



**Must-Have
Downloads**
Free



Bits & Bytes

Bits & Bytes is a monthly newsletter for home users who want to stay up to date on the newest technology, tips, tricks and trends.

So you want free software?

At Realm 249 we service many different types of computers. Some are used as servers with database programs on them in large offices while others are used as business computers with staff using them non-stop on a daily basis. Some are shared in the home by grandparents, teenagers and 6-year olds, while others are booted up only once a week to check email.

With the diversity of uses and users there is a variety of different jobs that these computers are

needed for. Whether it's a program that allows you to **remotely access your work computer from home**, a program that **gets rid of spyware** infecting your computer, or an **antivirus program** we have found it and listed it below along with several other powerful programs...

And they are all free. No trials here, just fully functional programs.

There are a lot of very expensive programs out there, some of

which people need but cannot afford. This list of software tries to provide some alternatives that are free to use and are just as good as many of the other pay programs available on the market today.

This newsletter and all links contained in it can be found online at www.realm249.com. If you choose to download any of the software listed please make sure to read the disclaimer on the backside of this newsletter.

Let the downloading begin

Viruses, Spyware, and Adware... Oh My!!

- **avast! 4 Home Edition (8.28MB)**
Real-time virus protection, automatic updates, and Microsoft Outlook integration are just a few of the features offered by this program. http://www.avast.com/eng/avast_4_home.html
- **AVG Free Edition (10.3MB)**
This program touts free lifetime updates, real-time virus protection, automatic updates and more. <http://free.grisoft.com/freeweb.php/doc/2/>
- **Adaware Personal SE 1.05 (2.51MB)**
One of the top recommended spyware and adware removers. This should be used with another spyware and adaware removing program such as Spybot Search and Destroy 1.3 (listed below). Make sure after installing to check for updates before running a scan. <http://www.lavasoftusa.com/support/download/>
- **Spybot Search and Destroy 1.3 (4.15MB)**
Rated just as high as Adaware Personal SE on many lists for removing spyware and adaware. Make sure to download all available updates when installing. This program should be used in conjunction with Adaware Personal SE to be the most effective. <http://www.safer-networking.org/en/mirrors/index.html>

(Downloads continued on the backside)

Microsoft Alternatives

- **Open Office 1.1.4 (64.2MB)**

This is a complete office suite very much like Microsoft Office. It includes equivalents to Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and Publisher. The best part about the programs is that they will open up Microsoft Office files and will even save files as Microsoft Office files so that you can continue to share files with other users who may prefer Office. This program is as robust and feature-rich as the Microsoft programs that you use everyday...except it's free. <http://download.openoffice.org/1.1.4/index.html>

- **FireFox 1.0 (4.7MB)**

Goodbye, Internet Explorer. Here comes FireFox. It is faster and safer, and has so many more features than Internet Explorer. This program automatically imports your favorites, and other settings automatically. It has pop-up blocking, tabbed browsing (think one window with a separate tab for every open page), more privacy and security features than you can imagine, and it is very small. Download it now and start surfing. <http://www.mozilla.org/products/firefox/>

- **Thunderbird 1.0 (5.8MB)**

Outlook got you desiring something more from your email program? Enter Thunderbird. "Thunderbird gives you a faster, safer, and more productive email experience. We designed Thunderbird to prevent viruses and to stop junk mail so you can get back to reading your mail." Try it out here: <http://www.mozilla.org/products/thunderbird/>

- **Gaim 1.1.2 (6.14MB)**

This program has so many features that I will just quote from their site: "Gaim is a multi-protocol instant messaging (IM) client for Linux, BSD, MacOS X, and Windows. It is compatible with AIM and ICQ (Oscar protocol), MSN Messenger, Yahoo!, IRC, Jabber, Gadu-Gadu, SILC, GroupWise Messenger, and Zephyr networks. Gaim users can log in to multiple accounts on multiple IM networks simultaneously. This means that you can be chatting with friends on AOL Instant Messenger, talking to a friend on Yahoo Messenger, and sitting in an IRC channel all at the same time. Gaim supports many features of the various networks, such as file transfer, away messages, typing notification, and MSN window closing notification." And there's much more, so check it out. <http://gaim.sourceforge.net/win32/index.php>

Utilities

- **CCleaner 1.16 (376KB)**

CCleaner (Crap Cleaner) is an extremely small program that runs very fast and removes unused and temporary files from your computer. It normally takes less than a second. So take a few and download it. <http://www.ccleaner.com/ccdownload.php>

- **Eraser 5.7 (2.6MB)**

"Eraser is an advanced security tool, which allows you to completely remove sensitive data from your hard drive by overwriting it several times with carefully selected patterns." <http://www.heidi.ie/eraser/download.php>

- **7-Zip 3.13 (920KB)**

Forget Winzip. This utility is small and uses a format that is much more compressed. "7-Zip is a file archiver with the highest compression ratio. The program supports 7z, ZIP, CAB, RAR, ARJ, GZIP, BZIP2, TAR, CPIO, RPM, and DEB formats. Compression ratio in the new 7z format is 30-50% better than ratio in ZIP format." <http://www.7-zip.org/>



**Working for you
when your computer is not.**

Disclaimer...

The information provided in this newsletter comes without any warranty whatsoever. Use it at your own risk. Just because a program is listed here or has a good review does not mean that

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