazon Shortcuts: One-click navigation to popular Amazon pages, such as Your Orders, Your Lists, Today's Deals, and Warehouse Deals. These features are useful. But, there are some major drawbacks to consider before hopping aboard the Amazon Assistant train. The primary reason to avoid Amazon Assistant is concerns over privacy. We highly recommend reading the Amazon Assistant Conditions of Use, wherein you'll find this chunk of text: "The Amazon Assistant collects and stores information based on your interactions with and use of the features of the Amazon Assistant. For example, if you use the Amazon Assistant to add a product to your Amazon Wishlist or use the Product Comparison feature . . . we will collect and store information such as . . . your Amazon account, your search query, and other information necessary to . . . show you related Amazon products." Followed by this bit of text: "In some cases, we may associate that information with your identity and Amazon account information." And that's not all: "The Amazon Assistant may also collect information about the websites you view when you are not interacting with the Amazon Assistant, but we do not associate that information with your Amazon account or identify it with you except as required by law." What kind of information? "Examples of the information we collect and analyze include . . . full URL of the Web page you are visiting . . . [and] other identifying alphanumerical information enabling Amazon to identify your computer . . ." And the last bit of concerning conditions: "Amazon may make available third party applications and services as part of the Amazon Assistant . . . and using these third party applications and services may result in you sending information to such third parties." So what does this all mean? Amazon makes it clear that they are collecting information on your browsing habits at all times, both when interacting with Amazon Assistant and when you aren't. When third-party services are involved, your habits will likely be collected by them as well. As of now, it's impossible to know what third parties may or may not be involved. The non-Amazon Assistant-related information isn't currently associated with your Amazon account, but Amazon is collecting it -- and who knows how they might use it in the future? It wouldn't require much effort at all to eventually connect all of this information together. Learn more about how much information Amazon collects on you. Another big reason to avoid Amazon Assistant: scummy tactics to increase its exposure and adoption rate. Back in 2016, Oracle (the current developers of Java) began bundling Amazon Assistant as part of the Java 8 installer, which not only installed Amazon Assistant but also changed browser homepages and search engines to Amazon Smart Search. Bundlware is one of the most annoying practices today and is one of the main reasons why we recommend avoid downloading software from some sites. The fact that Amazon would stoop this low for Amazon Assistant leaves a sour taste in the mouth. The truth is, you can replicate most of Amazon Assistant's features with a hodgepodge of other tools and services that won't harvest your web browsing habits and information. It may not be as convenient as having it all in one single app, but we think the trade-off is worth it. You can track your Amazon orders in three ways: Through Amazon.com on the Your Orders page. Click Track Package after it's delivered to get shipping tracking information, which is often done through USPS. Through the shipping company. For example, once the package is shipped and if it's done through USPS, you can enter the tracking number on the USPS site and then sign up to receive email or SMS updates as shipping progresses. Through the Amazon Shopping mobile app (Android and iOS). If you enable it in the settings, the app will push notifications whenever an order's status changes. With these options, you'll never have to wonder where your new Amazon Fire Stick is again! For Price Comparisons You have different options for price comparisons whether you prefer to do them in a desktop browser or on your mobile device. For desktop browsers, we recommend Google Shopping. If you have similar concerns about privacy with Google, use sites like PriceRunner and ShopBot (Australia). See more options in our roundup of the best price comparison websites. For mobile devices, we recommend ShopSavvy (Android and iOS). What's nice about ShopSavvy is its barcode scan feature: use your device's camera to snap any item's barcode and ShopSavvy will instantly pull up online price comparisons for it. Not a fan? See more options in our roundup of the best price comparison mobile apps. For Deal Alerts Arguably the most useful feature, price notifications can save you a ton of money with practically zero effort. But if you can't rely on Amazon Assistant, where else can you go? Despite its weird name, CamelCamelCamel is the best tool to use. Take any Amazon product URL and paste it into CamelCamelCamel's search box to see a complete history of its price. You can set an alert for when the price drops below a certain threshold. You can also see its lowest and highest prices ever, which can let you know if you're getting a deal or not. This isn't the only tool, of course. See our roundup of ways to get discounted deals on Amazon. Also, these ways to save when shopping on Amazon can push your savings to the next level. Online shopping has evolved quite a bit over the last decade, and it's still changing even as we speak. Be sure to catch up on these essential online shopping terms as well as these alternative online retailers that aren't Amazon. More than that, here are a few more things to bear in mind when shopping online: how to avoid impulsive shopping behavior, common online shopping traps, and tricks that'll help you spend less money online. Left unchecked, online shopping can be a huge money sink! What do you think of Amazon Assistant? What about Amazon in general? How do you prefer to shop online? Share with us down in the comments below!