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Software

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The Best Free Software of 2010

49 Comments

App

9. Launchy 2.1.2

<http://www.launchy.net/>Windows | Mac | [Linux](#)By adding the [Mac OS](#) to its list

application launcher no matter w

a little bit about what's under the hood of your OS, but if you do, this nifty and skinnable open-source keystroke launcher can speed up your [computing](#) in a big way.

10. ObjectDock 1.9

<http://www.stardock.com/products/objectdock/>

Windows

A favorite that mimics the Mac OS dock within Windows, ObjectDock can take the place of the Taskbar, providing an animated way to interact with program icons.

11. PortableApps.com Suite & Platform 1.6

<http://portableapps.com/>

Windows | Portable

It's kind of a cheat to include this as a program, because PortableApps.com is a platform in and of itself; its purpose is to put all of your favorite open-source programs (many of which are in this story) on a USB flash drive, so you can use them at any PC. Think of it as putting your whole [computer](#) in your pocket, with PortableApps.com providing the backbone for launching them from a pop-up menu.• [Read more about PortableApps.com in The Ultimate USB Key.](#)

12. Alfred

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

Mac

Yes, we're showing Macs some love. Quicksilver was once the beloved app launcher (and more) for the Mac OS, but the developer hasn't done much with it. Now, there's a new option, Alfred. It does much of what QuickSilver did, from launching programs to searching the Web and contacts. And there are more features on the way.



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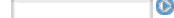
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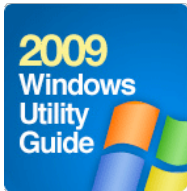
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MARCH 30, 2010 8:33AM

link for networking catagory is broken

[Report](#)**dizzydan58**

MARCH 30, 2010 10:55AM

Broken Links: once you start clicking past number 49 the links are off by one picture....

Thanks for the great list though!

[Report](#)**CarolMangis**

MARCH 30, 2010 11:05AM

Thanks for the heads up, folks: We are working on the links problem now.

[Report](#)**Daafjay**

MARCH 30, 2010 12:11PM

Are you sure that Adobe Acrobat.com provides free Online Storage?

The site state that Basic (\$15 per month) & Plus plans (\$39 per month) includes 2 months free each.

But the description of the Free plan does not say that online storage is included: only "1 online Workspace, 5 PDF conversions total, 3-person web conferencing, online office applications, and forum-based support" (acrobat.com/pricing.html). Please be kind enough to clarify.

Thank you!

PS: You may also consider including free visual presentation software in future editions, such as the Visual Understanding Environment (vue.tufts.edu) and Freemind (freemind.sourceforge.net).

[Report](#)**technoguide**

MARCH 30, 2010 1:23PM

Glad to see Dimdim listed! Remember you can sign up for a free 30 Day Dimdim Pro or Webinar trial with no credit card needed here: <http://bit.ly/bpWirG>

[Report](#)**fente**

MARCH 30, 2010 2:43PM

Seriously where the hell is adium? not on this list

<http://adium.im/>

there has yet to be any and i mean ANY windows comparative. Digsby comes close but damn fall on aim for you guys.

[Report](#)**supercrosstheway**

MARCH 30, 2010 2:59PM

Glad to see that someone beat me to mentioning Adium. Great software.

[Report](#)**ecgriffith**

MARCH 30, 2010 4:31PM

Greetings all!

Daafjay, you're right, Acrobat.com makes a big deal on the site about the \$15 a month Basic plan, but there is a hidden Free plan. Which I know exists, because I've got one and I've never given Adobe a dime. As you note, it conspicuously does not state how much room you get for storage, but it offers some, because I've got at least 10 documents stored there. But it might not make the list next year if I can't store a lot more.

Those of you seeking Adium (<http://adium.im/>) there's only one reason I didn't include it: it's a Mac-only program. I made this list relatively Windows heavy, as reflects majority of our readership (and I had a lot of IM software to include already, five of which support Mac). But tell me what other great Mac-only freebies I missed; maybe the near future we can do Best Free Mac Software.

[Report](#)**acesmades**

MARCH 30, 2010 4:50PM

I'm trying to save this and it keeps taking me back to the signin even though I'm signed in to my account.

[Report](#)**jgtiii**[Report](#)

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