

HOME

REVIEWS

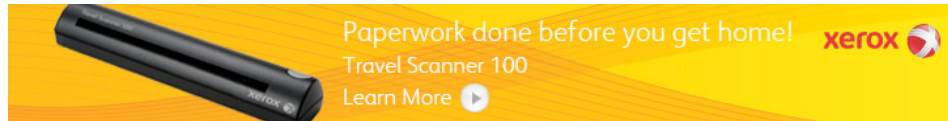
NEWS & OPINION

DOWNLOADS

BUSINESS

SHOP

SEARCH

[Home](#) > [Product Guides](#) > [Software](#) > The Best Free Software of 2010

Software

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction
 Anti-Malware
 App Launchers
Audio
 Backup/Synch/Storage
 Blogging
 Browsers
 Calendar/PIM
 Conferencing/VoIP
 Displays
 Email
 File Transfer/Sharing
 File Viewers/Converters
 Finance
 Fun/Home
 Graphics
 Instant Messaging
 Maps
 Media Manager
 Networking
 Office
 Operating Systems
 Printing
 Process Monitors
 Remote Access
 RSS Readers
 Search
 Security/Encryption
 Social Networking
 System Utilities
 Video

The Best Free Software of 2010

49 Comments

Audio

13. Audacity 1.2

<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>

Windows | Mac | Linux | Portable

This open-source tool sets the bar for what you can do with audio for free. It can record anything you play on your computer and edit it in ways you can't conceive of until you start playing around. Limitations, such as no native MP3 export, are overcome by free plug-ins. If you want to podcast or mix music on the cheap, Audacity is what you need.

• Read PCMag's review of [Audacity 1.2](#).

14. Foobar2000 1.0.1

<http://www.foobar2000.org/>

Windows

Want to play just about any kind of audio file you can imagine in Windows? Foobar2000 1.0.1 has you covered. Its extensive set of additional components ensures a smooth process for working with compressed files, burning CDs, and even adding Dolby 5.1 surround sound support when you listen through headphones.

15. MP3 Skype Recorder 1.9.0

<http://voipcallrecording.com/>

Windows

You might be shocked to learn that this software records Skype calls to MP3 format. Yeah, that's it, but MP3 Skype Recorder does it incredibly well. It even saves the call as mono or stereo tracks, with an adjustable bit rate. There are no time limits or file size limitations. It even records SkypeOut calls to regular phones or conference calls with multiple people.

< Back

Next >

Print Email Save Reprints

Buzz up! Mixx It Digg It Stumble! 2 More...

MORE ON THIS

Related Links

- ▶ The Top 10 Free Travel Apps
- ▶ The Top 100 Free Apps For Your Phone
- ▶ The Best Free Software of 2009
- ▶ PCMag After Hours: Bonus Best Free Software Episode

Related Topics

- ▶ Graphics Software
- ▶ Smartphones
- ▶ WordPress.com

powered by **Inform**

PRODUCT GUIDES

Cell Phones

XML Add PC Magazine Software Product Guide RSS feed to your feed reader so that you don't miss another headline!

MY Yahoo! Add to Google my msn More Readers

What is this? See all tech RSS feeds

Featured Partner Download

**LogMeIn Rescue: On-demand Remote Support**

One fast, secure solution for today's most popular platforms.

[Try It Free!](#)**PC Tools Spyware Doctor**

Buy multi-award-winning Spyware Doctor with AntiVirus 2010 from PC Tools

[Download Now](#)**Microsoft Search Server Express**

Free RTM Software. Search Doesn't Have to Be Complicated.

**SOS Online Backup**

SOS delivers simple, powerful and inexpensive online data backup. PCMag.com Readers save 20% off regular price.

[Protect your data now](#)

Log In Register Subscribe

HOME

Desktops
Digital Cameras
GPS Devices
Headphones
HDTVs
Laptops
LCDs
Netbooks
Printers
Security Software
All categories

top sellers

Compare Store Deals

1. [LENOVO IdeaPad S10-3T 0651-37U](#)
Netbook - Intel Atom N450 1.66GHz, 1GB DDR2,
2. [Apple MC207LLA 13.3" MacBook](#)
3. [Dell Latitude 2100 10.1" Notebook](#)
4. [Toshiba M505-S4940 Notebook](#)
5. [Toshiba Satellite L550-ST5708 17.3" Notebook](#)

[more >](#)

shop now

Find great products and great deals.

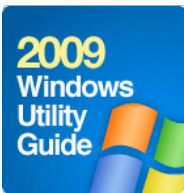
Shop for:



(enter product name or keywords)

in:

All Categories



news

Digg's Jay Adelson Steps Down as CEO

Google Rolling Out Updated Buzz Privacy Settings

Verizon Droid Gets Android 2.1 Update, 2D 'Slowdown'

Blu-ray Proposes Incompatible BD-XL, IH-BD Formats

REVIEWS

NEWS & OPINION

DOWNLOADS

BUSINESS

SHOP

SEARCH



49 Comments

[Add Your Comment](#)**nick35388**

MARCH 30, 2010 8:33AM

link for networking category 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 fail on aim for you guys.

[Report](#)**superacrosstheaway**

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 sign in even though I'm signed in to my account.

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

Shop for products from our partners

ABOUT PC MAG.COM[Del Home](#)[Contact Us](#)[About Us](#)[Newsletters](#)[RSS Feeds](#)[Del Home](#)[Advertise](#)[Reprints & Permissions](#)[Site Map](#)[Lenovo](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Product Spotlight

**Dell Inspiron 1564**

Powered by a Core i5 processor. Midrange ATI graphics card for games. Speedy laptop. Excellent typing and navigating experience. Adjacent numeric keypad.

Editor Rating ●●●●○[Check Price »](#)**HP Photosmart Premium Fax All-in-One**

Aimed at both the home and home office, the HP Photosmart Premium Fax All-in-One produces sharp-looking graphics and photos and offers a host of office-centric features.

Editor Rating ●●●●○[Check Price »](#)

Info Centers

[HP Officejet Pro: Up to 50% Less Cost Per Page](#)[HP Printing Center](#)[Learn the real costs of bargain ink, toner & supplies](#)[Lenovo ThinkPad & IdeaPad Notebook Store](#)[The PCMag Windows 7 Center](#)

Special Offers

[Free next business day shipping on HP Ink, Toner and Paper supplies](#)[Remote support made easy. Try GoToAssist Express FREE for 30-days.](#)

RELATED ADS

[Mobile Software](#)[GPS Software](#)[HTC Software](#)[MP3 Music Software](#)[Free Virus Software](#)[Free MP3 Audio Books](#)[LG Sync Software](#)

[Log In](#) [Register](#) [Subscribe](#)[HOME](#)[REVIEWS](#)[NEWS & OPINION](#)[DOWNLOADS](#)[BUSINESS](#)[SHOP](#)[SEARCH](#)[HP: Remember, the new HP has a Camera](#)[View All](#)**columns**[Twitter: The Movie—Really \(April Fool's\)](#)[Apple's iPad will Kill Netbooks](#)[Viacom vs. Google: The Battle for YouTube](#)[What You Missed at SXSW Interactive](#)[Dear Palm, Please Get It Together](#)[View All](#)[what's this?](#)**[The Nexus One: From \\$179](#)**

Fast Performance, Stunning Hi-Res Screen & Sleek Design. Buy Online.
www.google.com/phone

[Nero 10 Burning Software](#)

Burn DVDs, CDs and Blu-Ray. New! PreOrder: Save \$20 + MediaHome Free
Nero.com/Official_Site

[Conference Call Providers](#)

Free Quotes from Multiple Vendors Compare Offers - Save Time & Money
www.BuyerZone.com

[Update Sound/Audio Driver](#)

Download latest Sound Drivers for Windows 7, XP & Vista. Recommended.
www.Paretologic.com/sound-drivers

[Ford SYNC Official Site](#)

Listen to Favorite Music, Podcasts, Audiobooks on the Road with SYNC.
FordVehicles.com/SYNC

newsletters

Get PCMag.com's **FREE** email newsletters delivered to your inbox.

It's easy, just follow the steps.

Want more? Check out our other newsletters [here](#).

Manage your newsletter subscriptions [here](#).

1. Make your selections: 2. Select email format:

☒ Daily News Alert

☒ PCMag.com Small Business Update

☒ PCMagCast Update

☒ Productwire: First Looks Update

☒ Security Watch

☒ TechSaver

☒ Utility Library Update

☒ PCMag Announcements

HTML

3. Enter email address:

Sponsors

[Print more, save more with HP Original Toner.](#)

[Get internet, movies, music and more with the TiVo® Premiere Box. Try it now, risk free for 30 days.](#)

[Save up to \\$100 now on Lexmark Professional Touch Screen All-in-Ones.](#)

[Need to support smartphone users? Try LogMeIn Rescue, Free!](#)

[Store, manage and protect your files...Iomega Kicks NAS!](#)

[HUGE Savings on the HP dv6t series! Shop now!](#)

Use of this site is governed by our [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)

Copyright © 1996-2010 Ziff Davis Publishing Holdings Inc. All Rights Reserved. PC Magazine is a registered trademark of Ziff Davis Publishing Holdings Inc. Reproduction in whole or in part in any form or medium without express written permission of Ziff Davis Media Inc. is prohibited.

ZIFF DAVIS MEDIA

[Contact Us](#)

[Ziff Davis Media International](#)

[Link to Us](#)