

CLAY'S COMPUTER CORNER

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Free Antivirus You Can Trust

(PC World June 2012 Pg. 67-68)



Can a Free download really protect your PC? Yes, but you have to choose the right one. PC World's lab tests identify the most reliable no-cost security programs.

What Do You Get For Free?

Most free antivirus programs are pretty basic: You get the ability to scan your PC for malware when you want to, and most of the products will also continually monitor your PC for malware as they run in the background. But most of them don't include a firewall or extra features like parental controls.

The biggest drawbacks to going free: Your support options are generally limited. Most free programs offer a message board where users can discuss problems, but these boards don't provide professional support.

Which Free Antivirus Is Best?
The top five according to the PC World article and where to see the full review are as follows:

1. AVG Anti-Virus Free Edition 2012
(find.pcworld.com/72879)
2. Avast Free Antivirus 7 (find.pcworld.com/72880)
3. Panda Cloud Antivirus 1.5
(find.pcworld.com/72881)
4. Avira Free Antivirus 2012
(find.pcworld.com/72882)
5. Microsoft Security Essentials 2.1
(find.pcworld.com/72297)

AVG (#1) is one of Clay's favorites but he usually recommends MSE (#5) because it has the word "Microsoft" in its name.

Shut Down Windows Without Installing Updates

(PC World June 2012 Pg. 89)

Has this happened to you? You're sitting at your laptop, typing away, when you glance at the clock and realize it's time to go. So you shut down Windows-only to be informed that it has to install some updates first. Ten minutes later, you're still waiting for the job to finish - effectively held hostage by your operating system. This whole thing about forced updating during shutdown is borderline insulting.

Fortunately, if you see the little update-alert icon that appears alongside the Shut Down button, you can bypass it. Here's how to do it:

1. Shut down all of your programs so that only the desktop remains.
2. Press **<Alt>- <F4>**.
3. Click the pull-down menu, and change it from *Install updates and shut down* to simply *Shut down*.
4. Click **OK**.

Windows will now shut down right away, without installing any updates. Actually, once you get in the habit, you may find that pressing **<Alt>-<F4>** is a quicker and more convenient way to shut down your PC.

(Clay says remember: If you recently updated; the option to bypass updates will not be available.)

Best Free Stuff.

(PC World June 2012 Pg. 60)

In this article PC World lists 59 free tools to help you at work and at play. We have listed 9 here that we particularly like for the Tech-Savvy Businessperson.

You're on a budget, but you need reliable programs that will make your 9-5 run more smoothly. One free application that belongs at the top of every tech-savvy businessperson's list is **LogMein**, which lets you access a computer remotely to trouble shoot it or to find files.

LogMeln has been around for a while, but the company just recently released a free version of its iOS app, so you can have remote access to your Windows or Mac desktop from your iPad or iPhone. Although the screen may get a little cramped, it's still a terrific no-cost tool.

If you browse the Web regularly, consider installing **Ghostery**, which is available for Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer, Opera, and Safari. This browser add-on scans for information trackers across the Web, and pops up an alert when a site is tracking you.

You probably store a ton of critical files on your work computer—things that you can't afford to lose if your hard drive fails. The **CrashPlan** backup utility can prevent such disasters. Even though the free version doesn't offer online backup, CrashPlan does automatically back up your files, and it lets you back up items to colleagues systems. (CrashPlan is one of Clay's favorites and it has saved his bacon more than a few times.)

Need to focus on writing a business plan or other important document, without everyday distractions such as email alerts, banner ads, and status updates? Try **OmmWriter Dana I**, a downloadable word processor that fills your screen with a soothing background color, and allows you to write without a lot of distracting buttons and menus up top. It will even play gentle sounds to fill the bothersome silence that comes with writer's block.

If you work in Word but need to edit documents on the go as well, check out **Cloudon**, a convenient iPad app that provides full access to Microsoft Office. (Cloudon needs to access a Dropbox account to function.) The service is free for now, but the company stipulates that it may end up charging for some of its more advanced features later.

Giving presentations to remote audiences is no hassle with **AnyMeeting**, which allows you to conduct webinars easily. The free tool requires just one person to register, and then that user can invite up to six people to stream video and up to two hundred guests to watch a presentation.

If you're listening to someone else's presentation, use the **Tape-a-Talk** Android app. It employs your phone's mic to capture everything said at the meeting, so you don't miss a beat. (Keep an eye on your battery life though)

At the end of the day, do you find that your eyes are tired from all the computer work you've done? Try downloading **F.lux**, a Windows utility that dims and brightens your monitor depending on the time of day so that a super bright screen doesn't blind you when you're working late into the night.

One of Clay's favorites, not listed in the article, is WeTransfer.com. **WeTransfer.com** will transfer a file of up to 2 gigs for free using your existing email program as an interface.

Have a Happy and Safe 4th



CYMA Windows Training Classes July 2012

Tuesday July 17th through Friday, July 20th

Please contact our office at 303-337-0607 if you are interested in taking any or all of the classes offered below.

Tuesday, July 17th

8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Sys Manager/Installation

1:00p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Version 12 Update

Wednesday, July 18th

8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

General Ledger

1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

F9

Thursday, July 19th

8:30a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Accounts Pybl/Purchs Order

1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Payroll

Friday, July 20th

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Crystal Reports

1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Accounts Receivable

LOCATION OF CLASSES

EXTENDED STAY DELUXE-AURORA

14095 E. Evans Ave

Aurora, CO 80014

303-337-7000



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