

Black Book of Free Software for College Students
By: Vaughn Parker

© Copyright 2009

Disclaimer

This PDF book was written to showcase specific websites and free downloadable software available to the public. I do not intend to claim any of these websites or programs as my own. Nor do I intend to claim any of the copyrights as my own. All copyrights, websites, and patents belong to the websites and program creators.

Table of Contents

Introduction

Chapter 1 - Essentials for College Students

Chapter 2 - Essentials for Instant Messaging

Chapter 3- Essentials for Studying Abroad

Chapter 4- Essentials for Internet Browsing

Chapter 5- Essentials for Cleaning Up Your Computer

Chapter 6- Essentials for Organizing Your Life Online

Chapter 7- Essentials for Storing and Sending Files

Chapter 8- Essentials for Your USB Drive

Chapter 9– Essential Websites for your Business

Conclusion

About the Author

Introduction

This PDF book was written because I was tired of the public, especially students, not knowing that software could be **F-R-E-E** instead of going blindly into college thinking that spending money would solve their technical problems and frustrations. If it were more known or been aware of other options, consumers could have made smarter decisions such as saving the money or investing it. This book is an attempted solution to that problem.

Chapter 1 | Essentials for College Students



Open Office Suite

www.OpenOffice.org



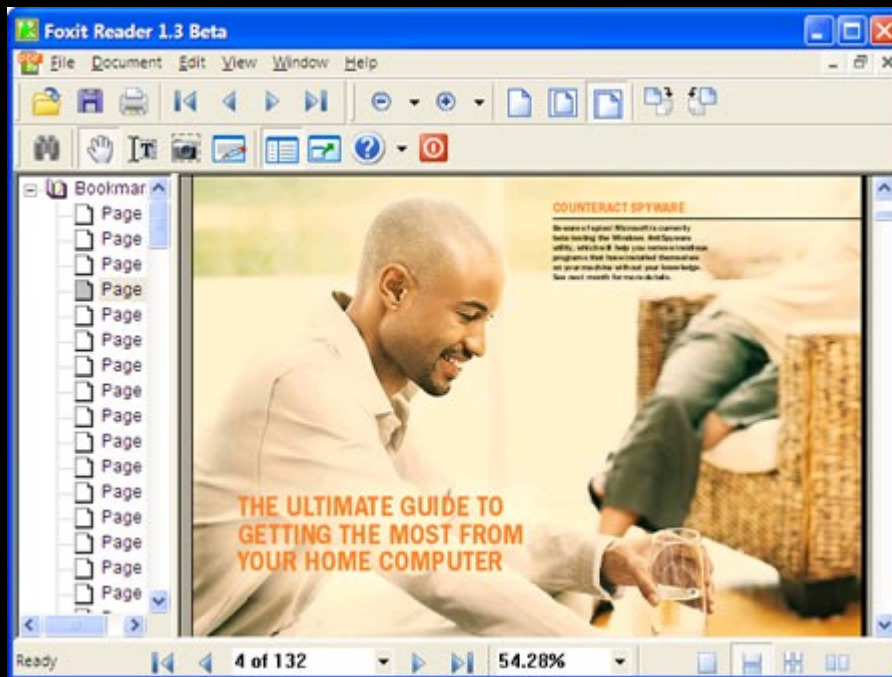
This is an office suite application that mimics Microsoft Office Suite. This software includes a word processor, spreadsheet program, slide presentation maker, flyer/ advertising maker and a database application. College students are going to need these essential applications to survive college. If your computer crashes and you have to install Microsoft Office and it does not allow you to reinstall it due to licensing issues, this is the perfect alternative.



Foxit Reader

www.foxitsoftware.com

This is a PDF reader that is similar to Adobe Acrobat Reader, except it is a lot smaller in size and uses up a lot less resources. Loads PDF files really fast.

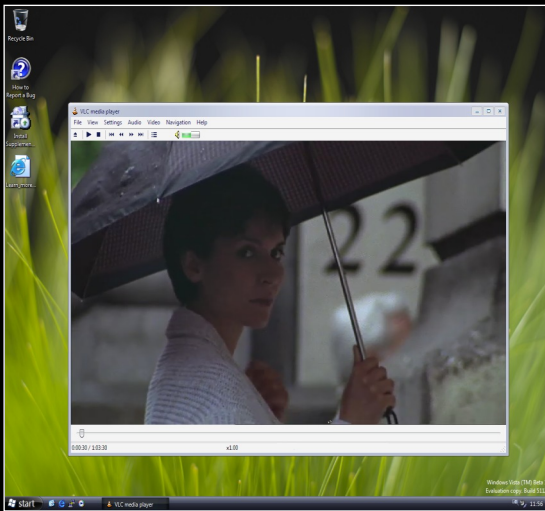




VLC Player

www.videolan.org

This is a video software application that allows you to play ANY type of media whatsoever. I had an issue with computer because when it crashed, it erased my DVD playing software. Microsoft offered me to download their CODECS (the files needed in order to play the DVD's) for a price of about \$100.00 or more. Luckily I found this FREE media player alternative that played DVD's from any region.

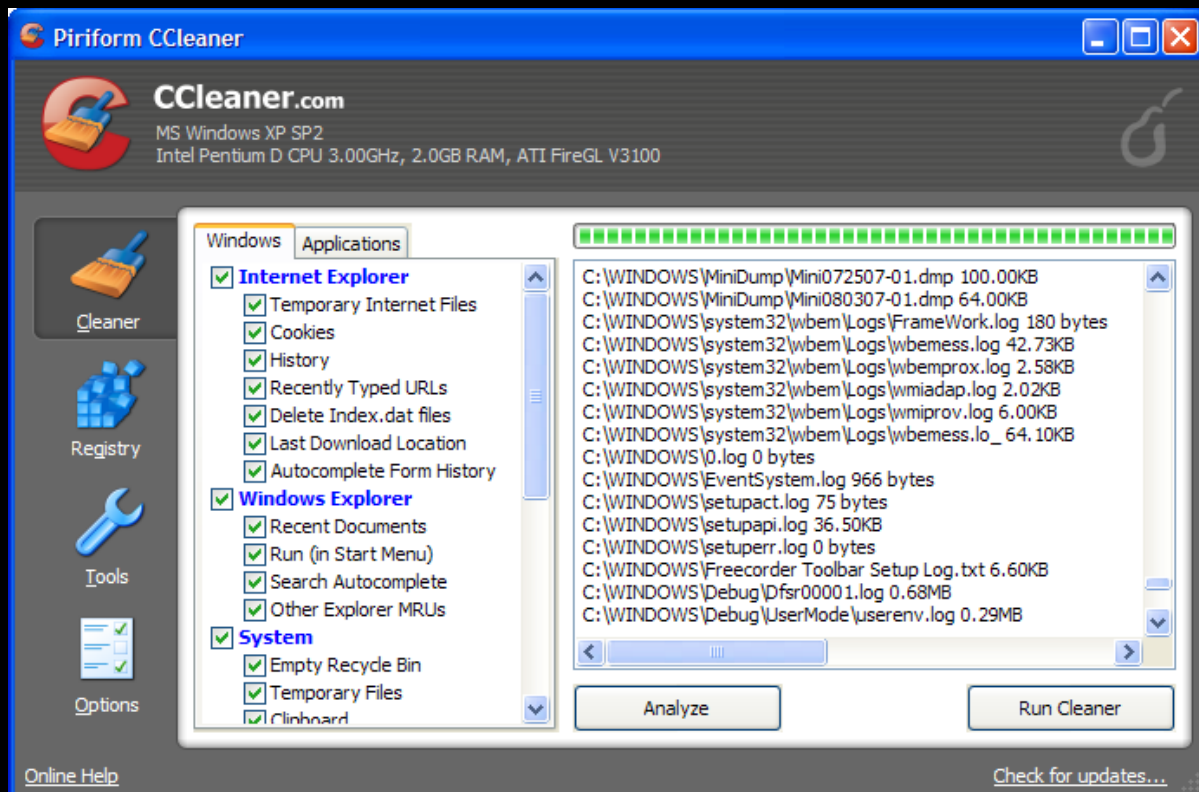




Crap Cleaner

www.ccleaner.com

This is a hard drive cleaning software application that allows you to effortlessly clean your hard drive without deleting the information you need. It's light weight, fast and efficient. This is an alternative to Microsoft's Disk Clean Up software.



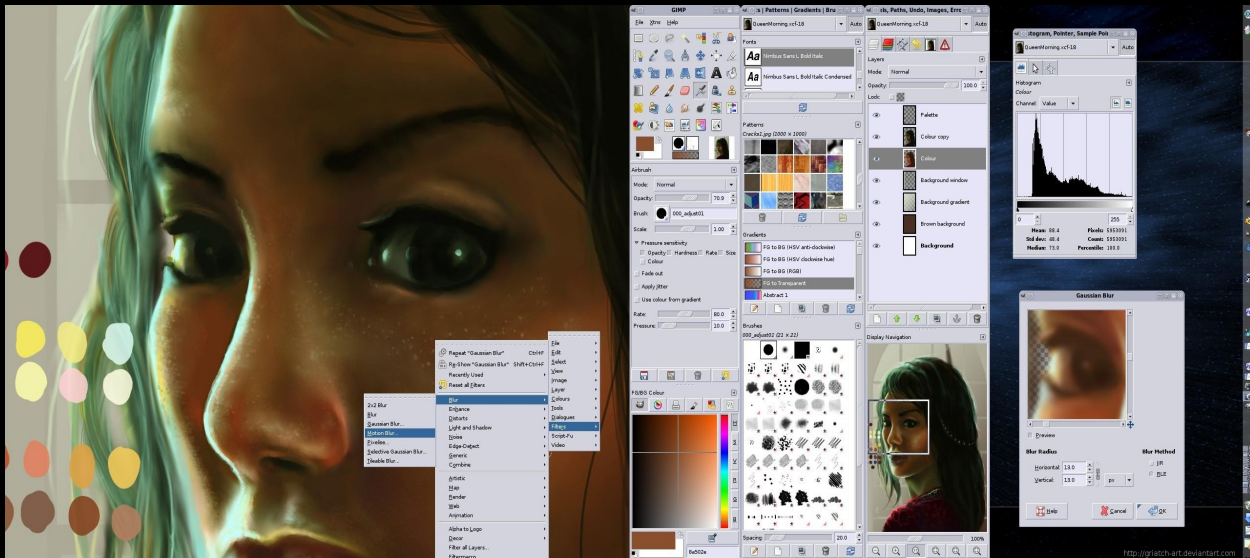


Gimp

www.gimp.com

This is a software application that is similar to Adobe Photoshop. It has the ability to mimic the tools of Adobe Photoshop and save in the same file formats as Adobe Photoshop.

Also try Gimpshop: www.gimpshop.com



Chapter 2 | Essentials for Instant Messaging



Digsby

www.digsby.com

This is an instant messaging software application that allows you to stay connect to all your social networking sites. Sites such as Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, and others. It also has the ability to check your e-mail accounts to let you know when you have new mail. Additionally, you have all your instant messaging accounts all on one buddy list.

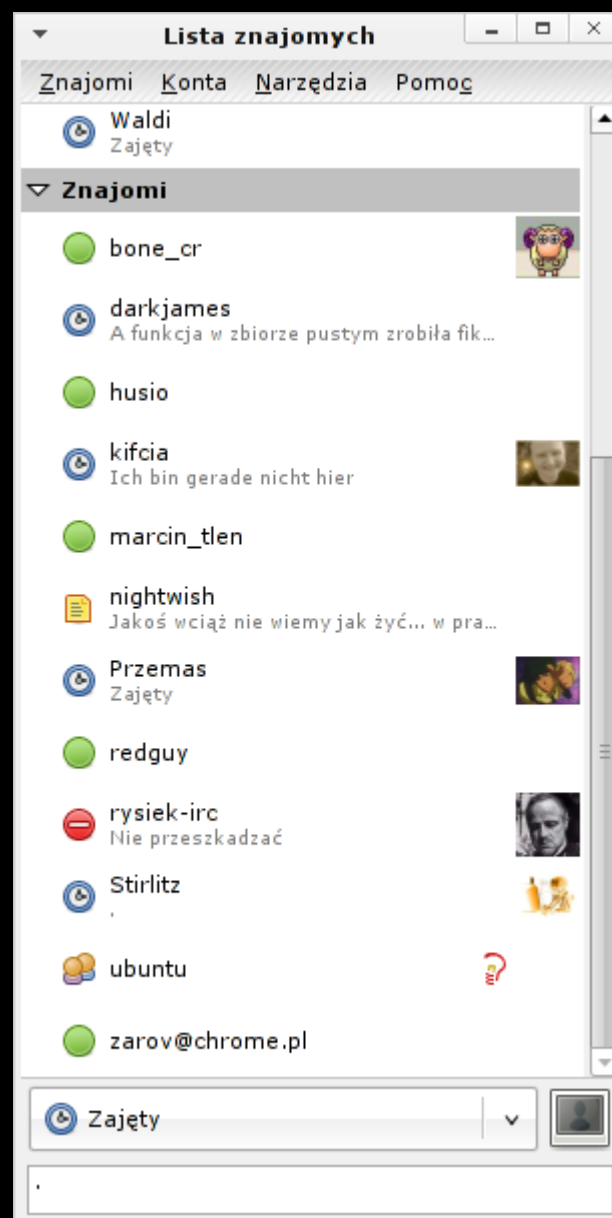




Pidgin

www.pidgin.im

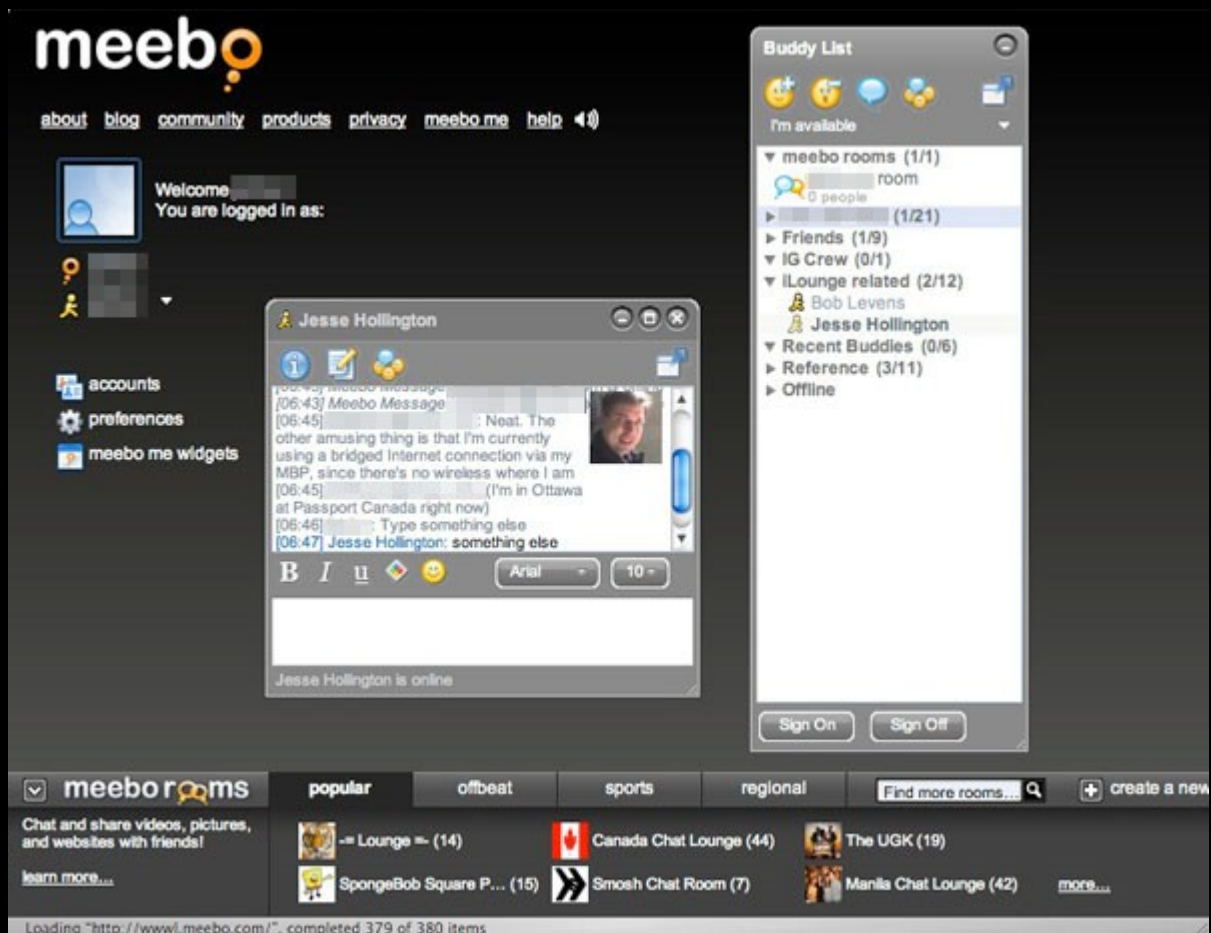
This is only an all in one instant messaging program. Very light and simple application to use.



meebo Meebo

www.meebo.com

This is a website you can utilize when downloading an instant messenger application is not permitted on the computer.

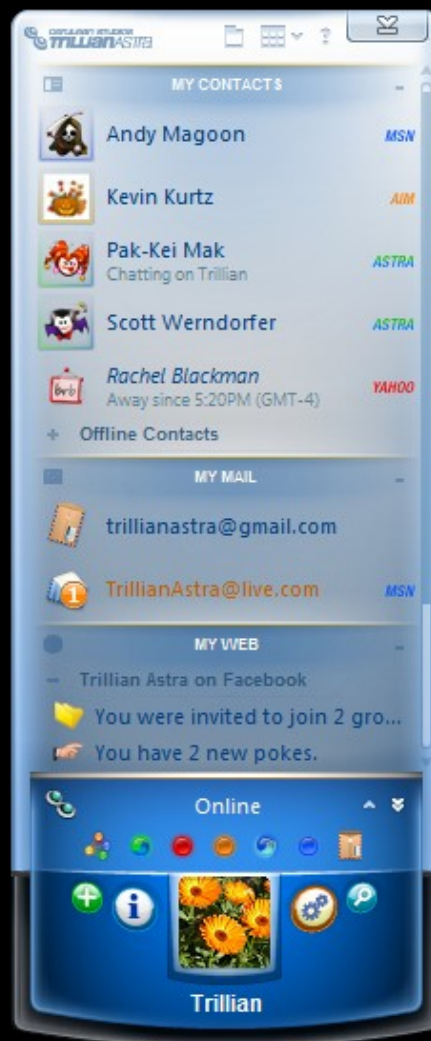




Trillian Astra

www.trillian.im

This is an up and coming futuristic instant messaging program that will innovate how we use instant messaging. Similar to Digsby.



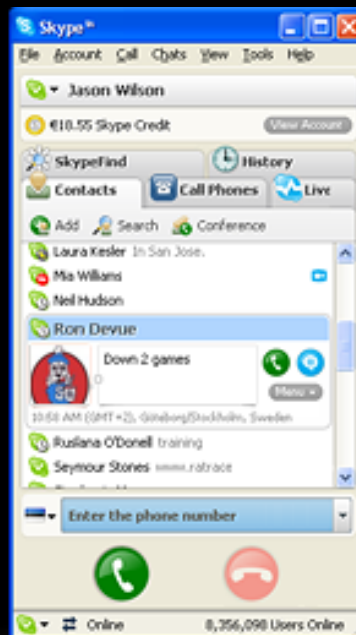
Chapter 3 | Essentials for Study Abroad



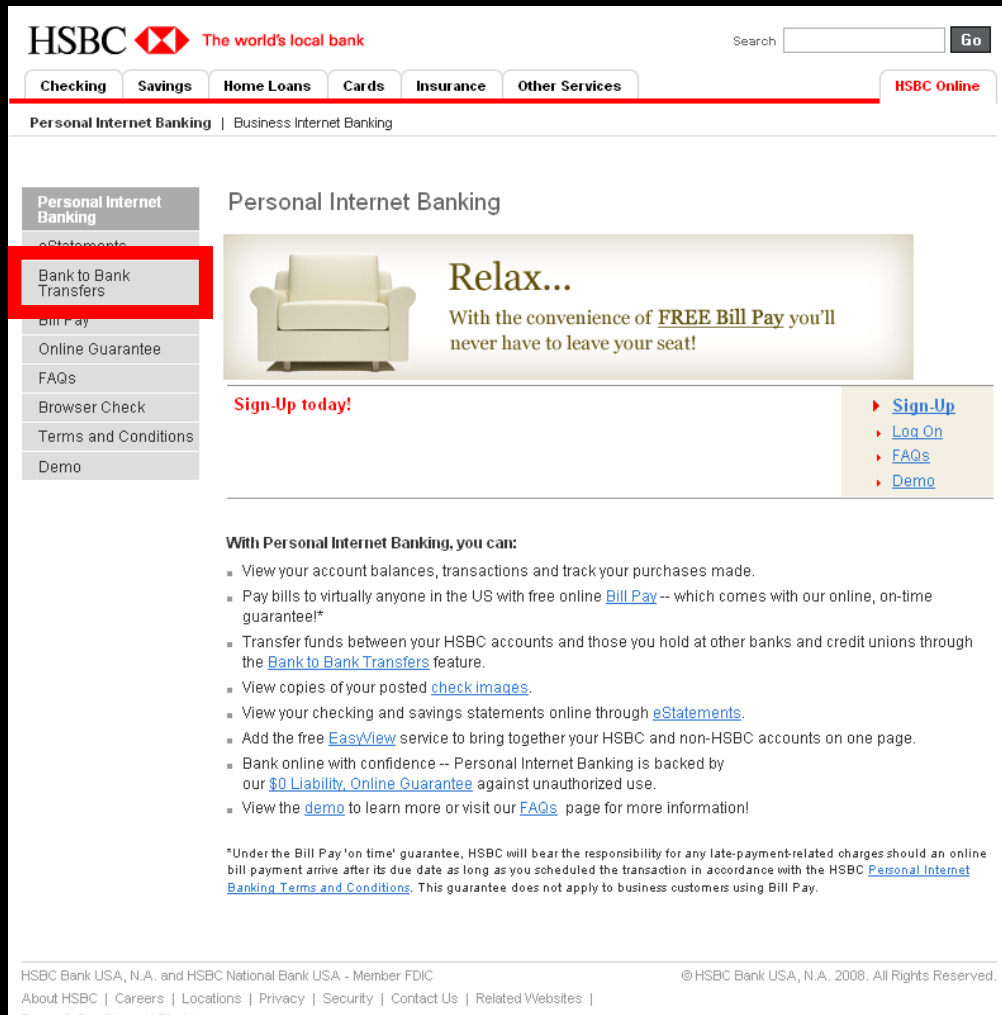
Skype


www.Skype.com

This is a communication tool that allows you to talk Skype to Skype for free or buy credit so you can make out going calls to the United States or other countries in the world. You also have the ability to buy an online number which allows family members and friend to stay in contact with you while you are studying abroad.



This is a bank that allows you to deposit money into your main bank account in your home country and then transfer money online to an HSBC account that you opened, which then enables you to withdraw money in the foreign country that you are studying abroad.



HSBC  The world's local bank

Search

Checking Savings Home Loans Cards Insurance Other Services [HSBC Online](#)

Personal Internet Banking | Business Internet Banking

Personal Internet Banking

Bank to Bank Transfers

Relax...
With the convenience of **FREE Bill Pay** you'll never have to leave your seat!

[Sign-Up today!](#)

- [Sign-Up](#)
- [Log On](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [Demo](#)

With Personal Internet Banking, you can:

- View your account balances, transactions and track your purchases made.
- Pay bills to virtually anyone in the US with free online [Bill Pay](#) -- which comes with our online, on-time guarantee!
- Transfer funds between your HSBC accounts and those you hold at other banks and credit unions through the [Bank to Bank Transfers](#) feature.
- View copies of your posted [check images](#).
- View your checking and savings statements online through [eStatements](#).
- Add the free [EasyView](#) service to bring together your HSBC and non-HSBC accounts on one page.
- Bank online with confidence -- Personal Internet Banking is backed by our [\\$0 Liability, Online Guarantee](#) against unauthorized use.
- View the [demo](#) to learn more or visit our [FAQs](#) page for more information!

*Under the Bill Pay 'on time' guarantee, HSBC will bear the responsibility for any late-payment-related charges should an online bill payment arrive after its due date as long as you scheduled the transaction in accordance with the HSBC [Personal Internet Banking Terms and Conditions](#). This guarantee does not apply to business customers using Bill Pay.

HSBC Bank USA, N.A. and HSBC National Bank USA - Member FDIC © HSBC Bank USA, N.A. 2008. All Rights Reserved.

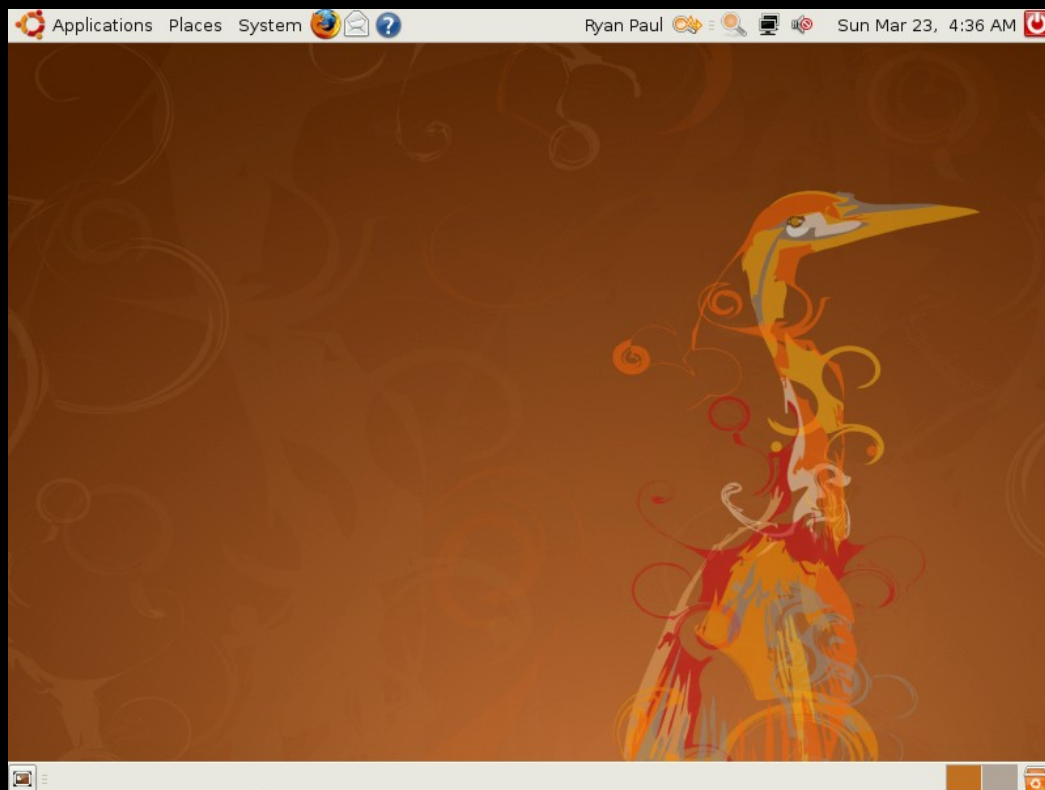
[About HSBC](#) | [Careers](#) | [Locations](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Security](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Related Websites](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#) | [Site Map](#)



Ubuntu Linux

www.ubuntu.com

This is an operating system that you can download and install on your computer 100% free. If you are in the situation where your computer has crashed, malfunctioned, or has given you the blue screen of death, then this is the best alternative than to buy a new computer. All you need to do is download the Ubuntu file which is a .iso (called an image file) type and burn it to a DVD or CD-R. Then put the CD into your computer and it should load automatically. Also, this operating system updates itself automatically and never gets viruses.



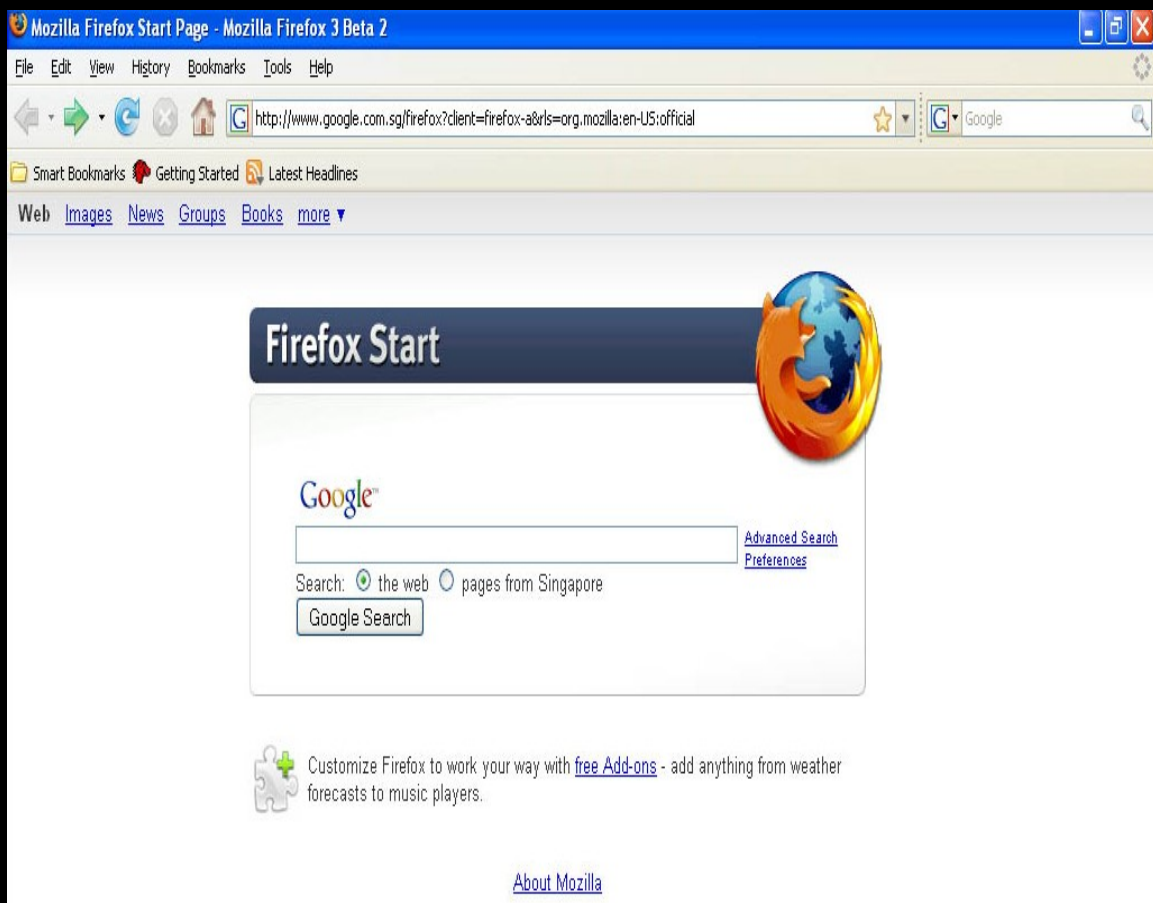
Chapter 4 | Essentials for Internet Browsing



Mozilla Firefox

www.firefox.com

This is a free web browser that is complete customizable through add-ons and extensions. Easily change the theme of the browser and add extensions to expand capabilities of the browser.





Mozilla Firefox

Extensions + Add-Ons

Add-Ons

- Download Statusbar
- Flagfox
- Scribe Fire Blog Editor
- Smart Bookmarks Bar
- Morning Coffee
- PDF Download
- IE Tab
- Answers

Other Applications

- Google Toolbar

Themes

- Foxkeh
- Mario Bros Theme:
<http://www.firefoxfacts.com/2008/08/13/new-super-mario-theme-for-firefox-3/>

Plug-Ins

- Java
- Shockwave
- Adobe Flash Player

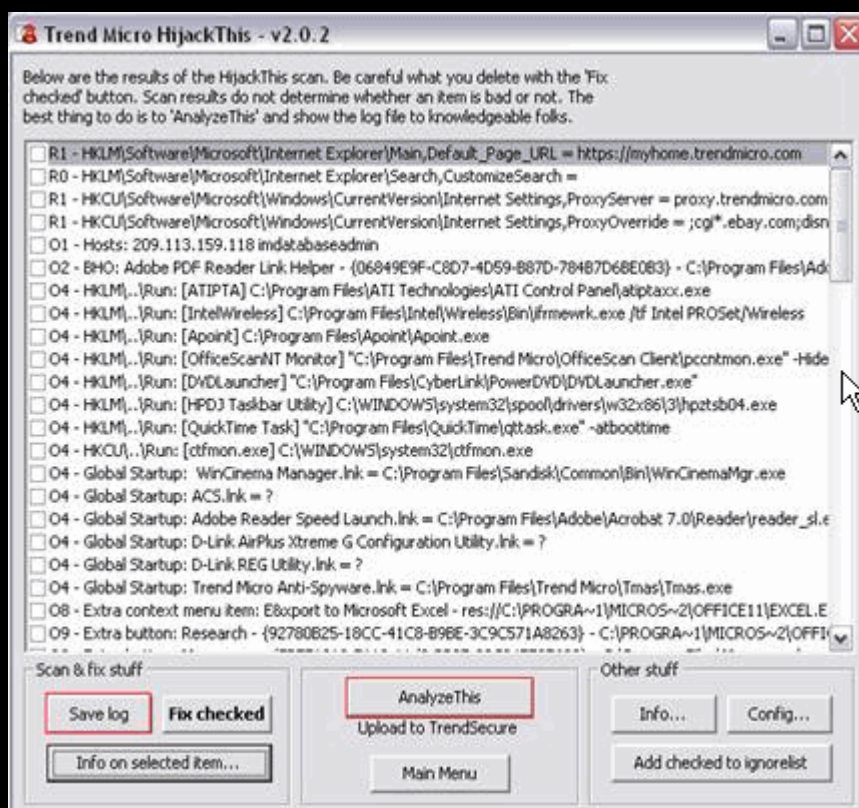
Chapter 5 | Essentials for Cleaning Up your Computer



Hi-Jack This

www.trendsecure.com

This is a website from Trend Micro that allows you to download various software applications to help get rid of viruses, trojans, or other unwanted bugs in your computer.

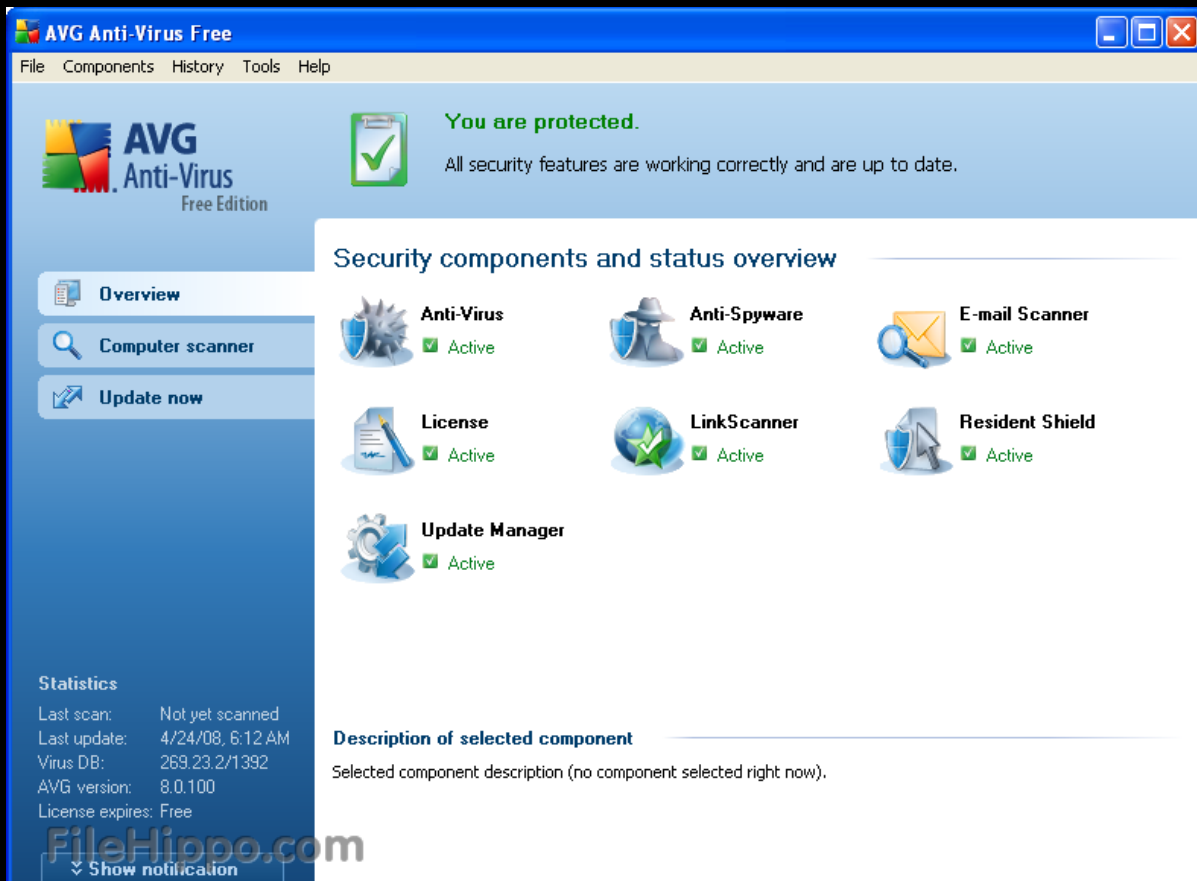




AVG Anti-Virus

www.filehippo.com

This is a website you can utilize when downloading an instant messenger application is not permitted on the computer. Go to filehippo.com to download the free version.





Defraggler

www.defraggler.com

This is an alternative to Microsoft Windows disk defragger program. It is a fast and light program . You can reduce the time waiting for your computer to load programs by running this application.

The screenshot shows the Piriform Defraggler application window. At the top, there is a menu bar with 'Action' and 'Help'. Below the menu is a table showing drive information:

Drive	File System	Capacity	Used	Free Space	Status
Local Disk (C:)	NTFS	97.7 GB	42.7 GB (44%)	54.9 GB (56%)	Ready
500G Drive (D:)	NTFS	465.8 GB	307.0 GB (66%)	158.7 GB (34%)	Defrag Complete

Below the table is a progress bar and a large grid visualization of the disk layout. The bottom section shows a 'File list' for Drive D: with the following columns: Filename, Fragments, Size, and Path.

Filename	Fragments	Size	Path
Ideal s03e04.WnA.avi	8	256,004 KB	D:\Maxtor backup\HD1\Movies\TV\Ideal S...
ideal s03e02.avi	8	236,604 KB	D:\Maxtor backup\HD1\Movies\TV\Ideal S...
change.log.2	8	939 KB	D:\System Volume Information_restore{8...
change.log.1	8	465 KB	D:\System Volume Information_restore{8...
change.log.1	8	1,024 KB	D:\System Volume Information_restore{8...
change.log.1	8	1,024 KB	D:\System Volume Information_restore{8...
change.log.1	8	1,024 KB	D:\System Volume Information_restore{5...
change.log.1	8	1,024 KB	D:\System Volume Information_restore{5...
1x05 - _Rendezvous At Big Gulch_(Terro...	1	257,062 KB	D:\Maxtor backup\HD1\Movies\TV\Police S...
1x04 - _Revenge And Remorse_(The_Gull...	1	236,372 KB	D:\Maxtor backup\HD1\Movies\TV\Police S...
1x01 - _A Substantial Gift_(The_Broken_...	1	244,662 KB	D:\Maxtor backup\HD1\Movies\TV\Police S...
Windows XP Professional-Snapshot21.vmsn	7	17,525 KB	D:\VM images\XP with software\
Windows XP Professional-000003.vmdk	7	217,216 KB	D:\VM images\XP Pro\
Twin.Peaks.s2e19.Variations.On.Relations...	7	224,068 KB	D:\Maxtor backup\HD1\Movies\TV\Twin Pe...
Glastonbury 1995.m4a	7	23,535 KB	D:\Maxtor backup\HD1\Music\Orbital\LIVE...

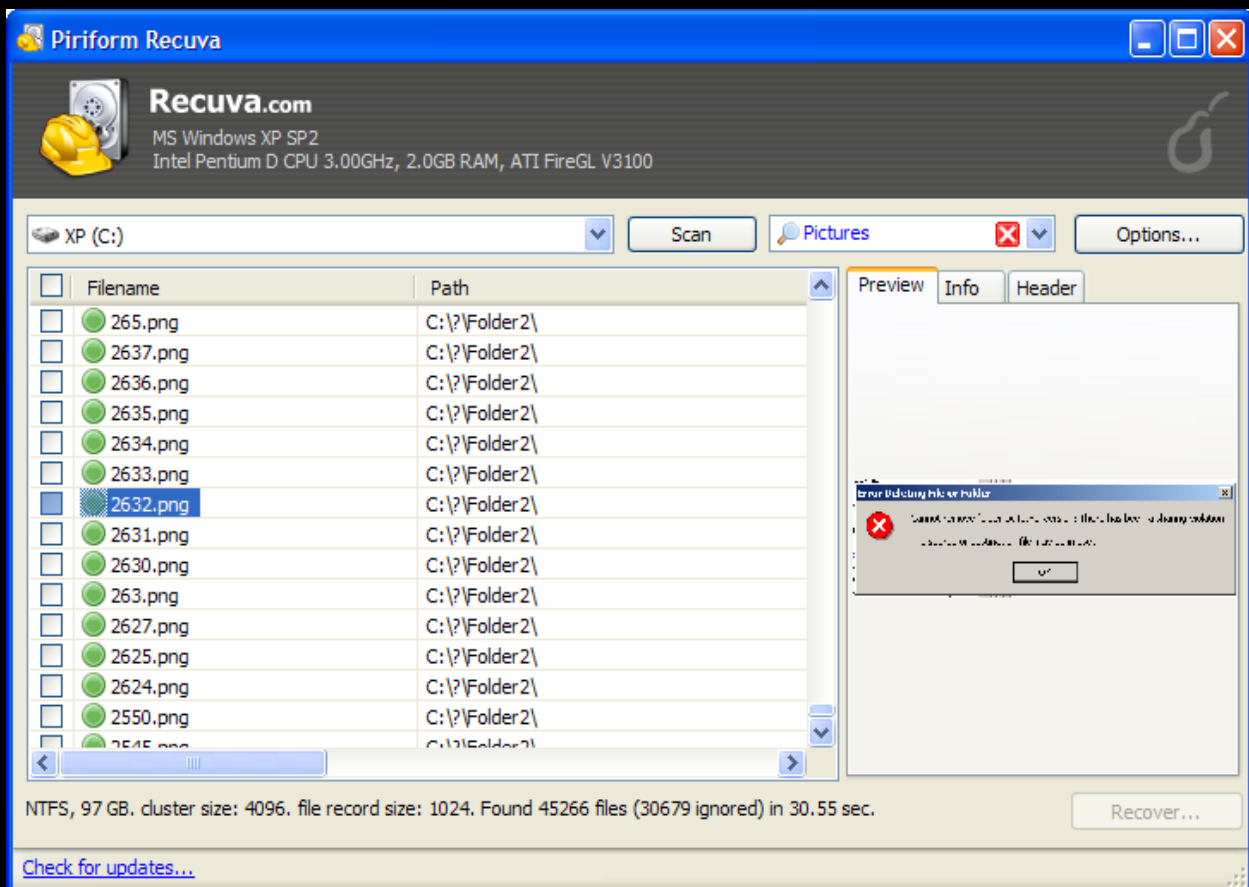
At the bottom of the window, there is a 'Check for updates...' button.



Recuva

www.recuva.com

This is an application that allows you to recover any documents that were deleted by mistake or on purpose.





Ad-Aware

www.lavasoft.com

This is a free spyware remover. It also has an auto-protect mode that allows your computer to be protected at all times.



Chapter 6 | Essentials for Organizing your Life Online



Remember the Milk

www.rememberthemilk.com

This is a website that allows you to create a to-do list that you can integrate into applications such as Google Calendar, Google Maps, or the Iphone.

The screenshot displays the Remember the Milk web application interface. At the top, the user is identified as Krzysztof Szafranek, with navigation links for Overview, Tasks, Contacts, Settings, Help, and Logout. The date and time are shown as Sunday, August 20, 2006, at 9:17 PM. A search bar is present with a magnifying glass icon and a link to 'Show search options'. Below the navigation menu, there are tabs for various categories: Inbox, Actions, Calendar, Ideas, Projects, Waiting for, and Sent. Underneath these are more specific task categories: Agendas, Calls, Computer, Errands, Home, Office, and Read. The main task list shows a task 'Take over the world' which is checked. Other tasks include 'Get into training', 'Obtain an certification', 'Implement operation', and several 'A 1 1 copies' tasks. Action buttons for 'Complete', 'Postpone', and 'More Actions...' are visible. A 'Select:' dropdown menu offers options: All, Due Today, Due Tomorrow, Overdue, and None. An 'Add Task' button is also present. On the right side, a 'Task Notes' panel is open for the selected task, showing a list of actions: '1. Prepare a detailed plan.', '2. Implement the plan.', and '3. Enjoy the results.'. There are 'Add Note', 'Save', and 'Cancel' buttons in this panel. A status bar at the bottom of the panel indicates '1 task selected.'. At the very bottom of the page, there are links for About, Blog, Forums, Terms of Use, and Privacy Policy, along with a copyright notice for 2006 and a Feedback link.



Google Calendar Calendar.Google.com

This is the best calendar application that allows you to organize, share, or publish your life online. Very simple to use. Easily will replace any paper calendar that you own.

The screenshot displays the Google Calendar web interface for March 2007. The main view is a weekly calendar grid showing events from Sunday, March 25th to Saturday, March 31st. The time slots range from 7am to 11pm. Key events include:

- Orgo Exam 2** (10:00am) on Sun 3/25
- Orgo Exam 3** on Sat 3/31
- Biol 3 Exam (21-29)** spanning Sun 3/25 to Sat 3/31
- Teenage Mutant Ninja Tu** on Sat 3/31
- 9:00am** events on Sun 3/25, Mon 3/26, and Wed 3/28
- 9:30am** event on Thu 3/29
- 10:00am** events on Mon 3/26, Tue 3/27, and Wed 3/28
- 11:00am** events on Mon 3/26, Tue 3/27, and Wed 3/28
- 1:00pm** event on Tue 3/27
- 2:00pm** events on Mon 3/26, Tue 3/27, and Wed 3/28
- 2:00pm** event on Thu 3/29
- 4:00pm** events on Tue 3/27 and Wed 3/28
- 5:00pm** event on Mon 3/26
- 6:00pm** events on Tue 3/27 and Wed 3/28
- 6:30pm** event on Wed 3/28
- 7:00pm** events on Tue 3/27 and Wed 3/28

The interface also features a sidebar with 'My Calendars' and 'Other Calendars' sections, a search bar at the top, and navigation tabs for 'Day', 'Week', 'Month', 'Next 2 Weeks', and 'Agenda'.



Remindr remindr.info

This is a website you can utilize when downloading an instant messenger application is not permitted on the computer.

 **Remindr**

Please remind me to

on at my local time

through

 <input type="text" value="username"/> <small>Here goes your Twitter username. Don't forget to follow our bot to be able to receive the nudge!</small>	 <input type="text" value="user@domain.com"/> <small>Here goes your e-mail.</small>
 <input type="text" value="user@jabber.org"/> <small>Here goes your Jabber (or Gtalk) account.</small>	 <input type="text" value="1-555-2368"/> <small>Your phone number with country code, no leading zeros.</small>



reCAPTCHA™
stop spam.
read books.

Thanks!



Snackr

www.snackr.net

This is an application that allows you to have RSS (real simple syndication) news feeds stream across your desktop screen.





Mint

www.mint.com

This is a website that allows you to organize all of your finances into one place. Mint.com provides an overview

The screenshot displays the Mint.com website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Mint logo and the word "beta". To the right of the logo are links for "Get Help", "dkm-011@mint.com", "Your Profile", and "Logout". Below the navigation bar are tabs for "OVERVIEW", "TRANSACTIONS", "SPENDING TRENDS", "WAYS TO SAVE", and "ACCOUNTS".

The main content area is titled "Add Accounts" with a lock icon and the text "You'll get to the big picture in minutes." Below this, there are two account cards:

- CHASE** Credit Card: Shows a balance of \$4,643 and was last updated 1 minute ago. It has "Edit" and "Update" buttons.
- WELLS FARGO**: Shows a progress bar and a list of steps: "Establishing secure connection" (checked), "Authenticating" (checked), "Downloading transactions" (unchecked), and "Categorizing & finding savings" (unchecked).

Below the account cards is a button that says "Click to add any bank or credit card".

On the right side, there is a "CONTINUE TO SUMMARY" button and an "Accounts Summary" section. The summary includes:

- Transactions Added: 69
- Accounts Added: 1
- Days of History Found: 248 days

Below the summary is a section for "Your most frequented merchant: Subway" with a small bar chart showing spending over time.

There is also a "Personalized Ways to Save" section with the text "Based on your spending, you can save by switching to:" and two options: "Discover +\$4,740" and "Vantage +\$2,028". A "See All Offers" link is also present.

At the bottom right, there is a "Setup Tips" section with the text "Support for 3,500+ US financial institutions. That includes 2,000 banks and credit unions, and over 1,500 credit cards. Just enter the same username and password you use for online banking."

Chapter 7 | Essentials for Storing and Sending Files



This is a website that allows you to send large files over the internet for free. If you need to send large files for business, they have options that could accommodate regular business uses.

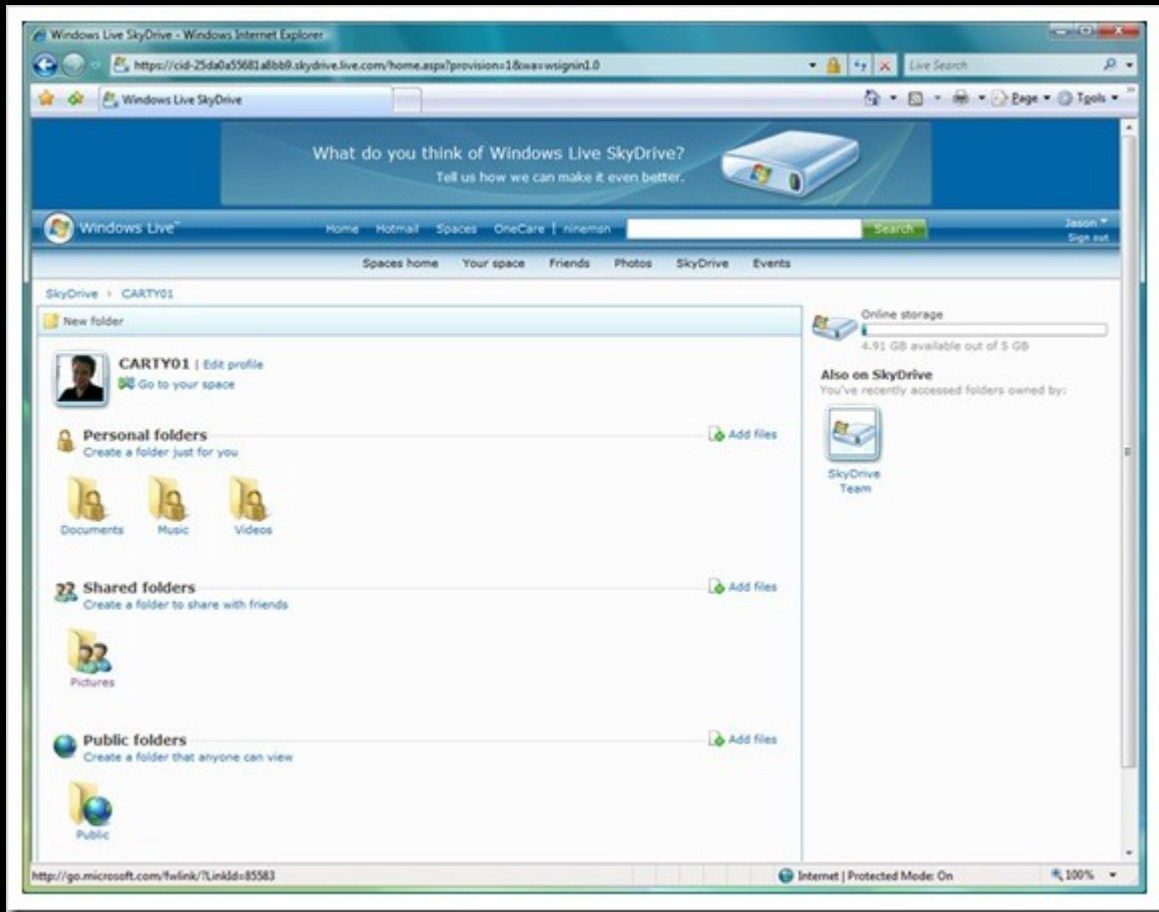




Sky Drive

Skydrive.live.com

This is a website that allows you to store up to 25GB of media online. You can share the media or make it public.



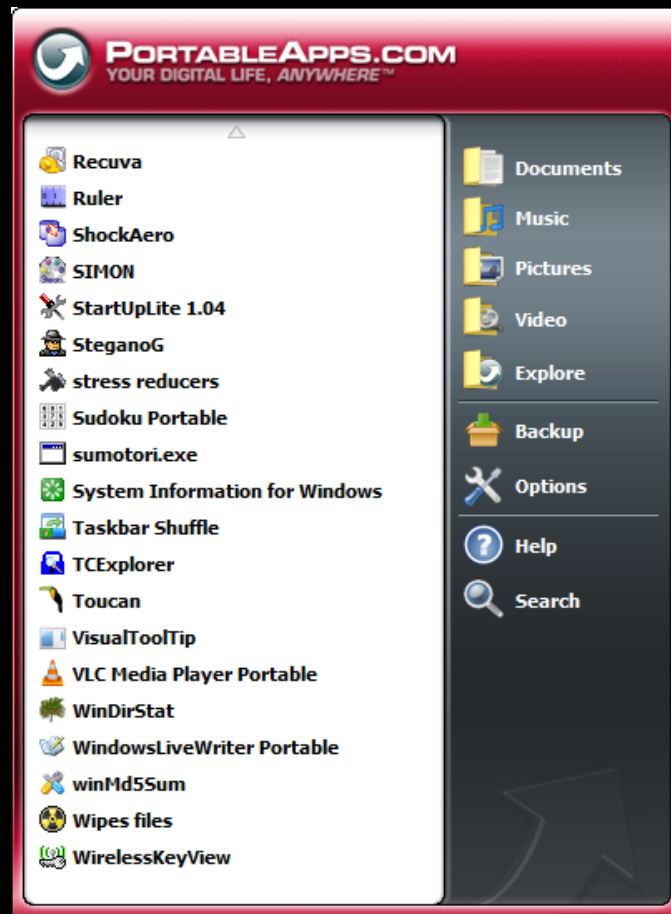
Chapter 8 | Essentials for your USB Drive



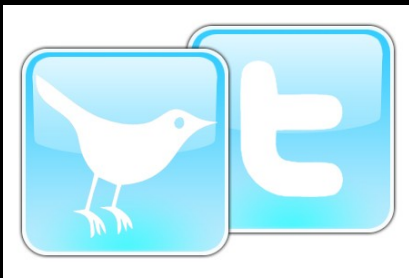
Portable Apps

www.portableapps.com

A portable app is a computer program that you can carry around with you on a portable device and use on any Windows computer. When your USB flash drive, portable hard drive, iPod or other portable device is plugged in, you have access to your software and personal data just as you would on your own PC. And when you unplug the device, none of your personal data is left behind.



Chapter 9 | Essentials Websites for Businesses



Twitter

www.twitter.com

This is a website that allows you to microblog about your business events or personal life. You can also customize the profile page when you sign into the website.

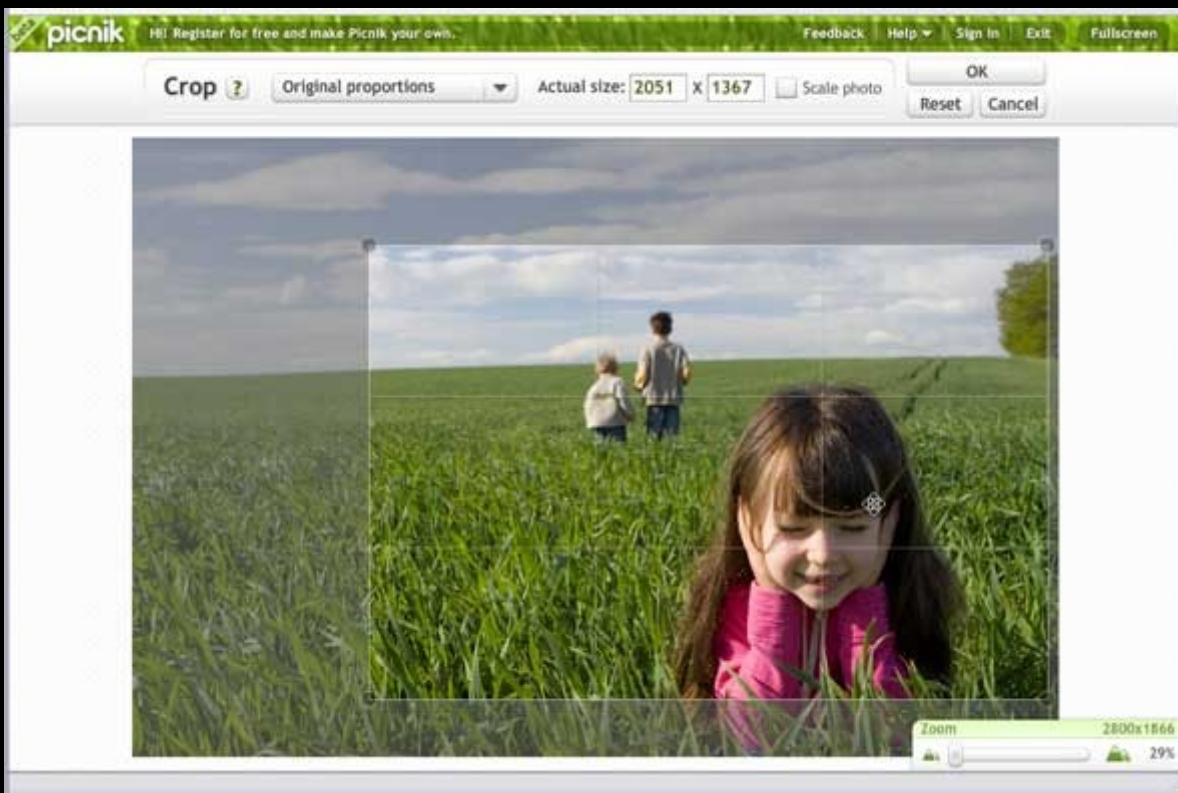
The screenshot shows the Twitter website interface. At the top left is the Twitter logo. To the right of the logo is a navigation bar with links: Home, Profile, Find People, Settings, Help, and Sign out. Below the navigation bar is a text input field with the placeholder text "What are you doing?" and a character count of "140". Below the input field is a "Latest:" section with a tweet from @mojosd 2.6.2. Below the "Latest:" section is a feed of tweets. The first tweet is from mrinal_desai, the second is from mashable, and the third is from briansolis. On the right side of the interface is a user profile for duncanriley, showing 1,006 following, 3,168 followers, and 8,755 updates. Below the profile is a "Home" section with a list of navigation options: @Replies, Direct Messages (1,061), Favorites, and Everyone.



Picnik

www.picnik.com

This is a website that allows you edit pictures online.



Ping.fm

Say it. **www.ping.fm**

This is a website that allows you to update all of your statuses on social networking in one posting. You can also add this website to your buddy list.

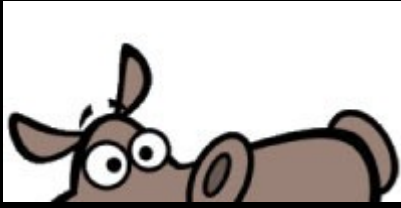
The screenshot shows the Ping.fm website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for "Edit Profile", "Settings", and "Help". Below this is a "Social Services" section with a list of services and their status:

Service	Status
Bebo	Not Setup
Blogger	Not Setup
Facebook	Not Setup
hi5	Not Setup
Jaiku	Not Setup
LinkedIn	Not Setup
LiveJournal	Not Setup
Mashable	Not Setup
MySpace	Not Setup
Plurk	Not Setup
Pownce	Not Setup
Tumblr	Not Setup
Twitter	Not Setup
Xanga	Not Setup

Below the social services is a "Ping my:" section with a dropdown menu set to "Default" and an "Edit" link. To the right of the dropdown is a character count "0 characters". Below this is a large text input area. Underneath the input area is a prompt: "Go ahead, post a link. We'll convert it to a short link before posting to your services.*" and a blue "Ping it!" button.

At the bottom is a "Services / Tools" section with a list of services and tools:

- AOL Instant Messenger
- Google Talk (GTalk)
- iGoogle Gadget
- Facebook Application
- iPhone Web App
- Mobile App (WAP)
- Custom Triggers
- Application Key
- Developer API
- Ping this!



File Hippo

www.filehippo.com

This is a resource website that keeps you up to date on which free software programs are being updated and innovated.

The screenshot shows the FileHippo.com website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a "Login" link, a search box, and the FileHippo.com logo. A banner below the navigation bar promotes a "FREE Update Checker" with a download button. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Latest updates:** A list of software updates with dates and version numbers, including MediaMonkey 3.1.0.1220 Beta, FileZilla 3.2.1 RC1, Foobar2000 0.9.6.2, Free Download Manager 3.0.848, RealPlayer 11.0.0.544, and Google Toolbar 5.0.2009.0122b (Firefox).
- Most popular downloads:** A list of the top 6 most downloaded software programs, including CCleaner 2.16.830, AVG Free Edition 8.0.233, Windows Live Messenger 2009, Flash Player 10.0.12.36 (IE), K-Lite Codec Pack 4.53 (Full), and RealPlayer 11.0.0.544.
- Get Google Chrome:** A promotional banner for Google Chrome, highlighting its speed, stability, and security, with a "Download Google Chrome" button.
- Browsers and Plugins:** A list of web browsers and plugins, including Firefox 3.0.5, Flash Player 10.0.12.36 (IE), Google Chrome 1.0.154.46, Google Desktop 5.8.809.23506, Internet Explorer 8.0 RC1, Maxthon 2.5.1.4751, and Opera 9.63.
- Anti-Spyware:** A list of anti-spyware programs, including Ad-Aware 2009 8.0.0.0, CWShredder 2.19, HijackThis 2.0.2, Rootkit Revealer 1.71, Spybot Search & Destroy 1.6.2, SpywareBlaster 4.1, and Windows Defender 1.1.1593.
- Audio and Video:** A list of audio and video software, including Foobar2000 0.9.6.2, iTunes 8.0.2.20, K-Lite Codec Pack 4.53 (Full), MediaMonkey 3.1.0.1220 Beta, QuickTime Alternative 2.8.0, QuickTime Player 7.60.92.0, Real Alternative 1.90, RealPlayer 11.0.0.544, Songbird 1.0.0, VLC Media Player 0.9.8a, Winamp 5.55 Full Beta 2353, and Windows Media Player 11.
- File Sharing:** A list of file sharing software, including eMule 0.49b, FrostWire 4.17.2, LimeWire Basic 5.0.11, Shareaza 2.4.0.0, and uTorrent 1.8.2 Build 14153.
- Firewalls and Security:** A list of firewalls and security software, including Comodo Firewall 3.0.25.378, PeerGuardian 2.0 Beta 6c, Sunbelt Personal Firewall 4.6.1861, Sygate Personal Firewall 5.6.2808, and ZoneAlarm Free 8.0.065.0.
- CD and DVD Tools:** A section for CD and DVD tools, currently empty.

Conclusion

Writing this PDF book was only the start of what should be an on going effort to make **F-R-E-E** software program a more normative practice among consumers to research. Hopefully you found this book to be a condense reference to solving every computer usage problems. In summary, this book probably just saved your life and your wallet. :)

About the Author



A student at Temple University who embraced the internet instead of fleeing from it. In his spare time he enjoys staying up on current affairs by way of Google Reader, helping others in any form, and setting daily goals to achieve.

If you want to learn more about this author, please visit:

WWW.MEEID.COM/VPARKER

