

Technology Director Meeting Round Table Free Resources

Publishing

PDFfill Printer

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

Insert, Fill, Edit, Delete and Submit PDF Form Fields; PDF Draw, Comment, Annotation; Open, View, Edit and Save PDF files without Adobe Acrobat!

OpenDisc

<http://www.theopendisc.com/programs/>

A wonderful collection of just about every application software product you need to run a PC, including the latest version of OpenOffice. Many of these freebies substitute admirably for expensive commercial products. There is Abi Word as an alternative to MS Word, OpenOffice for MS Office XP, Thunderbird for Outlook, The Gimp for Adobe Photoshop, 7-zip for WinZip and many, many more. If you then add to this collection some of the other utilities from my "46 Best-ever Utilities" collection, you'll have all the software you'll ever need without spending a cent. There is also a reasonably active blog and forum.

IBM Lotus Symphony <http://symphony.lotus.com>

A much prettier version of OpenOffice.org, Symphony is prepped for presentations, spreadsheets, and word processing in a single window (but lacks OO's drawing and database modules).

Scribus

<http://www.scribus.net>

This open-source page layout tool has features comparable to big names like Pagemaker, plus support for PDFs and scalable vector graphics (SVG).

Reference

WordWeb

<http://www.wordweb.info/>

An enhanced dictionary and thesaurus. I say "enhanced" because it does some tricky extra things like showing only the relevant synonyms and related words according to whether they are noun, verb, adjective or adverb. It can also find words by pattern match or dictionary adjacency.

TheSage

<http://www.sequencepublishing.com/thesage.html>

A comprehensive dictionary with over 210,000 references together with a powerful thesaurus.

Video

DVD Flick

<http://www.dvdflick.net/>

A simple but at the same time powerful DVD Authoring tool. It can take a number of video files stored on your computer and turn them into a DVD that will play back on your DVD player, Media Center or Home Cinema Set. You can add additional custom audio tracks, subtitles as well as a menu for easier navigation.

ImgBurn

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

A lightweight CD / DVD / HD DVD / Blu-ray burning application that reads a disc to an image file. Create an image file from files on your computer or network - or you can write the files directly to a disc. Write an image file to a disc. Check to ensure a disc is 100% readable. Optionally, you can also have ImgBurn compare it against a given image file to ensure the actual data is correct.

DVDFlick

<http://www.dvdflick.net/>

Allows you to burn movies or slide shows you've created onto a DVD, complete with a menu, subtitles and other professional touches.

CDBurnerXP

<http://cdburnerxp.se/>

Don't just burn CDs and DVDs - burn Blu-ray discs and HD-DVDs (remember those?). It's wonderfully easy to use and should be able to handle any disc-burning task you can imagine.

WinAmp

<http://www.winamp.com>

Windows After a decade of playing music, the "skinnable" WinAmp has several versions, including one with full CD ripping and burning.

Jahshaka

<http://www.jahshaka.org>

An OpenSource real-time editing and effects system. Jahshaka takes advantage of the power of OpenGL and OpenLibraries to give its users exceptional levels of performance.

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HandBrake

<http://handbrake.m0k.org>

Convert your DVDs to MPEG-4 [video](#) (or just the audio) for backup purposes.

Image editing

Gimp

<http://www.gimp.org>

An excellent alternative to expensive picture-editing software such as Photoshop. You can use it for simple tasks, such as cropping or resizing images, or more complex activities, such as retouching and manipulating pictures.

PhotoScape

<http://www.photoscape.org>

An all-in-one style photo editor with fun and ease of use. Major capabilities are: viewer, editor, batch editor, page, combine, animated GIF, print, splitter, screen capture, color picker, rename, raw converter, resizing, brightness/color/white-balance adjustment, backlight correction, frames, balloons, text, drawing pictures, cropping, filters, red eye removal and blooming. PhotoScape has been used for two years and is expanding its features continuously.

Paint.NET

<http://www.getpaint.net>

This program is probably the closest thing to Photoshop you can get free, courtesy of a student project.

Utility

AVG

<http://free.avg.com>

Excellent antivirus software is a doddle to use, and offers a similar level of coverage and protection as some of its paid-for competitors. We like AVG LinkScanner, too, which helps you to browse the web more safely, and protects against malware and phishing attacks.

DriveImage XML

<http://www.runtime.org>

Make an image of your entire hard drive for backup and restore purposes.

PrinterAnywhere

<http://www.printeranywhere.com>

Share your printer with others over the Web; in turn, send jobs to other shared printers, no matter their location.

TVersity

<http://www.tversity.com>

Turn your computer into a server to stream video and audio to just about any device on your network.

Allway Sync

<http://www.allwaysync.com>

Sync files between your PC and an external drive, filtering by folder, file name, or file type. The program displays warnings about questionable files before syncing.

Ustream.tv

<http://www.ustream.tv>

Our reviews call this the absolute easiest way to broadcast live video from your webcam across the Internet.

VLC media player

<http://www.videolan.org>

VideoLAN's open-source VLC can replace it, and nearly every other player, too. VLC supports almost every audio format and video codec imaginable and doubles as a server for streaming your music and video to other PCs. Change its skin to make it look like the player you want—even WMP.

Skype

<http://www.skype.com>

This internet telephony service allows you to make free computer-to-computer calls, as well as low-cost international calls to landlines and mobiles via the web.

Thunderbird

<http://www.mozillamessaging.com>

It looks a bit like Apple Mail, is really easy to use, and enables you to aggregate several email accounts in to a single program.

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SkyDrive

<http://skydrive.live.com>

Microsoft's SkyDrive offers up to 25GB of online storage, more than enough for all your crucial files, documents, photos, videos and music. It's password-protected, so it's secure, although you can easily share folders with friends or colleagues. And because it's stored "in the cloud", you can access it through any web browser.

Audacity

<http://audacity.sourceforge.net>

Windows | MacOS | Linux - Whether you're recording or editing, Audacity is all about audio in practically any format.

Microsoft Virtual PC

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/virtualpc>

Windows Install anything-DOS, OS/2, or any earlier version of Windows-as a [virtual machine](#). It'll run in a separate window on your Vista or XP desktop.

Jing

<http://www.jingproject.com>

Windows | MacOSx Jing shares what's showing on your monitor with others online, or records it for future viewing.

Mac

WinClone

<http://www.twocanoes.com>

MacOS Bootcamp users: Now you can clone (back up) your Windows XP/Vista partition for reinstall on a new Mac.

Session facilitated courtesy of:

Virgil Kirk, Poteet ISD
Donald Hawkins, ESC-20