

# Larry Karp's "Can't-Miss Tech Tools, Apps and Gadgets"

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## Office / Productivity / Cloud Desktops / Social Media / Storage

- Office Live was created in a direct response to the popular free Google Apps service. Microsoft has quietly launched its own free online suite of office programs. Called "Office Web Apps" it offers free online versions of Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint and Microsoft OneNote. Even better they are giving users 25 GB of free online storage to store their documents on Microsoft's SkyDrive service.  
<http://www.officelive.com>
- Google Docs is one of the best-known online applications completely free to use, packing a couple of really smart ideas. This complete office suite comprises a word processor, spreadsheet application and presentation creator. Google Docs comes with a solid array of features, everything considered a standard is present; spell checking auto-saving, and word count. Google Docs works with Word and OpenOffice documents and you can export to these formats or RTF, PDF and HTML. There is an occasional flaw with the formatting when exporting into other word processors, but these problems are mostly the exception rather than the rule.  
<http://docs.google.com>
- PDFescape is free online PDF editor to open PDF files easily and also edit PDF files online without the need to install any other software. With this free PDF editor, you can easily open PDF files from the web and edit PDF files online using various tools in this free PDF viewer. <http://www.pdfescape.com/>
- PDF2Word lets you convert PDF files into editable .doc or .rtf documents with the best quality you could get from a free PDF to Word convertor; Simply tell it which PDF file is to be converted and it will produce a download link of a zip converted file, instantly without keeping you waiting. It takes few seconds to convert. Interestingly, it does not change much of the original PDF file while other converters change a lot.  
<http://www.pdfonline.com/pdf2word/index.asp>
- If you've ever tried to send a really big file you're probably familiar with the annoyance and frustration that can come with trying to attach that file to an email. Most email services limit attachments to about 10MB total, so transferring that large Zip file with tons of listing pictures is close to impossible. We Transfer successfully alleviates those problems for you. We Transfer allows you to send large files (up to 2GB) to your friends and colleagues. These can be all kinds of files, like presentations, photos, videos, music, documents and more. Any file type is possible. <https://www.wetransfer.com/>
- SlideShare allows you to search and download Powerpoint presentations from the web, or upload and share your slides, word or pdf documents publicly or privately. You can also view slides in full screen, or read transcripts and outlines. A great tool for on-line listing and marketing presentations and it's FREE  
<http://www.slideshare.com>

- Having a single place where all your to-dos are permanently stored and easily accessible will allow you to relax a little better. Toodledo.com is an online to-do list and scheduling application. Built around an easy to use to-do list, the site features a calendar, reminders, scheduling, goals and notes sections. The site features support for its application on the Iphone, and data can be imported from a Palm OS PDA, Microsoft Outlook, Apple's Ical, and other online to-do lists. Toodledo offers integration with outside services. For example, Google Calendar can easily subscribe to your Toodledo list. Toodledo also integrates with Twitter (for both creating todos and getting reminders), Firefox internet browser (via an addon) and even has an iPhone app.  
<http://www.toodledo.com>
- My Stickies is simple but brilliant little app that essentially lets you place little "stickies" all over the web to remind you of stuff when you get back there at a later date. You can write messages for yourself and they'll appear next time you navigate back to that page. <http://www.mystickies.com>
- Simplebooklet is a free flipbook creator which helps you to create an online flipbook for free and use that as mini-books, reports, brochures etc. These free flipbooks can be embedded on your website, or can directly be shared with friends. This free flipbook creator is free to use and is great for creating documents online and then linking those documents to different URL addresses. <http://simplebooklet.com>
- LucidChart is free web application to create flowcharts, diagrams, graphs, and representations. The tool is easy to use and feature rich. The freeware is loaded with easy diagram tools, and collaborate flow charts, business process diagrams, sitemaps, wireframes, UML models, and more with just a few clicks.  
<http://www.lucidchart.com>
- DropBox might make you want to get rid of your USB drives! It is the easiest way to store, sync, and, share files online. It makes online storage and sharing of files dead simple — as simple as dragging files into specially marked local folders. Free 2GB on-line "Cloud Storage". <https://www.dropbox.com>
- Frustrated by your sluggish and unresponsive PC? Solutio's goal is to bring an end to the frustrations PC users encounter. Solutio's technology detects when you're frustrated by your PC and tells you which application is causing it. <http://www.solutio.com/>
- Mesh is a must-have service for people who work across multiple computers. Just add some folders to Mesh from one computer and access that content from anywhere else. Other than cloud storage, Mesh also offers remote desktop capabilities with copy-paste support. <https://www.mesh.com>
- ZohoCRM - The success of any business to a great extent depends on a well-organized contact information, making the data available for ready reference. Contact management therefore enhances the relationship between customer and sales life-cycle for the purpose of business growth. You can't do this with sticky notes or even your trusty notebook - you need a CRM. Free Edition is good for up to three (3) users!  
<http://www.zoho.com/crm/contact-manager.html>

- ZumoDrive is a free backup and synchronization software that will back up and synchronize your data across multiple computers. ZumoDrive comes with a free 2GB online storage to store your files.  
<http://www.zumodrive.com>
- Your cell phone records video in 3gp format but Windows Media Player cannot play these files. Your client has sent a document in Office 2007 format but you don't have the software to read it. What you therefore need is Zamzar, an online service that can convert images, videos, audio and documents from one format to another without downloading any software. Enter Zamzar. <http://www.zamzar.com/>
- Posterous may look like just another micro-blogging platform but it's actually the best cross-publishing platform on the web. You can use the service to write blog posts, publish photos, uploaded video or even send tweets – all through a simple email message. <https://posterous.com>
- PrivNote allows you to write a confidential note and send a link to someone for reading it. The note is destroyed after reading once, no more worrying about your message being forwarded to and read by others.  
<https://privnote.com/>
- Remember the Milk (RTM) is great for everyday reminders but also great for transaction task management because: It integrates with Gmail and displays your tasks in Gmail's screen, works with your calendar appointments, email and tasks all on one screen, so you're more organized, It allows you to import via email an entire list of dated tasks when you start a new transaction, and you can set alarms via text or email for tasks deadlines. The free level of RTM should work for most people. <http://www.rememberthemilk.com/>
- Xpenser allows you to do simple accounting for your real estate business using this free online service. And, it takes voice input from Jott.com, just like the Google calendar and Remember the Milk. <http://xpenser.com/>

## Video / Photo / Imaging

- WebInPaint is a free web service which can be used to remove unwanted objects from photos. You will find all the buttons at the top itself making way for easy navigation. It's really cool service.  
<http://www.webinpaint.com/>
- Dropico is an exciting service that allows you to manage and organize your photo collection across social networks, including Facebook, Flickr, Twitter and more, or edit a photo with several editors, all in one place.  
<http://www.dropico.com/>
- Minus is the easiest photo-sharing site ever, incredibly quick and easy to use, looks fantastic, and makes a superb job of allowing a group of people to upload and view images. <http://min.us/>
- Fix Picture converts all popular picture file formats and camera raw formats to jpg, png, gif, tiff, bmp or pdf formats, and resizes them by a percentage or a specific pixel value with optional rotation and effects.  
<http://www.fixpicture.org/>
- Dermander offers an easy way to stitch a series of your scenic photographs into one picture—just browse for pictures from your folder, then save a panoramic image back to your disk, or upload and share it in the gallery.  
<http://www.dermandar.com>
- Photovisi is a useful tool to create photo collages, quick and easy—just select a template, add photos, then click save and download. <http://www.photovisi.com/>
- Flickr is a popular web service for users to upload their photos, edit and organize their collections and share them with groups and privacy controls. Uploading video is an added feature. <http://www.flickr.com/>
- Says-It.com allows you to create your own funny photos and graphics in seals, badges, posters, tickets and other various signs—simply choose a design, type in some text, change colors or outlines, insert your own image, then click Go to get one. <http://www.says-it.com/>
- FunPhotoBox generates funny pictures from your photos with useful tools, either photo effects, animations, cards, magazine covers or face in hole, choose one then upload your photo, see the result and save it.  
<http://funphotobox.com/>
- PicNik, just recently acquired by Google, allows you to have basic image editing tools in the cloud, like rotating, cropping, and resizing, and it also offers sharpening and red-eye removal tools. It also allows you to import your pictures from your favorite online photo storage websites, like Flickr, Facebook, and MySpace.  
<http://www.picnik.com>

- 3D-Pack is a 3d-box graphic creator—just find some photos on your PC to use for the front and sides of the box shot, upload them and in a couple of seconds you'll have your box ready for download in JPG, GIF or PNG format. Great for your marketing materials... <http://www.3d-pack.com/>
- Bender Converter, an easy-to-use online application to convert videos directly from YouTube and other services in 3 steps—choose a format to convert to, give a video page link, then click *Convert* and download the converted file you need. <http://benderconverter.com/>
- Anyone who wishes to have access to complete suite of graphics applications should have a look at Aviary . The suite is designed so that it can rival every application Adobe offers, but at a much lower cost. It comes with following applications: Phoenix (Image Editor), Peacock (Visual Laboratory), Toucan (Color Palette Editor), and Raven (Vector Graphics). The Aviary suite of online image-editing tools not only allows for simple tweaking of photos, but also provides a wide range of tools including the ability to create complex images using layers and other effects. <http://www.aviary.com>
- Newspaper clipping generator is a fun free app to generate free newspaper clipping for fun. You can give name of newspaper, heading of your news, and content, and it will immediately generate a fake news clipping image that you can use to have fun with your marketing. <http://www.fodey.com/generators/newspaper/snippet.asp>
- JayCut is a free online video editor. It is easy to upload videos to JayCut and has some great features to make your videos more effective and attractive. JayCut provides you with 2GB free storage space and you can save and export up to 20 videos per month. The best thing about this free online video editor is you don't need to install or download any software. <http://jaycut.com/>
- ZXing QR Code Generator creates a **Q**uick **R**esponse code in various sizes for your contact info, URL, SMS, geo location or other text data. This codes are readable by a scanner such as [ZXing BarcodeScanner](#) on a mobile device, or using [ZXing Decoder Online](#).

## Larry Karp's 2011 Top Picks for FREE and very useful computer software:

### (Freeware and OpenSource)

- OpenOffice.org is the leading open-source office software suite for word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, graphics, databases and more. It stores all your data in an international open standard format and can also read and write files from other common office software packages including Microsoft Office files. It can be downloaded and used completely free of charge for any purpose <http://www.openoffice.org>
- PogoPlug is a service that allows you to share that storage around your home LAN and throughout the web – Your Own Cloud Server!. It's a bit like Dropbox or Skydrive, except that you have physical control of the server – it's your computer!!!!. In addition to sharing document files, you can even stream video and audio. PogoPlug's software turns your computer (PC, Mac or Linux) into a pogoplug device, so that you can now share your files and stream video without having to buy a Pogoplug. Best of all, the basic version of the software is completely free of charge. The only major feature that it lacks is the ability to stream audio and video outside of your home LAN, for which you'll need to pay a one-off fee of around \$30. <http://www.pogoplug.com>
- DVD Slideshow Builder Free turns your photos into a slideshow and burns them onto a playable DVD, with no other software required. Completely free. Full details, including a chart which shows how the free version compares with the paid-for version, are at <http://www.ourpix.com/free-movie-maker.html>.
- A top pick if you're looking for the best protection against virus, spyware and rootkit threats. AntiVir is very light on resources and the detection rate of malware is outstanding, better than almost every other antivirus according to tests. Free for personal use. <http://www.avira.com/en/avira-free-antivirus>
- 7zip is one of the best archive managers available. It supports packing / unpacking of multiple file types including ZIP, CAB, TAR, 7Z files and more. <http://www.7-zip.org>
- Don't have Outlook? You want something you can master quickly? eM Client software offers all of the same features, such as e-mail and calendar. It even throws in instant messaging. It works with just about any existing e-mail server software. It's only free for use at home! <http://www.emclient.com>
- PicPick is user friendly and full of features for creating your image, suitable for realtors. It is an all-in-one program that provides full-featured screen capture tool, intuitive image editor, color picker, color palette, pixel ruler, protractor, crosshair and even whiteboard. It has not only everything what you need, but it loads fast, sits quietly in the system tray until needed and is provided as freeware for only personal use. <http://picpick.wiziple.net/>

Enjoy and happy computing!

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