

## APPLICATION SOFTWARE

**FlashGet.** Normally, when you download a file, a single connection is used, which does not use all of your bandwidth. This application can automatically split files into sections--or splits--and download each split simultaneously. Multiple connections are opened to each file, and the result is a more efficient use of the bandwidth available, regardless of your connection. Manage your downloads by creating an unlimited number of categories for your files. You can have FlashGet search for the fastest server available for the fastest possible downloads, and its scheduling feature can dial up, download a file, hang up, and shut down the computer when you're not around. Note: This free version of FlashGet is adware; it replaces banner advertisements that appear in the program with other ads.

<http://tinyurl.com/yy7z4p>

**Force Delete.** Have you ever tried to delete a file or folder, only to get a Windows error message saying no can do? Try downloading Force Delete, a utility that works with all Windows versions to force delete the stubborn file. The program runs from a DOS command window.

<http://tinyurl.com/8tz67>

**Virtual Earth.** The advances in online mapping and satellite imaging are impressive. All the major search sites have been beefing up their offerings.

Many thought that things couldn't get any better than Google Earth. The pictures could be a little clearer in some places, and in some areas, the photos were outdated. But the service is impressive nonetheless.

Microsoft's Virtual Earth has changed everything. It takes you through the city at street level. You see a map at the bottom of the screen. At the top of the screen, you'll see pictures of the buildings that line the street. The pictures are so clear that you can read street signs and see pedestrians' faces!

Right now, it's only available for Seattle and San Francisco. It's only a matter of time before you can see your own neighborhood online.

<http://www.microsoft.com/virtualearth/>

**AxCrypt.** This program lets you right-click any file or folder and apply 128-bit AES encryption.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,45938,tk,srxdown,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,45938,tk,srxdown,00.asp)

**CCleaner.** CCleaner searches through several programs and removes useless files. It cleans temporary files from a number of applications, including Adobe Acrobat, eMule, eTrust EZ Antivirus, Firefox, Google Toolbar, Kazaa, Nero, Netscape, Office XP, OpenOffice, Opera WinAce, Windows Media Player, WinRAR, and WinZip. An advanced Registry scanner removes old and unused entries, including file extensions, ActiveX Controls, uninstallers, shared DLLs, fonts, help files, application paths, icons, and invalid shortcuts.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,24149,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,24149,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp)

**eFax Messenger.** Receive faxes at your e-mail address and open them as attachments.

<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,6286-order,1-page,1-c,alldownloads/description.html>

**FoxIt Reader PDF Reader.** Adobe Reader isn't your only option for viewing PDF files. FoxIt Reader is a free utility that includes some tools that Adobe Reader lacks, including a "typewriter" tool that lets you type text in any PDF, not just files that have been set with form fields.

FoxIt launches very quickly (in about 1 second) and it requires no installation. You just run the executable file. It allows you to open, view, print, and change the page layout in PDF files.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,62648,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,62648,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp)

**PDF Creator.** PDF Creator is a printer driver that lets you create PDF files from within most Windows applications.

Once PDF Creator is installed, you can use it from within your applications. If you are working in Microsoft Word, for example, you select Print and then choose PDF Creator as your printer. It offers a wide range of options for controlling the output, and it even creates password-protected PDF files, so you can limit users' ability to print, copy, or modify the documents.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,62649,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,62649,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp)

**GoodSync.** Sync Your Data--or It's Sunk. That cute little USB drive can't protect your files unless you actually put them there—and a synchronization program does that job faster and more thoroughly than dragging and dropping does. GoodSync is an attractive, easy-to-use utility for synchronizing files and folders--and if you synchronize a small number of files each month, the free version may meet your needs.

GoodSync's profile window shows the two folders or drives you choose to check against one another. When you click Analyze, GoodSync displays the contents of each folder with each file lined up across from its counterpart as neatly as contra dancers. New files are flagged in red; an arrow between two versions of the same file points toward the older one, which is presumed to need updating. You select a radio button to choose which file to update, or decline to change either. Clicking Synchronize starts the process.

GoodSync is very easy to use with a portable USB drive. Vendor Siber Systems states that the program works with different forms of storage, such as flash drives and Zip drives, and it can also synchronize two computers over a network.

GoodSync uses a proprietary synchronization algorithm that doesn't rely on the PC's file system; Siber Systems says this enables GoodSync to identify the newest data even when a computer clock or file system isn't working properly.

GoodSync and its \$20 sibling, GoodSync Pro, work exactly the same way, but the free version restricts the number of file syncs to 20,000 per month. GoodSync offers free technical support through e-mail and online help tickets for both versions; GoodSync Pro adds toll-free telephone support.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,62374,tk,srxdown,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,62374,tk,srxdown,00.asp)

**Google Earth.** Whether you want the world or just a tiny corner of it, Google Earth gives it all to you. You can twirl the planet like a globe and turn it every which way, then zoom in for a better look at what interests you. The images show every landmark and every urban center in exquisite detail. You even can find your own house.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,61748,tk,hxdown,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,61748,tk,hxdown,00.asp)

**FolderSync.** FolderSync synchronizes files between any two folders on your computer and your portable drive. This sync tool checks two different directories

for new files and for changes to old ones. FolderSync can synchronize the files so that both directories have the same contents.

**FolderSync** can also create a binary patch file of the changed and new files. According to the author, applying the patch file to the old directory makes the files in the old and new directory identical.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,62376,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,62376,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp)

**Google Sketchup.** Create your own 3D models easily and then upload them to Google Earth to see how they fit into a location.

[http://www.download.com/Google-SketchUp/3000-6677\\_4-10257337.html?tag=nl.e415](http://www.download.com/Google-SketchUp/3000-6677_4-10257337.html?tag=nl.e415)

**Google Desktop.** Search desktop files like you search the Web. This new version lets you search for files across all your networked computers and share info with friends directly from the sidebar.

[http://www.download.com/Google-Desktop/3000-2379\\_4-10328117.html?tag=nl.e415](http://www.download.com/Google-Desktop/3000-2379_4-10328117.html?tag=nl.e415)

**Najitool GUI** Najitool started life as a command line tool, but has expanded to include libnaji--a library of favorite Najitool functions--and the naji\_gui Graphical User Interface. Najitool's author, Necdet Cokyazici, says that Najitool's best uses include file conversion, file encryption, and file generation. It's designed to generate HTML pages with all possible Unicode symbols, random character text files (handy for strong passwords), and preprogrammed bitmap images, to name a few. It also covers a few nifty extras, such as Arabic-to-English and English-to-Arabic transliteration.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,62601,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,62601,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp)

**TaskSwitchXP:** Similar to Microsoft's Alt-Tab Replacement Power Toy, this utility provides a thumbnail preview of the program you're switching to. It also makes it easy to close windows individually or in application groups.

<http://tinyurl.com/g7koo>

**Alt-Tab Thingy:** If you're tired of guessing which Alt-Tab window you want to jump to, try this freebie, which presents you with a thumbnail of the selected window, as well as a list of all open windows. You can show your open windows

as icons, or as text links. Switching between tasks has never been faster!

<http://tinyurl.com/hx58t>

**SnapFolders 2005:** Though making shortcuts to folders is certainly not difficult, the shortcut function has changed little since the days of Windows 95.

SnapFolders helps you create faster, more powerful shortcuts. Instead of forcing all shortcuts to open the target folder in a folder window, this program gives you the choice of having shortcuts open Explorer windows with the target folder either selected or as the root folder. SnapFolders' shortcuts automatically appear on the Start menu; from there, you can copy, move, rename, or delete them.

<http://tinyurl.com/ftmm3>

**Deskloops:** The cramped Windows taskbar isn't the best way to manage open windows. After installing Deskloops, click its rainbow tornado icon to start it running in the background. When you bring your pointer to the top of the screen, Deskloops will display a strip that includes a small thumbnail image of every open window. If you have several programs open, you can scroll through the strip; the current selection shows in a yellow frame, and you change the selection by clicking.

Deskloops also arranges all of the open windows themselves into a loop on your desktop (hence the name), allowing you to scroll through them that way, as well. Deskloops takes a little getting used to, but it can be a very quick way to navigate your desktop.

<http://tinyurl.com/h6jon>