

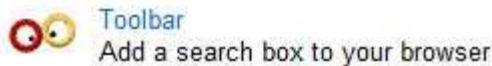
Free Programs

Revised: Feb 12, 2010

Search Engines

I can't imagine ever using any internet browser without having A Google search engine set up in the browser heading. Google is such a great tool, I just don't want to do without! Not only will it find all sorts of things for you, it also acts as a pretty good spell checker. My Email & WORD spell checkers frequently get "stumped" by my mistakes. Google has never let me down!

You can get Google by going to <http://www.google.com> ... up at the top, click on "more", then scroll down and click on "even more". Scroll down some more to find the little logo:



Then click on that logo and follow the on-screen instructions to install the Google search engine link in the tool bar area of your internet browser. It's FREE!

Office Applications -

Microsoft Office is the de facto standard Office Suite. It contains: Word, Publisher, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook and more. Office is currently up to version 2007. Version 2010 has been released in Beta form.

A good, FREE, substitute can be found in **OpenOffice** at: <http://www.openoffice.org/product/OpenOffice> is rapidly becoming VERY popular. The current version is 3.1.1. Version 3.2.0 RC 5 has been released. OpenOffice contains a version of WORD, Excel and PowerPoint, plus some other applications. These versions are almost identical to Microsoft Office versions 2003.

Email -

OpenOffice does not contain a substitute for Outlook or Outlook Express or Web Mail - all Microsoft

Email managers. However, **Thunderbird** offers many of the same Email features as Outlook. It was developed by Mozilla, which produces the free Browser, FireFox. It is available at: <http://www.mozilla.org/>

I value my Email messages. I save almost all of the real messages - not the SPAM stuff - that I have ever received. In order to protect my Email from possible loss that might be caused by a C: Drive crash. Virus infection, or reformat/rebuild, I have "pointed" my "store folder" off of the C: Drive to one of my other hard drives that I use for data storage. That folder now holds over 8 GB of data and grows a little every day. Some of the Emails that I have saved date back to 1997. I currently use Microsoft Office's Outlook v2007 as my browser. I have never had a problem. However, recently I have come across a free program for "fixing" problems with the Email data base. It works with all Microsoft Email browsers - especially Win-7's Windows Mail. It repairs corrupted databases and deletes any message entries that might be empty - no message and no attachments. It is called **Windows Mail Utility** (WMUtil) and can be downloaded from www.oehelp.com

Calendar -

Microsoft's Outlook includes a calendar management feature. Lighting is a calendar add-on for Thunderbird. Or, you can download the program **Sunbird**. It provides the same features as Lighting and it is a stand alone program. You can get **Sunbird** at: <http://www.mozilla.org/projects/calendar/sunbird/> **Sunbird** is also a program from Mozilla.org.

Publishing -

Microsoft Publisher (Part of Microsoft Office) is a great publishing program. But, for FREE, you can get **Scribus** which is a whole lot like Publisher. You can get it here: <http://www.scribus.net/> Scribus

Free Programs

1.3.5.1 has been released

Edit Photos -

Adobe's Photoshop is the world's greatest photo editing program. But, it is a little costly to buy at about \$650 per copy.

You might want to try the FREE program, **GIMP**. You can download **GIMP** at: <http://www.gimp.org/>

And, we are now recommending Google's Picasa as another good, free, utility. Picasa offers some neat imaging editing features including re-sizing, however almost everything that you might want to do in Picasa is done "globally to the entire image. There are no provisions (yet) in Picasa to make "selections" and perform editing only on the "selected" area. Go to: <http://picasa.google.com/>

The best (non-free) low-cost photo editing program is probably Adobe's Photoshop Elements v8. It sells on Amazon for about \$70.00. It's a SUPER good program with tons of features.

Drawing -

Adobe's Illustrator is the world's greatest drawing program. But, you can get almost the exact features in a FREE program called **Inkscape**. You can download Inkscape from: <http://www.inkscape.org/> They are currently up to version 0.47.

Edit Videos -

Adobe Premiere is the accepted, best, program for digital video editing. However, there is a FREE program called **Avidemux** that is more advanced than any other free program. You can find it at: <http://fixounet.free.fr/avidemux/> they are up to version 2.5.2

Design Web Pages -

For years, Dreamweaver & Front Page were the two leading web site construction tools. Microsoft has now discontinued FrontPage in favor of Expressions Web and Dreamweaver has been bought by Adobe. Both programs are fairly expensive. There is also a FREE alternative! It is called **First Page 2006** by Evrsoft. You can get it here:

<http://www.evrsoft.com/>

Create PDF Files -

Adobe's Acrobat is the leading program for creating and editing PDF files.

However you can get a great substitute PDF-file creator program called **PDFCreator** for FREE. You can get **PDFCreator** at: <http://sourceforge.net/projects/pdfcreator/>

And, you can still use the FREE PDF File READER from Acrobat. Get it here: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

If you are having a problem getting Adobe Reader installed (some folks have that problem) then you might want to use a different free PDF Reader called **Cool PDF Reader** from:

<http://www.pdf2exe.com/reader.html>

It is free and works great with **PDF Creator** mentioned above.

Burn CD's and DVD's

If you have lost the software that came with your CD/DVD burner, or maybe you have bought a new drive that didn't have software with it, then you might need a software utility to operate your CD/DVD burner. I recommend the free version called: Burn4Free. You can get it at:

<http://www.burn4free.com/download-dvd-copy-software.htm>

Free Programs

7-ZIP File Extractor

FREE, High compression ratio in new “7z” format with LZMA compression. Supported formats: Packing / unpacking: 7z, ZIP, GZIP, BZIP2 and TAR

Unpacking only: RAR, CAB, ISO, ARJ, LZH, CHM, MSI, WIM, Z, CPIO, RPM, DEB and NSIS

For ZIP and GZIP formats, **7-Zip** provides a compression ratio that is 2-10 % better than the ratio provided by PKZip and WinZip

Replaces the no-longer-free WinZIP utility.

Go to: <http://www.7-zip.org/>

Manage Money -

QuickBooks is the leading, most popular, money management program. It allows you to keep accounting records of both your home finances as well as a small business. However, the FREE program, **TurboCASH** offers almost all of the same features. You can get **TurboCASH** at: <http://www.turbocash.net/>

Virus Protection -

There are several different companies that offer FREE anti-virus. However, the one that I think is the best—and I use it on all of my personal and business computers—is: **AVG**. You can download it here: <http://free.avg.com/ww.download?prd=afe>. Be sure you get the free version. They will try to trick you into downloading the “free trial” version of the paid-version program.

Spyware Protection -

There are FOUR different anti-spyware programs that are all free. They will not run automatically on a “scheduler” like some of the paid programs do. You

will have to manually run each program about 3 or 4 times each month. You can get the free versions here:

Spybot SE (Search & Destroy):

<http://www.safer-networking.org/en/mirrors/index.html>. Be careful with the name. There are several non-free applications with very similar names.

They will “nag” you to “donate”, but the program is free.

Ad-Aware: <http://www.lavasoft.com/single/trialpay.php> Be careful with the name. There are several non-free applications with very similar names.

Windows DEFENDER: It is included automatically with VISTA, but, you can download it and install it for free if you are using Windows XP, SP-2 or 3. It will not run on SP1. Here is the link: <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/products/winfamily/defender/default.msp> Maybe you should Google for it!

Advanced System Care: This is sort of new and very good. It could maybe replace both Spybot and Ad-Aware! It is also a FREE registry cleaner!! I like it and use it on all of my computers. It runs on both Win-XP, Vista and Win-7. Here is the link: <http://www.iobit.com/> Be careful—they will try to trick you into downloading the PAID version.

Registry Cleaning Programs -

Up until recently there have not been any good, FREE, registry cleaning programs. For years I ran RegCure, but it was a \$30 program. Now, there is a free version of **Advanced System Care (see above)**. I like it!! I am using it on all of my computers . It does a lot MORE than just clean the registry. It also checks for spyware, and a host of other things. I strongly recommend it. It runs on both Win-XP, Vista and Win-7. Here is the link: <http://www.iobit.com/>

Free Programs

Audio Editor -

From time to time you may need to do a little audio editing. You may need to translate from one file format to another, or splice a couple of things together, or cut something out of an audio file. While Adobe Audition 3 is the best possible program for doing anything with audio, you can get a lot of performance from **GoldWave**. GoldWave used to be free, and you can still get a free eval version. But, if you really want to use it, you'll have to come up with \$49.00. You can get it at:

<http://www.goldwave.com/features.php>

Adobe Audition 3 currently sells for about \$340.00 on Amazon.

Video Editing -

Microsoft Movie Maker

Already installed on newer computers that are running Windows XP, Movie Maker has drag and drop features to make creating and editing your movie easier. Microsoft has many add-ons for this software, and upgrades are available through the website. This is one of the best free video editing software programs available.

Avid FreeDV

Avid FreeDV is available for both Windows and MAC operating systems, and includes basic video and audio editing capabilities, as well as up to two streams of real-time effects. On the whole, a solid video editing program that is slightly hard to use, but very powerful once you learn its ins and outs.

Adobe® Photoshop® Elements 8

The #1 selling consumer photo-editing software, Adobe® Photoshop® Elements 8 software combines power and simplicity so you can make your photos look extraordinary, share your life stories in unique print creations and web experiences, and easily

manage and protect all your photos and video clips. Expect to pay about \$70 at Amazon.

General Free Downloads -

If you need a program that can do a specific task, you might go to Cnet.com and check their downloads first, before you go buy something. Cnet.com has tons of programs that can be downloaded. Many of them are absolutely free. Others offer a free trial of several days to several months before you have to pay anything. As with most free applications, they may not have the tons of features that the paid applications will have, but they may do what you need to do very nicely! Visit Cnet downloads at: <http://www.download.com>

There is also a second site noted for free downloads: <http://www.freedownloadscenter.com>

FTP (File Transfer Protocol) Programs -

There are some free FTP programs and they are perfectly OK if you only need them for the occasional, rare, use. But, if you plan to do very much web work and will need to be doing a lot of file transfers, you might want to take a look at CuteFTP. It is much more than just a file transfer program. I use the "Pro" version for all of my web-site construction and maintenance work. You can down a free trial version of either the "Home" version of the "Pro" version here: <http://www.cuteftp.com/> To buy, it's about \$60.00

Web Site Hosting -

Although there are some companies that provide free web hosting, I really don't recommend any of them. You tend to get what you pay for. Instead, I think I have found the CHEAPEST web site hosting company on the web. It is LunarPages— out in California. They will host all of your (eCommerce or non-commercial) web sites for only \$4.95 per month with a 60-month plan-purchase. You can put up as many different URL's as you want, and there is no

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limit of storage space for ALL of your web sites. There is no limit to total monthly data transfers for all of your web sites! I have ALL of my many ecommerce web sites hosted with LunarPages (at the \$4.95/month rate) and I'm still adding web sites! Visit them at:
<http://www.lunarpages.com>

And, there is an alternative—Lypha Networks! They offer a very similar package of hosting services & prices. Check them out at:
<http://www.lypha.com/>

Regardless of which company you might go with, try to understand that although the monthly price is very low, so is the amount of personal hand-holding that they can afford to give to you. They will provide tons of free “Help” files, but don't count on much personal one-on-one (telephone) help at these prices. Most “help” is provided via Email. You write out your question and Email it to them.

Computer Hardware Analyst -

Frequently you will need to know something about your computer that you just can't determine - like the manufacturer of the motherboard, or the make & model of the motherboard. Maybe you will need to know the manufacturer of your hard drive, or the make & model of your RAM chips or your BIOS. Well, there is a FREE utility that you can download and install that will analyze your computer and give you many pages of print-out that will cover all the details of the goodies inside your computer. It's called **Belarc v8.8h**. You can get it at:
http://www.belarc.com/free_download.html

Epson Ink Jet Cartridge/Printer Re-Set Utility -

Epson ink jet cartridges use a tiny printed circuit “chip” on each cartridge that will shut your printer down when the cartridge is empty. While it is possible to re-fill the cartridge with bulk ink, you must also re-set the chip. There is a special, FREE, utility (made in Russia) that you can install on your

computer that will re-set these chips. You can get it at: <http://www.sscig.com/epson.e.shtml>

Further, all Epson printers (and all other brands, also) keep track of how many cleaning cycles you perform. The waste ink generated by each cleaning cycle is collected in special, internal, storage pads. When the printer “thinks” that the pads are finally full, the printer will shut down until a service technician replaces the pads and re-sets the counter. This same, Russian utility can also be used to re-set the waste ink counter and allow you to keep printing. You should note that the free utility does NOT work with ALL Epson printer models

Finally - Epson has recently set up a web page where you can download - for free - a special, limited, utility that will re-set the Waste Ink Counter for any of the Epson printers. In order to get the free download, you need to go to the Epson web page, and enter the model number of your printer and the serial number. Then, you can get the special utility. The utility will ONLY re-set the Waste Ink Counter.

Here is the special Epson web page:
<http://www.epson.com/cgi-bin/Store/support/InkPadsForm.jsp> (be sure to type the link in exactly as it is shown - the link is case sensitive) So far, I have NOT found this link on any search engine.

Spell Checking, Dictionary -

WordWeb is a comprehensive one-click English thesaurus and dictionary for Windows. It can be used to look up words **from almost any program**, showing definitions, synonyms and related words. It includes pronunciations and usage examples, and has helpful spelling and sounds-like links. And, it is FREE! Get it here: <http://wordweb.info/>

Kim Komando Downloads

There is a radio show called The Kim Komando Show. It is hosted by “Kim” who is a bit of a computer guru. On her web site, she has a section devoted to Downloads - many of them are free. The

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others are good, solid, programs that you can trust. Once you get to Kim's web site, you might want to look around and find the place where you can sign up to receive her free weekly Email that is always filled with great information and links to great deals.

Here is the link to the web site page for Kim's downloads:

<http://www.komando.com/downloads/>

Discounts For On-Line Purchases

When ever you are about to purchase something from an on-line web site, during the check-out process, you will usually come to a page where there will be an opportunity to enter a "discount coupon" code.

If you don't already have a discount coupon for that particular web site, try this:

Open a second copy of an internet browser and go to Google (www.google.com) and type in:

[www.\(the name of the web site\).com/discount coupon](http://www.(the name of the web site).com/discount coupon)

Google will usually give you several links where discount coupons are available to the taking! The discount may be only 5 or 10%, but, hey—it's a discount, and it's FREE!

Additional Free Stuff

Try these links:

<http://www.freestuff.com/>

<http://www.thunderfap.com/>

<http://www.freestuffcenter.com/>

<http://www.freestufftimes.com/>

And, there are dozens of others!

Just go to Google and type in "Free Stuff" and see

what you get! Keep in mind that in order to get some of this free stuff, you will have to give some of the places a list of your friend's email addresses. Personally, I'd pass on those opportunities.

But, there are lots of free promotions where you can get small samples of products, coupons for use in your local grocery store, and other interesting things.

And, of course, all of these places will want your Email address so they can put you on a list to receive tons of Email SPAM (unsolicited advertising offers)

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