

## SOFTWARE

FlashGet. This popular download manager adds support for BitTorrent and Windows Vista in a recent release.

[http://www.download.com/FlashGet/3000-2071\\_4-10566273.html?tag=nl.e415](http://www.download.com/FlashGet/3000-2071_4-10566273.html?tag=nl.e415)

BitTorrent Updating its patented and popular P2P protocol, this file-sharing tool lets you download files from the BitTorrent network.

[http://www.download.com/FlashGet/3000-2071\\_4-10566273.html?tag=nl.e415](http://www.download.com/FlashGet/3000-2071_4-10566273.html?tag=nl.e415)

Autoplay Repair Wizard. Autoplay Repair Wizard is a free Microsoft utility that scans, finds, and fixes most AutoPlay problems in your removable devices.

[http://www.download.com/FlashGet/3000-2071\\_4-10566273.html?tag=nl.e415](http://www.download.com/FlashGet/3000-2071_4-10566273.html?tag=nl.e415)

Windows Live Toolbar. This toolbar offers easy access to other Windows Live services, such as Live Search, Live Messenger, and Live Mail (accessing non-Microsoft services is not as simple). Setting it up is straightforward, though its numerous options can initially seem overwhelming. The only investment you must make in this and other browser toolbars is the time and effort needed to configure them. If you're an avid user of Microsoft's Windows Live services, Windows Live Toolbar is for you.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64210-order,1-page,1/description.html?tk=nl\\_hxsdwn](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64210-order,1-page,1/description.html?tk=nl_hxsdwn)

AutoScreenRecorder. Using AutoScreenRecorder 2.0, you can record and play back animated events, ranging from a series of mouse clicks to a streaming online movie, as an AVI video file. AutoScreenRecorder lets you choose to capture a region of your screen, the active window, or the full screen. The downside is that you won't get audio with your visuals. Still, that's a valuable trait in a freeware tool.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,63196/description.html?tk=nl\\_hxsdwn](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,63196/description.html?tk=nl_hxsdwn)

Adobe Reader 8. The latest update for this must-have PDF reader offers a maximized work area, customizable toolbars, search enhancements, and the ability to share.

[http://www.download.com/Adobe-Reader/3000-2378\\_4-10000062.html?tag=nl.e415](http://www.download.com/Adobe-Reader/3000-2378_4-10000062.html?tag=nl.e415)

TextMaker Viewer Similarly to the way Adobe Acrobat Reader works for PDFs, TextMaker Viewer lets you open, view, and print documents from Microsoft Word, Pocket Word, OpenOffice.org, OpenDocument, and TextMaker, even if you don't have those programs installed on your system. You can install the latest version onto a USB flash memory drive, too. This program is compatible with Windows 95, 98, Me, NT 4.0, 2000, XP, and Vista; it requires 13MB of hard disk space.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64124-order,1-page,1/description.html?tk=nl\\_wbxdown](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64124-order,1-page,1/description.html?tk=nl_wbxdown)

Visual Task Tips Here's a clever tool that pops up a preview--a miniature image--of the task in the Taskbar. Scroll your mouse wheel up or down on the image to size it.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64386/description.html?tk=nl\\_hsxdown](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64386/description.html?tk=nl_hsxdown)

ShellExView This free tool helps you identify and remove pesky programs and their remnants (including menu items) from your system. ShellExView lists almost all menu items--aka "shell extensions"-- and lets you disable them individually so they won't appear when you right-click a file.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64120-order,1-page,1/description.html?tk=nl\\_hsxdown](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,64120-order,1-page,1/description.html?tk=nl_hsxdown)

Yahoo Messenger. Communicate instantly with your friends on YIM and Windows Live using custom avatars, PC-to-PC calling, and lively emoticons.

[http://www.download.com/3000-2150\\_4-10724394.html](http://www.download.com/3000-2150_4-10724394.html)

Widget Launcher. View and launch all available Yahoo widgets in the specified folder.

[http://www.download.com/Widget-Launcher/3000-2347\\_4-10535341.html?tag=lst-6-2](http://www.download.com/Widget-Launcher/3000-2347_4-10535341.html?tag=lst-6-2)

A-ToolBar. Access 45 tools from the desktop toolbar.

[http://www.download.com/A-ToolBar/3000-12777\\_4-10500010.html?tag=lst-6-5](http://www.download.com/A-ToolBar/3000-12777_4-10500010.html?tag=lst-6-5)

GSplit 2. Split your large files and create a self-uniting executable file.

[http://www.download.com/3000-2248\\_4-10664862.html](http://www.download.com/3000-2248_4-10664862.html)

WordToys. Make Word easier to use and more fun to work with.

[http://www.download.com/WordToys/3000-9694\\_4-10378630.html?tag=lst-6-1](http://www.download.com/WordToys/3000-9694_4-10378630.html?tag=lst-6-1)

File Renamer Basic. Change the names of multiple files at once.

[http://www.download.com/3000-2248\\_4-10703208.html](http://www.download.com/3000-2248_4-10703208.html)

Switch Off. Schedule your computer to shut down or log off at a specified time.

[http://www.download.com/Switch-Off/3000-2344\\_4-10154101.html?tag=lst-6-8](http://www.download.com/Switch-Off/3000-2344_4-10154101.html?tag=lst-6-8)

Want More Free Software? Check out Dylan Tweney's "101 Fabulous Freebies."

<http://www.pcworld.com/reviews/article/0,aid,124883,tk,srxrvw,00.asp>

The best advice frequently comes from other users, so be sure to include sites like PCMechanic, Tech Support Forum, and Tech Support Guy in your research.

PCMechanic at <http://www.pcmech.com/>

Tech Support Forum at <http://www.techsupportforum.com/>

Tech Support Guy at <http://www.techguy.org/>

World Wind. Put the whole planet on your desktop. World Wind offers amazingly detailed satellite images down to the street level.

[http://www.download.com/World-Wind/3000-2054\\_4-10374181.html?tag=nl.e415](http://www.download.com/World-Wind/3000-2054_4-10374181.html?tag=nl.e415)

Desktop Renamer It's easy to customize the look of the Windows desktop, but it's not so easy to rename the Windows icons. And what boring names they are.

Recycle Bin? "My" this, that, and the other? Give those dull-sounding icons new identities with Desktop Renamer. This small and simple freebie lets you rename the four Windows desktop icons. It uses a one-screen interface; type in the names you want and hit "OK." The names will change in windows right away, but you'll need to restart the system to see the icons change on the desktop. The resulting personalized desktop feels more like something of your very own.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,63291,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,63291,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp)

CutePDF Writer. Create PDF files from any Windows program with the push of a button. The latest update adds support for 64-bit systems and better foreign-language support. <http://tinyurl.com/g256u>

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://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,63854,tk,nl\\_hsxdown,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,63854,tk,nl_hsxdown,00.asp)

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://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,63879,tk,nl\\_hsxdown,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,63879,tk,nl_hsxdown,00.asp)

SnapFolders. 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://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,24158,tk,hsxdown,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,24158,tk,hsxdown,00.asp)

Fix for Sleepy PCs. Rip Van Winkle PCs--those running Windows XP Service Pack 2 that won't wake up from standby or hibernation mode--now have a cure: Microsoft has fixed a glitch with XP's "data execution prevention" security feature. Since the patch isn't security related, you'll need to manually download it from Microsoft's Help and Support: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/889673>

Hot Keyboard Pro. Go easy on your hands with this keyboard macro program.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,63340,tk,nl\\_wbxdown,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,63340,tk,nl_wbxdown,00.asp)

PowerDesk. Moving and copying files and folders can be a tedious business, but PowerDesk tries to make it easier by providing an interface that's better designed than Windows Explorer's.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,3491,tk,nl\\_wbxdown,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,3491,tk,nl_wbxdown,00.asp)

Shortcut Key Explorer.. Shortcut Key Explorer is a slick, free tool from RJL Software that helps you manage all the shortcuts you've created to launch applications. The program searches for existing shortcuts, lists them, and then gives you quick access to modify a shortcut.

<http://www.rjlsoftware.com/software/utility/shortcutkeys>

Some folks aren't aware of shortcut keys. The idea is that Microsoft Windows lets you assign keystrokes and launch apps without having to use the Start menu. For instance, Ctrl-Alt-W can be set for Word and Ctrl-Alt-E for Eudora. Get up to speed on shortcuts by reading a Microsoft tutorial:

<http://find.pcworld.com/54214>

Microsoft's Safe, Free File Sharing Tool. You can download the program for free from PC World:

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,62602,nl\\_sbxdown,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,62602,nl_sbxdown,00.asp)

Fun fonts. Are you looking for a new way to express yourself? Then download some fonts for your computer! This site claims it has over 1,000 free fonts and the claim seems accurate. You'll find fonts in a range of styles.

You can search by category, such as retro or foreign imitation. Or, if you're looking for a particular font, you can search by name. When you find a font you want, click the download link. Most are available for both Windows and Mac.

Most of the fonts are free. Others are shareware. You'll have to pay for them after a free trial period. [www.1001fonts.com](http://www.1001fonts.com)

Go to NTWind Software for TaskSwitchXP:

<http://www.ntwind.com/taskswitchxp>

Alt-Tab Thingy is available from NymTec.com:

<http://www.nymtec.com/?q=taxonomy/term/26>

You can obtain Desktop Sidebar, a free version of Vista's sidebar feature that displays weather information, stock quotes, RSS feeds, and other timely information. Go to the developer's site for the latest version:

<http://desktopsidebar.com/download.html>

EssentialPIM Free. EssentialPIM Free combines several functions--calendar, contact manager, to-do list, and notes manager--into one interface. This program performs the functions you'd expect, plus some bonuses like color-coding, drag-and-drop functions, and integrated Microsoft Outlook or Outlook Express data importing. The to-do list allows you to sort and prioritize by category, priority, and completion status. Adjustable program views and several printout options help you keep the data you need at hand. Everything can be password-protected and encrypted with AES 128-bit encryption.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,62585,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,62585,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp)

ClocX. ClocX combines the look of an analog clock with advanced functions. It can set multiple alarms with sound and keep a simple calendar. You can change and configure the backgrounds. Not only can you make ClocX transparent, you can choose from 256 levels of transparency. If you like, you can give it mouse-over transparency.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,25937,tk,hsx,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,25937,tk,hsx,00.asp)

Registry. Deep down in the heart of Windows is the Registry. This giant database plays a large role in making sure Windows functions correctly.

When programs are installed on your computer, they often create an entry in the Registry. That way, the program will begin running when Windows starts. The problem is, programs may leave entries when they're uninstalled. Or spyware and viruses can create entries.

So, if you're having problems with your computer, it could be a problem with the Registry. A program called Silent Runners can help you out. This little piece of software will list the entries in the Registry. You can view the list to see if anything is amiss.

[www.silentrunners.org/sr\\_download.html](http://www.silentrunners.org/sr_download.html)

Vista's new Aeroglass interface isn't just window dressing; it also helps you find data faster and move more quickly between open windows. But you can add many of Vista's shiny, bright interface elements to XP. For example, Vista will list a file's properties and other metadata in a pane at the bottom of Explorer windows. The freeware utility InfoTip Extension lets you beef up the pop-up info tips you see when you hover over a file icon, customizing the information that appears, and even displaying the contents of a text file. Unfortunately, this utility was designed for older versions of Windows, and a few of its features don't work

in XP. Also, it provides no extra information for MP3, WMA, WMV, and other music and video files (which arguably already have pretty good info tips). But hey, it's still more convenient than opening a file's Properties dialog box.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,63139,tk,srxdown,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,63139,tk,srxdown,00.asp)

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.

If you're finding your 20GB hard drive is starting to strain at the seams, you're not alone. This utility accounts for the girth of your burgeoning data, helping you figure out where it could use a nip or a tuck. Open the program from a context menu of a folder or drive to learn the size of the folder and all its subfolders. You can watch the results appear before your eyes. The wasted space can be written up in a printable report, giving you some idea of a pattern for the necessary alterations.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,23075,tk,hsx,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,23075,tk,hsx,00.asp)

Filemon: Is your PC acting flakey? This tool can help you find out what's causing the problems. FileMon gives you a real-time view of every running program -- and lets you know what it's doing. The tool records and timestamps the actions of each open application -- say, opening other files or loading helper programs. Watch for a specific program's behavior just before a system freeze.

<http://tinyurl.com/jrcwy>

Winamp: Improved burning functionality is the biggest addition to the latest release of this classic, free media player. <http://tinyurl.com/fnaya>

CutePDF Writer: Create PDF files from any Windows program with the push of a button. The latest update adds support for 64-bit systems and better foreign-language support. <http://tinyurl.com/g256u>

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>

SnapFolders: 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>

Restoration: We've all done it: You accidentally delete a vital file a few minutes before an urgent deadline--and then can't find it in the Recycle Bin. Fortunately, you needn't panic yet. Restoration scans your hard drive, floppy disk, or USB thumb drive and finds files that have been deleted (Windows doesn't actually destroy files you delete--it just marks the space they occupy as being available). You can then recover any recently deleted files it finds with a single mouse click. You can filter the results if you know the name of the file you are looking for, which is much easier than wading through the list of the hundreds of deleted files it usually finds (including temporary files, cached Web files, etc). Though the program has not been updated since 2004, it still worked well in any informal tests and it recovered several files that had been deleted without problems. <http://tinyurl.com/zabf>

ShutDownPro: This free tool lets you shut down, log off, hibernate, or reboot your PC with a single click. The program even lets you empty your Internet cache on shutdown. <http://tinyurl.com/kzy7p>

Volumous: This clever and handy freebie let you use the mouse wheel, alone or in combination with keys, to lower or raise your PC's volume, mute, and unmute.

<http://tinyurl.com/jtrl7>

Hot Keyboard Pro: Go easy on your hands with this keyboard macro program.

<http://tinyurl.com/rljt7>

Fix Windows Glitches by Re-registering Your DLLs: You can remedy some common Windows woes by reloading system files; a free tool to maximize shutdown options. <http://tinyurl.com/pwtgy>

UltraISO Premium. Highly versatile and especially proficient with boot discs, UltraISO creates, edits, and burns disc images in several popular formats including ISO, BIN, Nero, Alcohol, CloneCD, and Xbox.

[http://www.download.com/UltraISO-Premium/3000-2646\\_4-10177302.html?tag=nl.e415](http://www.download.com/UltraISO-Premium/3000-2646_4-10177302.html?tag=nl.e415)

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://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,63854,tk,nl\\_hsxdown,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,63854,tk,nl_hsxdown,00.asp)

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://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,63879,tk,nl\\_hsxdown,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,63879,tk,nl_hsxdown,00.asp)

SnapFolders. 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://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,24158,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,24158,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp)

Vista's new Aeroglass interface isn't just window dressing; it also helps you find data faster and move more quickly between open windows. But you can add many of Vista's shiny, bright interface elements to XP. For example, Vista will list a file's properties and other metadata in a pane at the bottom of Explorer windows. The freeware utility InfoTip Extension lets you beef up the pop-up info tips you see when you hover over a file icon, customizing the information that appears, and even displaying the contents of a text file. Unfortunately, this utility was designed for older versions of Windows, and a few of its features don't work in XP. Also, it provides no extra information for MP3, WMA, WMV, and other music and video files (which arguably already have pretty good info tips). But hey, it's still more convenient than opening a file's Properties dialog box. [http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,63139,tk,srxdown,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,63139,tk,srxdown,00.asp)

This site offers quick and intuitive access to more than 20,000 Windows, Macintosh, DOS, Linux, Palm OS, Windows CE, and BeOS software programs that are available for download over the Internet. The Download.com team evaluates and categorizes these programs, and gathers critical information about them to help you decide if a program is suitable for your system and needs. Offers a reliability guide, which points users toward the download location most likely to be successful. [www.download.com](http://www.download.com)

Tucows has over 30,000 titles and reviews of Internet software, covering Windows, Macintosh, Linux, BeOS and OS/2 and various personal digital assistants. [www.tucows.com](http://www.tucows.com)

PC World Downloads provides Internet Add-Ins and Patches, Browsers, E-Mail, Fax and Modem Utilities, HTML Authoring, Internet Tools, Java, and Plug-Ins. [www.pcworld.com/downloads](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads)

Set an alarm that will play any sound from your computer. You can even select a snooze time after it sounds. <http://javascript.internet.com/clocks/alarm-clock.html>

AI RoboForm from Siber Systems. Manage your passwords and information with Roboform. It will automatically fill in password information or login information to any online account or Web site. Create an identity with all of your personal information--name, address, telephone, etc. You won't have to waste time retyping that information ever again! Stuck trying to think of a new password? It will generate secure random passwords for you. All personal information is

securely stored on your computer. Cost: Free limited version; \$29.95 for Pro edition <http://www.roboform.com/>

Most online maps allow you to zoom in and out. This site does that, but in a really cool way. Enter a city location or street address, and the map swoops in. You can navigate around by clicking the map's edges. The site displays points of interest like restaurants, movie theaters and hotels, as well. <http://www.us.map24.com>

If you have digital images, you should try FREE Picasa. Picasa allows you to edit, organize and share photos. It scans your computer for all of your digital images. Add keywords to each picture to help organize them. Edit your pictures by cropping, removing red-eye and enhancing the color and contrast. You can print or e-mail directly from the program. This program was recently purchased by Google and is now free for the taking! <http://www.picasa.com/google/>

You'll find "fun stuff" such as screen savers, themes, and wallpaper here, plus links to related sites. Supported operating systems include all the Windows versions, Unix, DOS and OS/2. You can view the software list A to Z. There's even a What's New category for frequent customers, plus so many resources and links that it's easy to see why Pass the Shareware wants to be your Internet start page. <http://www.passtheshareware.com>

This is the Grand Central Station of Web applications. The directory offers more than 10,000 software programs -- most free-- that you can run right from your browser. [www.apps.com](http://www.apps.com)

Your quest for free software begins at Tudogs, a directory of no-cost programs, including graphics, database and finance software, Web tools and many games. [www.tudogs.com](http://www.tudogs.com)

This site offers a collection of free software. [www.freewarehome.com](http://www.freewarehome.com)

Pop-Up Stopper. This product stops pop-up windows in Internet Explorer. [http://www.panicware.com/product\\_downloads1.html](http://www.panicware.com/product_downloads1.html)

This site is loaded with shareware. [www.jumbo.com](http://www.jumbo.com)

Each week, Kim Komando highlights one software title for your PC or Mac. You can download and use these titles free for a limited time. <http://www.komando.com/shareware.asp>

TheFreeSite.com is the largest and most popular site devoted to the topic of freebies on the Web. The site offers critical reviews of the Web's latest "must have" freebies. Here, you'll find everything from free product samples to free software to Webmaster freebies to innovative free services.

<http://www.thefreesite.com>

The SmartSite offers a handful of free downloads in a variety of categories: Beta & New, Business and Finance, Desktop Tools, Programming, Education, Games, Graphics, Home and Leisure, Internet, and Utilities. Within each category is a pull-down list of subcategories to help you narrow your search. Take a look at the site's Featured Downloads, and submit new software for others to download.

<http://www.1smartsite.com>

Albert's Ambry: This Pennsylvania-based site offers all sorts of downloadable software for DOS, Mac, OS/2, and Windows (including NT). You can search by keyword, by category, or jump directly into subcategories to save time. The What's Hot button brings up a collection of the newest available downloads, the Featured button takes you to detailed descriptions of a few selections the authors recommend, and the Author Info section offers good contact information if you have questions for the Webmasters. <http://www.alberts.com>

Association of Shareware Professionals: The ASP was formed in 1987 to strengthen the future of shareware (software that users can try before they buy), and it both encourages the distribution of shareware and offers information about it. You can browse a list of sites that are members and learn about the types of shareware services they offer. Read shareware and ASP news and announcements. You can join ASP for \$100 a year to enjoy special discounts and services as well. <http://www.asp-shareware.org>

ATN Shareware Distribution: This site is maintained by Academics Technology and Networks at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Downloads are grouped at the home page by platform, and are presented in a clear, no-nonsense style that we found refreshing. Netware utilities are available here in addition to Mac, Windows, and DOS programs, a nice touch. Visitors search for downloads by operating system type. <http://shareware.unc.edu/index.html>

Completely Free Software: "Yes, there is such a thing as a free lunch." This site offers just what its name suggests, although due to the comparative expense of extremely long downloads the site's creator does offer an option to purchase CD-

ROMs of the software offered. There is a wonderful selection of freeware here, along with an impressive news section and a good number of links to similar sites. <http://www.completelyfreesoftware.com>

Download.com: You'll find a wider mix of information about shareware and demonstration files on this CINET site than on Download.Com's sister site, Shareware.Com. Use the onsite search engine to find a file or browse through categories that include Business, Development Tools, Education, Games, Home & Personal, Internet, Kids, Multimedia & Design, and Utilities. Other areas on this site compare programs in head-to-head reviews. This page is for PC users; a link toward the bottom leads to Macintosh shareware. <http://download.com>

FreeLoader: This site boasts that you won't find any demo versions or shareware, just free software. Categories include business, games, programming, security, and others. A nice touch is the daily list of additions and updates, complete with links to the appropriate section. This site is extremely easy to use, thanks to good organization and the icons next to each download at the home page to identify what type of software it is. <http://www.moochers.com>

TheFreeSite.com: This well-designed site is updated daily to bring you the latest free product and service offerings on the Web. Use the site to find free encryption, e-mail, and privacy software; fonts, games, chat services, Internet access, and Web space; and much more. There's also a Freebie Features section with interviews with some of the people offering free stuff on the Internet and a free, weekly newsletter to keep you up to date on the site's newest freebie additions. <http://www.thefreesite.com>

Go-download.com: Use this download site to find the latest freeware and shareware titles. The site breaks the downloadable programs into categories such as Games and Utils. Click the Top 20 or New Files folder to check out the best or latest downloads available. When you select a program to download, a new window will open with a description of the program and when the program was submitted, along with the operating systems it supports and a link to download the program. <http://www.go-download.com>

Happy Puppy: One of the most popular games sites on the Internet, and for good reason. There are game demos and shareware for various platforms, including Nintendo, Playstation, Macintosh, and Windows. Happy Puppy offers an extensive hints and cheats section. Sign up for one of the three Happy Puppy newsletters, and read the games business section for job postings and material

relating to the gaming industry itself. Enter contests to win free stuff like money or computer hardware. <http://happypuppy.com/index.html>

Jumbo: With more than 300,000 programs, Jumbo is a great source for a wide range of software, from music to business to developer tools. And the site is easy to navigate, which makes it an ideal starting place for newcomers. The home page has a search engine, a list of new titles, and several categories, within which there are subcategories to help you pinpoint exactly what you want. Check out newsletters, downloading advice, and find Windows CE downloads.

<http://www.jumbo.com>

Pass The Shareware: You'll find "fun stuff" such as screen savers, themes, and wallpaper here, plus links to related sites. Supported operating systems include all the Windows versions, Unix, DOS and OS/2. You can view the software list A to Z. There's even a What's New category for frequent customers, plus so many resources and links that it's easy to see why Pass the Shareware wants to be your Internet start page. <http://www.passtheshareware.com>

Rocket Download: This site is slick, campy, and cartoony. Besides the usual games, there are sections of kids games, math and science programs, organizers, graphics, and small-business programs. You can sign up to receive an e-mail newsletter, or take a survey to give the Webmaster your opinions. Reviews and articles are also available. Rocket Download's creators claim that what sets their site apart from others is that they install and test each piece of software available at their site. <http://www.rocketdownload.com>

ScreenSaver.com: ScreenSaver.com This is literally an archive of downloadable screen savers. Many are available for free, but some are available only to members. Some nice touches are the thumbnails of the screensavers, their file sizes, and short reviews of each. Colorful icons let you know which operating system you need for a particular screen saver and whether or not you have to pay for it. Users also can download tools to build their own screensavers

<http://www.screensaver.com>

Shareware Junkies.com: Under the ad banners, you'll see mostly text and hyperlinks instead of heavy graphics at A1 Shareware Evaluations. This means you get the information quickly, even if you have a slower modem. Buttons on the left side of the main screen promise news and shareware for other operating systems such as Mac and OS/2. Scroll down the page to find software reviews,

interesting articles to read, and hyperlinks to the latest shareware. There's even a shopping section. <http://www.sharewarejunkies.com>

Shareware.Com: Use a powerful search engine to browse CINET's database of more than 250,000 software files, including freeware, shareware, demos, patches, and upgrades. You also can subscribe to an e-mail newsletter to learn about new and popular titles. As with many of the larger sites, however, the files you download don't always reside on the site's computers. Instead, you follow a link to another Web site, often based on your geographical location, and download the software from there. <http://shareware.com>

The Software Labs: The Software Labs provides software that is fully tested and reviewed by SL employees, and only offers downloads from its own servers, as opposed to shareware sites that simply offer links to other sites where the software is actually located. You can download fully functional, time-limited demos of the Software lab's utility programs. If you have any problems, you can contact SL's technical support. Members can access the shareware library by clicking a tab at the top. <http://www.softwarelabs.com>

One of the most popular download sites on the Web, TUCOWS is a very cute, very cow-themed site which gives you access to a ton o' stuff. You can find Windows, Linux, Mac, Java, and Personal Data Assistant applications and utilities. You'll find lots of themes, along with game demos, patches, and reviews. Oh, and don't forget to click on the TUCOWS banner and savor a cow's bellow. <http://tucows.wau.nl>

The TuDogs site not only offers out-of-the-ordinary categories, but it also excludes all but the best links, and it even rates them. In addition to the usual games and utilities, link categories include health, travel, Web authoring, graphics, recipes, and music. Visitors worldwide will appreciate access to mirror sites around the globe for faster service. <http://www.tudogs.com>

Remind yourself of important dates with MiniMinder. This small program reminds you of special events and dates. You can create weekly, monthly, yearly and one-time-only events. Schedule reminders. <http://www.vellosoft.com/miniminder/index.html>

Sometimes when you download a free program it comes in a compressed format such as zip. To open them, you need a utility like QuickZip. QuickZip helps you shrink very large files or extract previously zipped files. It can extract 20 different

types of archive files. The documentation is written in broken English but it's good enough to get you going. <http://www.quickzip.org/quickzip/downloads.php>

Easy Card offers a user-friendly solution for designing your own custom greeting cards. The basic interface is simple to use, especially since the program gives you a large icon for creating a new card upon launch. If you're making a card for a specific occasion, such as a birthday, Christmas, or Father's Day, Easy Card lets you choose from a number of predesigned templates and greetings. If you want to start from scratch, you can choose from several card layouts before adding images or text. When creating your card, you can change the background color and gradient, choose among fonts, and reposition images. If you like the results, you can save your layout as a template for later use. All in all, Easy Card makes a nice alternative to mass-produced greeting cards.

[http://www.download.com/Easy-Card/3000-2189\\_4-10248179.html?tag=nl.e415-3](http://www.download.com/Easy-Card/3000-2189_4-10248179.html?tag=nl.e415-3)