Cookie Policy

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Our site uses cookies to distinguish you from other users. This helps us to provide you with a good experience when you browse our site and also allows us to improve our site. By continuing to browse the site, you are consenting to our use of cookies.

If you wish to remove cookies placed on your device by our site or stop our site placing further cookies on your device you can do this at any time (learn how to do so below), however such action is likely to mean that our site will not function as intended.

A “cookie” is a piece of information, like a tag, that’s stored on your device when you visit a website. The only personal information a cookie can contain is information supplied by the user. A cookie cannot read data from a user’s hard drive or read cookie files created by other websites.

The use of cookies is an industry standard that can be found on most major websites. We use information obtained from cookies to tailor our services better to our users’ needs. Many improvements and updates to our site are based on such data.

We reserve the right to modify or amend the use of cookies at any time and for any reason. Any changes will be posted on our site and will take effect as soon as they are posted. By continuing to use our site after any changes are posted you are indicating your acceptance of those changes.

**We use the following cookies**

* Strictly necessary cookies – these are required for the operation of our site. They include, for example, cookies that enable you to log into secure areas of our site.
* Analytical/performance cookies – these allow us to recognise and count the number of visitors to our site and to see how visitors move around our site when they are using it. This helps us to improve the way our site works, for example, by ensuring that users are finding what they are looking for easily.
* Functionality cookies – these are used to recognise you when you return to our site. This enables us to personalise our content for you and remember your preferences.

Please note that third parties may also use cookies, over which we have no control. These cookies are likely to be analytical/performance cookies or targeting cookies.

**You can find out more information about the cookies we use and the purposes for which we use them in the table below:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cookie** | **Function** | **Category and expiry** | **More information** |
| \_ga, \_gid | Used by Google Analytics to distinguish users and sessions, throttle request rate, determine new sessions/visits, and to store visitor-level custom variable data | End of session / 10 minutes / 2 years | <https://developers.google.com/analytics/devguides/collection/analyticsjs/cookie-usage> |
| \_smb\_api\_session, gs\_pvid, \_\_stid, \_\_unam, gs\_user\_id, location | Used by api.at.getsocial.io which uses the ShareThis service and monitors “click-stream” activity, e.g. web pages viewed and navigated, and time spent on pages. | 60 days |  |
| session | session identifier; no user information is stored in the cookies | session |  |

**Turning off cookies**

You can usually switch cookies off by adjusting your browser settings to stop it from accepting cookies. The Help function within your browser should tell you how to do this. For more information about how to change your browser settings please see [**www.aboutcookies.org**](http://www.aboutcookies.org/). Doing so, however, is likely to limit the functionality of our site.