

Freeware



- Freeware is computer software, or apps, that is provided free of charge.
- Some freeware is provided by commercial organisations and is either:
 - a limited version
 - an old version
 - a form of advertising
- Other freeware is provided by volunteers, either individuals or groups. Groups are usually part of the 'Open Source' community.

Where to get freeware



- One of the best, and safest sites is ninite.com which lists many of the more popular freeware apps and can download and install them from safe sites without 'extras'.
- All software on their list has been vetted by the wider open source community over years.
- Unfortunately, not all freeware is available through ninite.com
- If downloading from other sites, care is needed to avoid add-ons which are often bundled, with tick boxes that need unticking.
- Common extras include toolbars, 'cleaners', and antivirus apps.

Browsers



- All browsers are free.
- The most popular ones are:
 - Internet Explorer or Edge – from Microsoft comes with Windows
 - Firefox – open source from Mozilla
 - Chrome – open source from Google
 - Safari – from Apple

Office Suites



- WPS Office Free, from <https://www.wps.com/office-free>
 - Very similar in appearance and function to MS Office with a word processor, spreadsheet and presentation app. No database. Does have ads.
- Libre Office, from <https://www.libreoffice.org/>
 - Based on Open Office with a more retro user interface than WPS Office.
- Open Office, from <https://www.openoffice.org/>

Graphics/Photo



- Gimp is a freeware app that rivals Adobe Photoshop, including the learning curve. Not for beginners or casual users.
- Paint.net simpler and easier to use than Gimp but still well respected as a photo editor.
- Irfanview is a photo viewer with some basic image editing capabilities. Easy to use and popular.
- XnView is another photo viewer with some basic image editing capabilities. Easy to use and well regarded.

Genealogy



- Legacy from <http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/> is one of the top genealogy apps and the free version has all the essential features.

PDF



- Adobe Reader is the industry standard and is free but there are alternatives.
- Foxit Reader is perhaps the best known alternative to Adobe Reader, and it's generally regarded as the best free PDF reader around.
- Nitro PDF Reader is another very good app.
- Note that all recent versions of MS Office (and the free Office suites) can save documents as PDF. They can also open most PDF files but the formatting is often poor.

Audio



- Audacity An open-source app that can record and edit audio files. It then outputs exactly what you need, even to MP3 if you use a plug-in.

Media Player



- VLC media player is a free and open source cross-platform multimedia player and framework that plays most multimedia files as well as DVDs, Audio CDs, VCDs, and various streaming protocols.

Password Manager



- LastPass is a highly regarded password manager. It works on every major OS, browser, and mobile device, so you only need one master password to stay totally secure on every website and service you visit, no matter how you get there. The free version is satisfactory for most users. From <https://www.lastpass.com/>