



Downloading Software

Everyone loves downloading new software to try out. Games, applications get flashed in front of you through ads all the time. You see something you think you'd like to try but how do you know if it's safe to download? Well here is a definition of the different types of software available.

Always be sure your system is setup securely before downloading any software from the Internet. Check out "creating a secure computer" at microcrafters.net Articles section for ideas.

1. **Freeware** – Software offered completely free. Or for an optional fee (donation). Fully functional but with no warranty and often times no support

1. <http://www.freewarehome.com/>



2. **Shareware** – Shareware is usually offered as a [trial version](#) with certain [features](#) only available after the license is purchased, or as a full version, but for a trial period. Once the trial period has passed the program may stop running until a license is purchased. Shareware is often offered without support, updates, or help menus, which only become available with the purchase of a license. The words "free trial" or "trial version" are indicative of shareware.
3. **Trialware/Demoware** -is commercial [software](#) released for free ([shareware](#)) in a version which is limited in one or more ways. Some of the most common limitations are:
 - Software remains functional only for a limited time, such as a set number of days after installation, days actually used, number of times the program is launched, or the length of each program session.
 - Adds identifying marks or signatures to output files. Common with image and video editing demoware.
 - Restricts or blocks access to an important function, such as saving the current document to a project file, or [burning a CD](#).

In addition, the software usually hides a code somewhere on the computer system (in [Microsoft Windows](#), often somewhere in the registry) that prevents removal and re-installation of the demo in an attempt to reset the trial period. Once the trial period is complete, the user must purchase a registration code to continue using the software.

Another use of the term "demoware" refers to software that has no real functionality, but instead only functions for demos, usually run by an employee of the company selling it following a "demo script" rather than by an end user. The intent is to give the person viewing the demo a sense of how the program will look, on the theory that this makes the software seem more real than a mere [spec sheet](#). The functionality, planned to be implemented in the future at some point before delivery, has been faked for the demo (for example, for a Web application, the "product" may only be a series of static [HTML](#) pages). The customer may or may not be made explicitly aware of this, though it is usually obvious if one is paying attention. This kind of demoware is often used by software startups to show off concepts to sales prospects, to trade show audiences, and to potential investors. It is especially common in the enterprise market.

4. **Adware**-is any [software](#) package which automatically plays, displays, or downloads advertisements to a computer after the software is installed on it or while the application is being used. Some types of adware are also [spyware](#) and can be classified as [privacy-invasive software](#). Adware is often associated with viruses as Trojans, viruses, worms, etc are often spread through adware software. While this software can be used successfully and harmlessly if obtained from a quality source, you must be extremely care where you get adware from.
5. **Paid Software**- is any software that does not offer any trial period and must be paid for before using. Often completely copyrighted.

Once you decide to download a piece of software it's a good idea to follow a good practice habit:
an example

1. **Create a restore point in windows restore (if a problem comes up and the steps below don't solve the problem, you can run system restore to return your system to its present state.)(Warning!!- never rely on windows automatic restore points to eliminate a threat as some viruses, worms, and Trojans can add themselves to these automatic restore points causing you to continuously reinstall them. Use only restore point you create)**
2. **download the program to your desktop**
3. **scan the program with your antivirus, and or other protection software on your system.**
 1. **If a problem is found with the file delete it and empty your recycle bin.**
4. **If the program passes the scans then you install it**
5. **if asked during installation to start the program select no or uncheck the box**
6. **run your scanners once more.**
 1. **If a problem is found use windows add/remove programs applet in control panel to remove the software**
 2. **if you use magic dragon from microcrafters.net run it now**
 1. **if not you will want to delete all you temp files for both the Internet and windows. (this can be a long and complicated process as there are many places for temp files and caches on your computer. It is highly recommended that you use a program**

like potion (in magic dragon) or ccleaner. (both available free online))

- 3. empty your recycle bin**
- 4. rerun scanners to remove threats**
- 7. If all checks out run you program and make sure all works well.**
- 8. Keep an eye out for your next scheduled scan for any problems with this program**