

Richard's Computer Tips

Great Free Programs

More great free programs will be added from time to time and will appear at the top of this list.

Launchy

Launchy provides an easy way to start your programs, go to a webpage even if your browser isn't open. Press ALT/SPACEBAR, begin typing the name of the program you want to start and press enter when you see it in the window. Launchy learns as you use it so you eventually only have to type in a letter or two, i.e. "W" for Word, "FI" for Firefox. Immense possibilities depending upon your time and desire to learn more about it.

Find Launchy here: <http://www.launchy.net/>

PhraseExpress

This is another program to save time. Type out a word or phrase you use all the time, such as your name, address, telephone or any combination of the above, your signature for email, anything at all, give it an "autotext" code including a character to identify it, i.e. "add/" for address, or "sig/" for signature, and then anytime you type "sig/" followed by a space or pressing the "enter" key, PhraseExpress will fill it in for you in any program, anywhere on the web.

Find PhraseExpress here: <http://phraseexpress.com/>

Advanced System Care 3

This free version will analyze and repair your registry, remove spyware, unneeded files, optimize your computer system, optimize your computer memory and much more. If you don't understand all of that, don't worry, you click one button and it does it all. Upgrade to the \$19.999 "Pro" version and it will do it automatically. Great program in either version to speed up your computer and make it run - better.

Find Advanced System Care 3 here: <http://www.iobit.com/advancedwindowscareper.html>

IObit Security 360

This program, from the same company that offers Advanced System Care 3 described above, offers this free program to prevent the bad guys from infecting your computer with malware. There is also a "Pro" version of this program you can purchase which will do even more. I suggest trying the free version first, then upgrading if you wish.

Find IObit Security 360 here: <http://www.iobit.com/security360.html>

GoodSync

Do you back up your information? No? You better. Recently, the hard drive on the computer in our church office decided to resign from active duty. Fortunately, I found a way to revive it long enough to back up most files, but some were lost. Now, we back up **every** time the computer is shut down. It's easy: buy one of those Flash Drives you plug into a USB port and back it up with GoodSync. If you have no idea what I am talking about, click here to learn about it:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flash_drives. Then download GoodSync, a free back-up program. Read the tutorial, and use it every time you shut down the computer or change any of your files.

Find GoodSync here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flash_drives

FastStone Image Viewer

This program is for anyone who takes digital photographs. It does much more than provide a way to view your photographs. It can download them from the camera, organize them automatically, correct color, contrast, red-eye, rotate, resize, email and much more. All free. The best one I have found.

Find FastStone Image Viewer here: <http://www.faststone.org/FSViewerDetail.htm>