

Privacy and Security

RoboForm This password manager will fill in forms for you and automatically log you in to sites. You'll need an additional extension to use it with Firefox, however.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,6380/description.html?tk=nl_hsxdown

BCArchive Why not make your sensitive data smaller as well as making it a smaller target? BCArchive compresses files and folders while encrypting them. (Of course, to extract the data, you or the data's recipient must extract the data with BCArchive.) The interface window is small, but you have several advanced options, such as choosing your encryption algorithm. Supported algorithms include Blowfish, Blowfish 448, CAST5, GOST, IDEA, RIJNDAEL, Triple-DES, and TWOFISH. If you prefer, you can go for plaintext or unencrypted data, relying on just a password to protect your files.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,63042/description.html?tk=nl_hsxdown

Kruptos Keep your sensitive data private, with this free, 128-bit encryption utility that also includes a secure shredder and the ability to create self-decrypting files. http://www.download.com/Kruptos-2/3000-2092_4-10446164.html?tag=nl.e415

Netcraft Toolbar: Use Netcraft Toolbar to get a second line of defense for blocking phishing sites that might have snuck by your browser's built-in protection.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64437/description.html?tk=nl_hsxdown

Password Hash: This excellent tool lets you use a single password at your end but achieve the safety of generating a unique and robust password at each site. While you continue typing the same password at each site you visit that requires one, Password Hash converts that one familiar string on the fly into a series of safe and unique passwords--one for each site. And you never have to learn the special coding to benefit from its protection.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64436/description.html?tk=nl_hsxdown

Linkscanner lite Similar to Site Advisor, this add-on performs real-time site scanning in search of active attacks. You can scan a given URL on

demand, and you can use LinkScanner side-by-side with SiteAdvisor.
http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64435/description.html?tk=nl_h_sxdwn

GlobalTrust Portable Defender Designed to protect data of portable devices (Notebook, Pocket Pcs, USB Tokens, External Hard Disks, etc.)
<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64084-order,3-page,1-c,filemanagement/description.html>

ZoneAlarm Free Protect yourself from Web nasties with this free utility.
<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,7228-order,3-page,1-c,firewalls/description.html>

VisualZone Find out who is trying to hack into your PC.
<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,22874-order,3-page,1-c,firewalls/description.html>

Webwasher Classic Eliminate banner ads and protect your personal information with this freeware.
<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64011-order,3-page,1-c,wordprocessing/description.html>

PestPatrol Detect and eliminate security threats.
<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,18200-order,3-page,1-c,antispywaretools/description.html>

CompuSec Lock down your PC's hard drive, as well as its removable media, with this free utility.
<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,63664-order,3-page,1-c,privacysecurity/description.html>

Kruptos 2 3 Keep your sensitive data private, with this free, 128-bit encryption utility that also includes a secure shredder and the ability to create self-decrypting files. http://www.download.com/Kruptos-2/3000-2092_4-10446164.html?tag=nl.e415

Spyware Doctor 5 Remove spyware, adware, Trojan horses, and keyloggers with this popular security app. The latest version optimizes performance, enhances antivirus protection, and adds a new site guard feature. http://www.download.com/Spyware-Doctor/3000-8022_4-10293212.html?tag=nl.e415

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Linkscanner lite Similar to Site Advisor, this add-on performs real-time site scanning in search of active attacks. You can scan a given URL on demand, and you can use LinkScanner side-by-side with SiteAdvisor. A Firefox version of LinkScanner is in the works.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64435/description.html?tk=nl_h_sxdwn

GlobalTrust Portable Defender Designed to protect data of portable devices (Notebook, Pocket Pcs, USB Tokens, External Hard Disks, etc.)

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ZoneAlarm Free Protect yourself from Web nasties with this free utility.

<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64084-order,3-page,1-c,filemanagement/description.html>

CWS shredder Eliminate an insidious pest that Spybot and Ad-aware can't stop. <http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,23551-order,3-page,1-c,antispymwaretools/description.html>

VisualZone Find out who is trying to hack into your PC.

<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,22874-order,3-page,1-c,firewalls/description.html>

Webwasher Classic Eliminate banner ads and protect your personal information with this freeware.

<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,2074-order,3-page,1-c,adblockers/description.html>

PestPatrol Detect and eliminate security threats.

<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,18200-order,3-page,1-c,antispymwaretools/description.html>

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<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,63664-order,3-page,1-c,privacysecurity/description.html>

Zap Google cookies The recent release of AOL subscribers' search history should be a warning. Our searches often are archived. Unfortunately, these searches could be tracked back to us. They could reveal glimpses of our private lives. Which brings us to Google. This popular search site uses cookies. An ID number can link the searches you make over any period of time. But, you can do something about it. Download G-Zapper. It will show you if you have a Google cookie on your machine. With this program, you will be able to remove it and block future Google cookies. When you visit the site, just click the download link. This will install the basic version of G-Zapper. There's also a Professional Edition that requires a payment; it will look for cookies from other search sites. It works on Internet Explorer or Firefox.

www.dummysoftware.com

Help with passwords How are you going to remember all your usernames and passwords? Try Keepass. It is a great solution for managing all your passwords. Set one master password, and it will keep all your passwords locked up tight. Once you open the program, you can click on a password to log in to a site. Need help creating a strong password? Keepass has you covered there, too.

<http://tinyurl.com/ytpjxu>

ZonedOut This tool helps you manage security settings in Internet Explorer. Specifically, it helps you control restricted and unrestricted sites in your browser. It lets you add, delete, and more.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64502/description.html?tk=nl_h sxdwn

CCleaner Somewhere under the layers of software detritus, your PC is vigorous and eager to work. CCleaner claims to search through several programs and remove useless files. Many cleaners scrub out just your browser cache or your temporary files folder, but CCleaner was developed to go several steps further. It cleans temporary files from a number of applications, including Adobe Acrobat, Firefox, Google Toolbar, Kazaa, Nero, Netscape, and more.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,24149/description.html?tk=nl_h sxdwn

Belarc Advisor

If you can't afford your own personal security consultant, have no fear. This free software will analyze your current system and determine your weak points. http://www.download.com/Belarc-Advisor/3000-2094_4-10007277.html?tag=nl.e415

Webwasher Classic Eliminate banner ads and protect your personal information with this freeware.

<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,2074-order,1-page,1-c,adblockers/description.html>

SpywareGuard v2.2 (formerly Browser Hijack Blaster) Stop Web sites from changing your home page without your permission.

<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,22955-order,1-page,1-c,antispywaretools/description.html>

Panda ActiveScan Free antivirus utility works within your browser to scan your hard drive. <http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,19500-order,1-page,1-c,antivirus/description.html>

HijackThis Protect yourself against sites that want to hijack your browser's homepage. <http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,23258-order,3-page,1-c,antispywaretools/description.html>

SpywareBlaster Catch spyware before it installs itself and wreaks havoc on your computer. <http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,23106-order,3-page,1-c,antispywaretools/description.html>

Houscall Check your system for spyware and malware. <http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64500-order,3-page,1-c,antispywaretools/description.html>

X-Cleaner Micro Edition A quick, free, simple online spyware scanner. <http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64501-order,3-page,1-c,antispywaretools/description.html>

Linkscanner lite This add-on performs real-time site scanning in search of active attacks. <http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64435-order,3-page,1-c,privacysecurity/description.html>

Netcraft Toolbar A second line of defense against phishing attacks. <http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64437-order,3-page,1-c,privacysecurity/description.html>

Password Hash Memory cells in short supply? This tool remembers passwords for you. <http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64437-order,3-page,1-c,privacysecurity/description.html>

Cryptainer LE Encrypt files in secure, password-protected vaults. <http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,23297-order,3-page,1-c,encryption/description.html>

Password Safe Stores and encrypts passwords and other secret data. <http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,52282-order,3-page,1-c,security/description.html>

TrueCrypt This free, open-source encryption program lets you place files and folders in "safes" of any size. <http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,63661-order,3-page,1-c,encryption/description.html>

RootkitRevealer Detect rootkits with this security tool. <http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64275-order,3-page,1-c,security/description.html>

DropMyRights Though other apps provide more-expansive security, DropMyRights gives you simple yet effective protection against malware by limiting user rights-and it works with any program. <http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64213-order,3-page,1-c,firewalls/description.html>

IceSword Makers of rootkits--malware that can be particularly well hidden--consider IceSword the toughest rootkit scanner. <http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64212-order,3-page,1-c,antispywaretools/description.html>

Hook Explorer Identify rootkits hooked into your system. <http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64208-order,3-page,1-c,security/description.html>

GMer Remove rootkits with this full-featured utility from Poland. <http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64192-order,3-page,1-c,privacysecurity/description.html>

Sophos Anti-Rootkit Remove dangerous rootkits from your system with this simple freebie. <http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64174-order,3-page,1-c,security/description.html>

Spyware Terminator Remove spyware, adware, viruses, Trojans, keyloggers, and other malware threats.

<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64132-order,3-page,1-c,antivirus/description.html>

ZonedOut This tool helps you manage security settings in Internet Explorer. Specifically, it helps you control restricted and unrestricted sites in your browser. It lets you add, delete, and more.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64502/description.html?tk=nl_h_sxdwn

X-Cleaner Micro Edition Ignore the hokey-looking home page of this useful spyware scanner. The program is quick and easy to use and its free.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64501/description.html?tk=nl_h_sxdwn

Webwasher Classic Eliminate banner ads and protect your personal information with this freeware.

<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,2074-order,1-page,1-c,adblockers/description.html>

SpywareGuard v2.2 (formerly Browser Hijack Blaster) Stop Web sites from changing your home page without your permission.

<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,22955-order,1-page,1-c,antispywaretools/description.html>

Sure Delete Permanently wipe all traces of a file from your hard drive.

<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,22393-order,1-page,1-c,harddisk/description.html>

Panda ActiveScan Free antivirus utility works within your browser to scan your hard drive. <http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,19500-order,1-page,1-c,antivirus/description.html>

SiteAdvisor This plug-in performs a little background check on the Web sites you visit. <http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,62594-order,3-page,1-c,javapluginsactivex/description.html>

X-Cleaner Micro Edition A quick, free, simple online spyware scanner.

<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64501-order,3-page,1-c,antispywaretools/description.html>

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Netcraft Toolbar A second line of defense against phishing attacks.
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IceSword Makers of rootkits--malware that can be particularly well hidden--consider IceSword the toughest rootkit scanner.
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<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64132-order,3-page,1-c,antivirus/description.html>

All-in-One Security. Threats to your PC take many forms, from simple viruses to sophisticated spyware. Security suites promise integrated, comprehensive protection from dangers old and new. PCWorld tested ten such packages, pitting them against a rogues' gallery of malware.
http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,125817-page,1/article.html?tk=nl_previewrvw

Rootkit Scanner. Worried about rootkits? GMer is a scanner that can find many of the most stubborn rootkits. This freeware tool from Poland has been described as a combination of Sysinternals's RootkitRevealer and Process

Explorer. The program can list running processes (procesy in Polish), modules (moduly), and Windows services (uslugi), in addition to scanning for the presence of rootkits (click the Rootkit tab and then click the button labeled Szukaj to start the scan).

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64192-order,1-page,1/description.html?tk=nl_hsxdown

DropMyRights. A growing number of security tools take a new approach to fighting malicious software. Rather than blocking each virus, they aim to limit malware's power to cause harm even if it gets in. One of the better free apps adopting this preventive strategy is DropMyRights, a small program that opens selected programs under limited user rights. It works with any program, but before using it, you'll need to make some quick changes. After installing it, you must create a shortcut for each program that you want to use with it (or modify the existing one). The Downloads page has a link to full instructions. If you click a Web link in another program, such as Word, your default browser will start normally, without DropMyRights protection (unless it is running with DropMyRights, too). To get the extra security, copy and paste the link after starting your browser via the specially prepared shortcut.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64213-order,1-page,1/description.html?tk=nl_hsxdown

IceSword. Rootkits are one of the most insidious types of malware. The creators of the Hacker Defender rootkit--a tool widely used by the bad guys out there--made it their goal to defeat IceSword. So far, they've failed. IceSword was developed by a Chinese programmer who doesn't speak a word of English, but this download is the international version with English dialog boxes and controls. Note: IceSword comes compressed in the RAR format, so you may also need to download the WinRAR utility; a link to that utility, and a link to more info on rootkits, is on the download page.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64212-order,1-page,1/description.html?tk=nl_hsxdown

Kruptos. Keep your data secure. Kruptos lets you encrypt, decrypt, and protect files and folders on your PC or external storage devices.

http://www.download.com/Kruptos-2/3000-2092_4-10446164.html?tag=nl.e415

HijackThis. Whenever none of the other adware- and spyware-detection programs can help, I always turn to this tiny app that quickly scans all relevant areas of your machine for trouble. It's best suited for advanced users, but several online communities are devoted to helping beginners with scan results.

http://www.download.com/HijackThis/3000-8022_4-10227353.html?tag=txt

ChoiceMail Free Some spam filters assume that you want to see almost every message, while others assume that you want to see almost none. ChoiceMail Free combines blacklist and whitelist technologies to ensure that your POP e-mail program refuses messages from blocked addresses and lets your desired e-mail through without a hitch. Use the built-in permission rules to stop likely spam, and add your own touches to customize the blockade.

You can also activate unknown-sender registration, which returns e-mail to senders whose addresses ChoiceMail doesn't recognize, asking them to identify themselves. Usually only people who really know you (and like you enough to deal with this small irritation) will respond to such messages. Safe message previewing lets you look at any messages you're not sure about--without letting potentially infected spam loose on your system.

As its name indicates, ChoiceMail Free is a no-fee program, but online support costs \$20 per year. The more full-featured ChoiceMail One--which blocks spam to AOL, Hotmail, MSN, and Yahoo--includes the cost of a one-year support subscription. A 14-day trial of ChoiceMail One is downloadable from the vendor's site.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,24167;order,3;page,1;c,spamblockers/description.html?tk=nl_hsxdown

MicroWorld Anti Virus & Spyware Toolkit. Scan your computer for viruses and remove malware applications.

http://www.download.com/3000-2239_4-10757469.html

TrueCrypt This open-source software offers 11 algorithms for encrypting your private files in a password-protected volume. Hidden volumes offer a powerful form of security for important data.

http://www.download.com/TrueCrypt/3000-2092_4-10628214.html?tag=featured.free

McAfee SiteAdvisor for Firefox The Web may be a dangerous place, but this extremely useful Firefox extension can help you stay out of harm's way.
http://www.download.com/3000-11745_4-10663377.html

Asmw Eraser Pro. Clean up traces of your online and computer activities.
http://www.download.com/3000-12771_4-10721340.html

FineCrypt. Encrypt files on your computer with advanced security options.
http://www.download.com/3000-2092_4-10791309.html

ChoiceMail Free. Keep spam out of your in-box by receiving e-mail only from recognized or approved senders.
http://www.download.com/ChoiceMail-Free/3000-2382_4-10434830.html?tag=lst-6-8

Cryptainer LE. Encrypt up to 20MB of Windows files or folders and archive them on your hard drive or on removable drives.
http://www.download.com/3000-2092_4-10745402.html

HijackThis. Scan the Registry and hard drive for spyware.
http://www.download.com/3000-8022_4-10781312.html

Paragon Encrypted Disk SE. Secure your sensitive data in virtual, encrypted partitions on your hard drive.
http://www.download.com/Paragon-Encrypted-Disk-SE/3000-2092_4-10375064.html?tag=lst-6-3

GoGoData Toolbar. Block most Web advertising, remove and defend against malware, autofill Web logins and clean browsing history.
http://www.download.com/GoGoData-Toolbar/3000-7786_4-10359367.html?tag=lst-6-9

SnoopFree Privacy Shield. Find out if anyone tries to spy on you with a keylogger or other spyware.
http://www.download.com/SnoopFree-Privacy-Shield/3000-2092_4-10336141.html?tag=lst-6-5

Zilla Data Nuker. Make all your information unrecoverable once deleted.
http://www.download.com/Zilla-Data-Nuker/3000-2092_4-10320324.html?tag=lst-6-7

Password Construction Kit. Generate passwords with full control of masking and character specification.

http://www.download.com/Password-Construction-Kit/3000-2092_4-10299919.html?tag=lst-6-9

550 Access Toolbar. Search from any Web page, block pop-ups and search-engine ads, and erase your surfing history.

http://www.download.com/550-Access-Toolbar/3000-2379_4-10290584.html?tag=lst-6-2

Zero Footprint Crypt Secure your data with powerful encryption using the unique ZeroFootprint (no disk write) decryption.

http://www.download.com/Zero-Footprint-Crypt/3000-2092_4-10286510.html?tag=lst-6-5

WinPatrol gives you control over what can run on your machine. You can set it to display additional information about--and approve of--startup programs. You'll also be alerted when something tries to load an IE plug-in or set a cookie. And to get rid of a particularly nasty piece of spyware, you can use the "Delete File on Reboot" feature, so Windows will get rid of it before any other program can protect it or relaunch it.

<http://tinyurl.com/28kpr>

SpoofStick. Phishing is on the rise. Hardly a day goes by when you don't hear about sites that try to steal your information. In case you're unfamiliar with the term "phishing," it refers to sites that mimic legitimate sites. The creators hope to trick you into disclosing information such as user name and password.

It used to be easy to tell these sites from the real thing. Bad grammar and typos were dead giveaways. But this isn't the case anymore. Phishers have gotten good.

That's why you will want to try SpoofStick. It is just one more tool in your arsenal against malicious Web sites. Download the SpoofStick toolbar for Firefox or Internet Explorer. It shows you what site you're visiting. If it isn't the site you think you're visiting, you know to hightail it out of there –fast!

www.spoofstick.com

AirDefense Personal. This security program alerts you if you connect your PC to a potentially unsafe network.

<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/ffd,62584-order,1-page,1-c,alldownloads/description.html>

HouseCall. Scan and eliminate viruses with this free tool, created by the developer of PC-cillin.

<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/ffd,22919-order,1-page,1-c,alldownloads/description.html>

Process Library Quick Access InfoBar. Deep in the recesses of any computer, mysterious processes run silently in the background. Process Library Quick Access Info Bar help you identify them. Armed with information, you can protect your PC from resource hogs, privacy-violating spyware, and Trojan horses that give hackers carte blanche on your system.

This Windows Task Manager plug-in provides process information and advice from ProcessLibrary.com, a free online knowledge Web site that's home to over 9000 process definitions.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,ffd,62794,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp

Microsoft Windows Defender. Microsoft updated its security application with a new interface and a more robust scanning engine. The utility is free for all licensed Windows users

http://www.download.com/Microsoft-Windows-Defender/3000-8022_4-10353597.html?tag=nl.e415

RoboForm. Ever think of how many hours and how much energy you've wasted entering your personal information to register at Web sites? AI RoboForm makes the process automatic: Just right-click on the form, and the utility inputs your name, e-mail address, mailing address, and more. Best of all, the program works inside your browser.

AI RoboForm securely stores your passwords and, if you like, credit card numbers and other personal information. Use the random password generator to make it harder for anyone to guess your password. You also can set up the program so it only fills out part of a form--leaving you flexibility to manually enter values for a few fields.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,6380,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp

And RoboForm's got a USB version of the program. Pass2Go costs \$10 and acts just like RoboForm does, but it's stored on a USB drive. That lets you use someone else's PC and not have to remember your passwords. And they stay on the USB drive, so there's never a risk of anyone on the host PC seeing them. You can download Pass2Go from the RoboForm site:

<http://www.roboform.com/removeable.html>

ZoneAlarm. The latest update to the popular free firewall adds a Game Mode that lets you modify settings for when you're playing video games.

http://www.download.com/ZoneAlarm/3000-10435_4-10039884.html?tag=nl.e415

AVG Anti-Virus. Everyone knows you need antivirus software to combat known threats, but what about those viruses that sneak under the radar before code is written to counteract them? AVG Anti-Virus System spots programs that behave like viruses, locks them up, and puts them in isolation—even if no one has issued an all-points bulletin and corrective code. You can manually run a virus scan on your files and e-mail, or schedule scans at predetermined times and in predesignated folders. This program can run its quarantine operations in the background, so you don't have to be disturbed.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,15202,00.asp

Webwasher Classic. Webwasher Classic filters unwanted ads, crushes cookies, and prevents companies from profiling your surfing habits. You can eliminate pop-up windows, banner ads, and the new, larger "skyscrapers" and "rectangles" that increase the time it takes to view Web pages. You're even protected from Web bugs, invisible graphics hidden in documents that trigger the sending of messages to third parties.

With Webwasher Classic's cookie filter, you can classify cookies as good, bad, or neutral so that you can keep the ones you need (such as for home shopping), while classifying the ones that spy on you. And the included SecretMaker software sends phantom data in place of personal information and surfing habits.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,2074,tk,nl_hsxewn,00.asp

Sure Delete. If you delete a file, it isn't really gone--Windows just marks the space it occupied as being available. And anyone with a program such as Restoration could probably recover the file, meaning that personal data could get into the wrong hands. This program deletes the file, then wipes and removes the data left over. The author has stopped updating or supporting the program, but it appeared to work fine in my informal tests. I was unable to recover several test files that I deleted with it. The program has three deletion methods: a quick wipe (which overwrites the file 4 times, a Department of Defense method (which overwrites the file 7 times with random data), and a Super Secure mode which overwrites it an impressive 24 times.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,22393,00.asp

All-in-One Security. Threats to your PC take many forms, from simple viruses to sophisticated spyware. Security suites promise integrated, comprehensive protection from dangers old and new. PCWorld tested ten such packages, pitting them against a rogues' gallery of malware.

http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,125817-page,1/article.html?tk=nl_previewrvw

Password help. If you're not worried about your security, it's time you wised up. Identity theft is running rampant. And there's no end in sight. Maybe you can't control how companies store your personal information. But you can take steps to protect yourself on Web sites.

Now, there's a site that will make things simple for you. Just create one master password and Hashapass will create ones based on it. You can create one for every site you use!

Worried about remembering your passwords? No problem! Hashapass will help you recover a password (except your master one). And your passwords aren't stored or transmitted over the Internet.

www.hashapass.com

Steganos LockNote: Keep your passwords and personal information safe from prying eyes with LockNote. This program works like Notepad, but it adds password protection and strong AES 256-bit encryption. To open a LockNote file, double-click in and type in your password. Anyone who doesn't have the password is locked out. If you'd like to lock up your

existing text files, you can drag and drop them into LockNote to secure them.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,62583,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp

Cryptainer: If you want to store your data or applications securely, use this free program to set up a virtual vault on your computer. Once you make a password-protected Cryptainer file, you can work with the file as you would any drive, creating folders, copying files, and so on. But when you exit Cryptainer, the virtual drive is visible only as an encrypted file.

<http://tinyurl.com/hj82p>

Hassle-Free PC: Get Relief from Annoying E-Mail

Avoid large file attachments; protect yourself from spam and dopey messages.

http://www.pcworld.com/howto/article/0,aid,125767,tk,nl_wbxhow,00.asp

Reviews for Six Antivirus Programs:

Six of the leading antivirus programs in an easy-to-compare format. Learn which of the contenders scored the highest review and what differentiates one from another.

http://www.download.com/Rating-the-antivirus-apps/1200-2023_4-5161532.html?tag=nl.e415

Encrypted Email The easy way to get e-mail encryption is through secure Webmail services such as Hushmail, MailVault and S-Mail. Encryption is built-in and seamless if both sides use the same service. Each offers free accounts.

Find Hushmail at: <http://www.hushmail.com/>

Find MailVault at: <http://www.mailvault.com/>

Find S-Mail at: <http://s-mail.com/>

Cookies. Should you really worry about cookies? This guide will tell you everything need to know about these tasty little critters. Read on for a closer look at the good, the bad, and the crumbly aspects of web browser cookies.

http://askbobrankin.com/eat_your_cookies.html

VisualZone: Are you being hacked? This add-in performs a backtrace that attempts to locate the intruder's IP address, physical location (more or less), and Internet service provider. With a single click, you can report the

incursion to DShield, which tracks threats as part of the SANS Internet Storm Center.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,22874,tk,nl_hsxwn,00.asp

A lot of bad things happen online, not to mention over the telephone. People get their identities stolen or are scammed all the time. Consumer Sentinel provides a wealth of information on frauds and identity theft. The FTC manages the site, so you know the information is accurate. You can view trends and statistics. The numbers are fascinating. There are also tips to help you protect yourself from the bad guys. So don't forget to check them out. If you're the victim of fraud or identity theft, you can file a complaint. It only takes a minute to complete the form. The FTC doesn't resolve individual complaints. But it can lead to legal action. It's another way to fight back.

www.consumer.gov/sentinel

Bob Rankin's article about cookies, and why they're good for you.

www.tourbus.com/cookies.htm

Plain English information on cookies, frequently asked questions, software to manage cookies and a message board.

www.cookiecentral.com

Here's some helpful information about cookies from Microsoft. This guide covers Cookies: What They Are, How to Take Charge, Privacy & Security.

www.microsoft.com/info/cookies.htm

SANS Top 20 Vulnerabilities - The Experts Consensus: The Twenty Most Critical Internet Security Vulnerabilities, from The Experts Consensus Version.

www.sans.org/top20

PINs is a password manager for secure storage of sensitive information such as passwords, accounts, PIN numbers etc. PINs uses 448-bit blowfish encryption to ensure that the information cannot be decrypted/viewed without a master password.

<http://www.mirekw.com/winfreeware/pins.html>

Omziff is an encryption utility that uses various cryptographic algorithms to encrypt and decrypt textual files. These algorithms include: Blowfish,

Cast128, Gost, IDEA, Misty1, Rijndael, and Twofish. It also generates random passwords, and offers simple file shredding.

<http://www.xtort.net/xtort/omziff.php>

X-Pass reveals the content of almost any password field, revealing the text behind those asterisks.

<http://www.weird173.net/apps.html>

KeePass is a password manager that helps you manage your passwords in a secure way. You can put all your passwords in one database, which is locked with one master key or a key-disk. So you only have to remember one single master password to unlock the whole database. The databases are encrypted using the best and most secure encryption algorithms currently known (AES and Twofish).

<http://keepass.sourceforge.net/>

IdentityTheftResourceCenter: A surge of identity-theft crimes in recent months makes this a must-read for consumers looking for tips on how to avoid trouble and what to do if the worst happens (see Victim Guides, under Victim Resources). Run by a San Diego-based nonprofit organization of the same name.

www.idtheftcenter.org

This site permits you to maintain your online privacy for free. Your address remains hidden, no cookies end up on your hard drive, and no one will know where you have been. www.safeweb.com

To see if your PC is hacker-proof, go to this site to scan your computer for security breaches and get advice on how to fix any security holes you may have. www.grc.com

You can surf the web anonymously if you use this site.

www.anonymizer.com

You may not know it, but they're watching you. While you innocently listen to your RealJukeBox tunes, information about the music you play and unique identifying numbers are sent back to the RealNetworks servers. This patch stops Big Brother in his tracks and lets you enjoy your privacy.

<http://www.softwarepatch.com/internet/jukeboxdownload.html>

Your personal information may be given out without you knowing it. There are companies that maintain databases and sell information. LexisNexis is one such company that maintains a database of people for governmental agencies, private companies and legal professionals. This information generally contains your name, address, previous addresses and phone number(s). You can remove yourself from this list by filling out a form. If you want a previous address removed, simply fill out the form again. <http://www.lexisnexis.com/terms/privacy/data/removal.asp>

When you delete a file from your computer, only the file reference is deleted. The data are still retrievable. This could be harmful when dealing with sensitive information like credit card numbers and personal information. Sure Delete destroys the data. The easy to follow wizard helps you permanently remove any file or data effortlessly. <http://www.wizard-industries.com/sdel.html>

Believe it or not, not every kind of advertising can be considered spam. Although advertising is often annoying, it's a necessary evil. It costs money to produce and maintain a Web site. A group of network advertisers have come up with a site that allows you to opt-out of their direct marketing attempts. Their site puts a cookie on your computer that basically tells those Companies not to bother you. http://www.networkadvertising.org/optout_nonppii.asp

According to the FTC site, it receives hundreds of thousands of complaints about identity theft each year and the problem is growing rapidly. The city with the highest reported per capita rate was Phoenix. If your identity has been stolen, the FTC has much guidance on what to do. Learn more about it here: http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/consumertopics_bk.html

You can check your computer's vulnerability to probes on the Web. The Shields Up! program at Gibson Research is highly recommended. Broadband Reports also has a program. If they don't give you a clean bill of health, you have a problem. Here are their addresses: <http://www.grc.com>
<http://www.dsreports.com/tools>