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Software

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The Best Free Software of 2010

50 Comments

File Viewers/Converters

71. Adobe Reader 9

<http://www.adobe.com/products/reader/>Windows | Mac | [Linux](#)

The primary reader for Adobe Acrobat files, Reader used to be bloated and slow. Newer versions, however, are almost as fast as Acrobat-reading competitors. If you still think it's slow, use [PDF Speedup](#) (Windows only) to, well, speed it up, by deactivating unneeded extra features.

72. FoxIt Reader 3.2

<http://www.foxitsoftware.com/pdf/reader/>

Windows | Portable

You don't need Adobe to read Acrobat files. FoxIt Reader is a long-time popular [PDF](#) reader that is famed for having no bloat. It allows you to annotate a file, or convert all of a PDF's text directly to a TXT file.

73. FreeCommander

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

Windows | Portable

Tabs or dual panes are a staple of any replacement for Windows Explorer; FreeCommander sports both, plus a built-in file viewer, archive handler, multi-file renaming, file splitting/rejoining, and FTP support. And, it's portable, so you can run it from a USB flash drive.

74. IrfanView 4.25

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

Windows

A true classic, IrfanView (pronounced ear-fan-view) is all about viewing and converting graphics files, covering just about any graphic format you can conceive of. It even has some editing and annotation capabilities, all in a tiny 1.3MB download.

75. IZArc 4.1

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

Windows | Portable

Open or create just about any compressed file you can think of with IZArc. Zip, RAR, and the like are a given, but it also tackles CD/DVD image files, such as ISOs or BINs (and it can convert them, too). Just drag a file onto IZArc to get started. The portable IZArc2Go runs from your USB flash drive.

76. muCommander v0.8.5

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

Windows | Mac | Linux

If you use multiple operating systems, you've likely wished you could access files on them all in the same manner. Try muCommander. Written in Java, it looks the same on all OSes: a simple dual-pane explorer-type app that handles file compression and comes in 23 languages.

77. PDF-XChange Viewer 2.049

<http://www.docu-track.com/product/pdf-xchange-viewer>

Windows

PDF-XChange Viewer looks like it provides as much control over PDFs as you can get—short of buying Acrobat for a few hundred bucks. It's got a toolbar stuffed with features, from advanced navigation to markup/comments (including "rubber" stamps) to search to import/export to working with AcroForms (interactive forms). It will even password encrypt/decrypt files.

78. PeaZip 3.0

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

Windows | Linux | Portable

Install PeaZip, right click on files uncompressed (to pick archives you can create) or compressed (to pick how best to extract the contents) via the context menu that pops up. Windows 7 users will get a cascading submenu of choices. Go into PeaZip's own interface to create settings that help you

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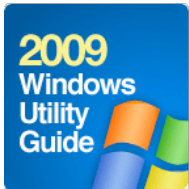
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79. PrimoPDF

<http://www.primopdf.com/index.aspx>

Windows

Nitro [Software's](#) PrimoPDF makes PDF files. It's that simple. Thing is, it does it fast via drag and drop of popular formats, including Microsoft Office (over 300 file types total).

80. Nuance PDF Reader 6

<http://www.nuance.com/imaging/products/pdf-reader.asp>

Windows

While PDF-Xchange crams a lot of [power](#) into a convoluted, multi-button interface, Nuance attempts similar features in a better-looking package. It loads extremely fast (at 18MB vs. Adobe Reader's 200MB, that's almost a given). Nuance will also play back embedded media in a PDF file and convert files to Word, RFT, or Excel formats.

81. xplorer² Lite 1.7.2.7
<http://zabkat.com/x2lite.htm>

Windows

So, you've heard that dual panes and tabs are the way to go if you're looking to replace Windows Explorer? So did xplorer², which also adds folder comparison/synchronization, previews of certain file types (like TXT and RTF), and a text editor of its own.

82. XnView 1.97.2/1.70

<http://www.xnview.com/en/xnview.html>

Windows | Mac | Linux | Mobile | Portable

We love IrfanView, but XnView goes a little farther by supporting more operating systems. It, arguably, has a prettier interface for converting the 400+ graphic file formats it supports.

83. ZamZar

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

Web

Don't install a thing the next time you have a file that needs converting. Zamzar lets you upload files up to 100MB. Just pick a format to convert them too, and you'll get an e-mail with a link to download it. This works for documents, images, audio, and video. You can even compress a file. If you want to upload larger files, you can subscribe for \$7 a month to start.

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