



WASHINGTON AREA COMPUTER USERS GROUP

PC DISK OF THE MONTH

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January's disk is a mixed bag of useful and entertaining software for your enjoyment.

3D Canvas v5.7a Freeware for Windows 9x, Me, NT, 2000, Xp from Amabilis (<http://www.amabilis.com/downloads.htm>). 3D Canvas is a powerful real-time 3D modeling and animation application. Use its intuitive drag-and-drop approach to construct complex models from simple 3D primitives. Or, create them from scratch using the program's object-building tools. Tools are provided for deforming, sculpting, and painting 3D objects. Virtually any operation applied to an object can be animated. Creating an animated scene is as easy as positioning the objects within your scene for each point in time; 3D Canvas makes sure the resulting animation runs smoothly. Step through your animation frame by frame, view it in real time, or record it to an .avi file for easy distribution.

Acrobat Reader v5.05 Freeware for Windows 9x, Me, NT, 2000, Xp from Adobe Systems, Inc. (<http://www.adobe.com/>). The Acrobat Reader allows viewing and printing of Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) files both directly and from the Internet. It operates as a stand-alone application and as a plug-in in most, if not all Web browsers. It is an easy and quick installation that may be completed directly from the CD-ROM.

Arasan Chess v6.2 Freeware for Windows 9x, Me, NT, 2000, Xp from John Dart (<http://www.arasanchess.org/>). Great Chess program! There are two versions included in the archive. One is a stand-alone Windows program that can be used to play chess on your local computer. Also included is a console program that can be used together with Winboard, a popular user interface that works with many chess programs and the Winboard program and help file. (See <http://www.tim-mann.org/xboard.html>) The console version can also be set up to play on an internet chess server. Arasan includes an opening book containing over 32,000 chess positions. Other versions (including Linux and Windows 3.1), source code, and a larger opening book are available from www.arasanchess.org.

Be My Valentine ScreenSaver v2.0 Shareware (\$15) for Windows 9x, Me, NT, 2000, Xp from Paul Diemer (<http://scenicreflections.com>) The Be My Valentine! Scenic Reflections Screen Saver displays 50 beautiful Valentine's Day themed images accompanied by 15 minutes of beautiful, CD-quality piano music. Includes 51 transitional effects, wallpaper capabilities and romantic quotes to help get you into the mood for romance. This is time-limited shareware (It ceases working after 7 days), so if you want to surprise your significant other on Valentine's Day, don't install it before February 8th!

CamStudio v1.8 Freeware for Windows 9x, Me, NT, 2000, Xp from RenderSoft (<http://pachome2.pacific.net.sg/~jupboo/>). CamStudio records screen activity from your Windows Desktop into standard AVI movie files. It is an ideal tool for developing videos to demonstrate features of a new software, for creating movies used in user training or any other task that requires the capture of desktop activity. The program is easy to use, and you can select an area or full desktop for recording. You can adjust the video quality settings to reduce file size, use custom cursors and add a soundtrack through your microphone or speakers. This version allows you to display screen captions on your desktop while recording. These captions are anti-aliased, high quality images that can display text in multiple languages. With the new Video Annotation feature, you can also personalize your movie by including a webcam movie of yourself into the AVI. This webcam window is customizable, can be made transparent and appear in various shapes.

Dimension 4 v4.3 Freeware for Windows 9x, Me, NT, 2000 from Rob Chambers (<http://www.thinkman.com/dimension4/>). Have you ever looked at your watch, phone clock, and system clock, all sporting different times, with no way to know which one is accurate? Dimension 4 accesses public time servers on the Internet and sets your system clock, so that there's at least one clock that you can trust. You can choose to have it only check the clock when you start your system, or if you're really time-conscious, you can choose to have it check the time server every 5 minutes, or whatever time interval you choose. Although this program has been around for a while (it was introduced in 1996), it still does the job if you're running Windows 9x.

More Files on Reverse

LPJ-Slideshow v1.6.2 Freeware for Windows 9x, Me from Lars Jeppesen (<http://hjem.get2net.dk/lpj/>). Perhaps you'd like to share the images of your vacation or road trip, distributing them via CD for portability (and coolness, of course). If you'd rather not have to worry if your recipients know how to open the slide show (or have the correct software), try this tool. With LPJ-Slideshow, you can share your images by creating a slide show that automatically executes when someone puts the CD in the CD-ROM drive. Options include the ability to play MP3 files with your slide show, as well as change the background color. The program can also start with a command line if you want it to show a specific image library.

Pro Tools v5.0.1 Freeware for Windows 98/Me from DigiRack (<http://www.digidesign.com/>). Now you can enjoy a fully functional version of the world's most popular digital audio production environment absolutely free. Pro Tools® FREE software provides superb recording, editing and processing in the digital domain, utilizing the same award winning interface and technologies that characterize high-end Pro Tools workstations. With only an audio-enabled computer and Pro Tools FREE software (based on version 5.0.1 software), you can quickly and easily do your creativity justice. Hook up a mic or other input source to the A/V interface or audio card on your system, and capture inspiration play-by-play. Then edit to your heart's content — non-destructively and instantly. Because Pro Tools FREE runs on your Macintosh® or Windows®-based PC with no additional hardware required, you can take your projects anywhere. In addition, your session material — regions, playlists, plug-in settings, etc.— is fully compatible with full-fledged Pro Tools systems, allowing you to readily migrate your work to a professional studio environment if you choose. With 8 channel audio support, 48 MIDI track capability, and a slew of DigiRack™ and third party Plug-Ins at your disposal, your options are endless. Free or otherwise, no other entry-level multitrack can compete with Pro Tools FREE.

TaxACT 2002 Freeware for Windows 9x, Me, NT, 2000, Xp from 2nd Story Software, Inc. (<http://www.taxact.com/>) Complete your taxes faster and easier than ever! TaxACT includes all commonly used forms and schedules and reflects all of the NEW tax laws. And best of all, it's completely FREE! You won't pay a penny to prepare and print your tax return! And, unlike other free software products, TaxACT Standard Edition has no limitations or missing functionality. TaxACT Standard simplifies doing your taxes with 1-2-3 QUICK and EASY Steps! Step 1: Enter Your Return Data. TaxACT gathers the information needed to complete your return. It interviews you, asking only the questions that pertain to your situation. Then it automatically calculates your return, placing your information on the appropriate tax form. Step 2: Review Your Return. The Alerts feature reviews your entire return for errors and missing information. The Review process will issue Red Alerts that require your immediate attention, Yellow Alerts which will need to be addressed before you file your return and Green Alerts that are tax saving advice regarding your return. Green Alerts are like deduction finders that point out ways save money on your taxes! Step 3: File Your Return. Once the calculations are done, you choose how you wish to file -- print IRS approved forms and schedules, or electronically file. You can print on your own paper, using a dot-matrix, ink-jet, or laser printer. For an even quicker refund (as few as 10 days with direct deposit), you may electronically file your tax return for only \$7.95!

ReadPlease 2003 v1.10 Freeware for Windows 9x, Me, NT, 2000, Xp from Rob McCormack (<http://readplease.com/>). This is a new Text-to-Speech human voice text reader. ReadPlease shatters the myth that computers must sound robotic and monotonous. Just imagine having web pages and e-mail read aloud to you. If you are finding there is just too much on-screen reading with all of this technology, then you will enjoy using ReadPlease.

WCPUID v3.0 Freeware for Windows 9x, Me, NT, 2000 from H. Oda (<http://www.h-oda.com/>). Looking for more information about your computer than Windows provides? WCPUID is a utility that gives you the skinny on your processor. You can determine the type and brand of your CPU, the chipset, frequency, multiplier and more. WCPUID also provides you with information about your operating system and RAM.

ZoneAlarm v3.1.395 Freeware for Windows 9x, Me, NT, 2000, Xp from ZoneLabs (<http://www.zonelabs.com/store/content/home.jsp>). If you have DSL or a cable modem, your IP address is permanent. Although this has benefits, it also carries the serious shortcoming of rendering your PC vulnerable to attacks. A firewall, in this respect, becomes not just desirable but a necessity. ZoneAlarm is a top choice, and best of all, the basic version is free. You can block uninitiated and unwanted traffic, even while your PC is unattended or while you're not using your connection. You can also limit your exposure to attack by specifying which applications can access the Internet. The program also lets you stop e-mail-borne Visual Basic Script worms. This latest version sports a new interface. It also includes an AlertAdvisor, which offers instant security advice. Finally, it lets you more easily share files with PCs on networks you trust. Note: This file is free for personal use; for business use it costs \$19.95. If you'd prefer the fully featured, professional version of this program, you can buy ZoneAlarm Pro v3 for \$49.95.

ENJOY! (Downloaded and compiled by Bob Mason, PC SIG Leader)