

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

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Office / Productivity / Cloud Desktops / Social Media / Storage

- Microsoft Office 365 was recently released with a target market of the mobile professional and small/mid size businesses. It's your familiar Office tools delivered as web apps through the cloud as a subscription service. Starting at only \$6 a month, you can access email, important documents, contacts, and your calendar from virtually anywhere on almost any device. Collaboration, IM, Online meetings, easy mobile access and consistent formatting from desktop to the web make this a winner for Microsoft. Free 30 day no risk trial.
<http://www.office365.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>
- Tungle.Me allows you to get rid of trying to schedule a meeting with more than one person. Tungle.Me is a free on-line calendar program that syncs with Outlook, Google Calendar, etc. Set-up an account, create an event then invite others so they can schedule meetings based on your open block of times(s). <http://www.tungle.me>
- Prezi is a web based tool that takes creating presentation slides to a whole new level. Pan and zoom, import media, built in collaboration tools, on-line and offline options, iPad App, and the ability to add story lines makes this a great on-line product. Public 100MB is free to use with other upgrades available. <http://prezi.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 converter; 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>
- LastPass will save you the annoyance of forgetting your password. LastPass is a long term solution because it encrypts and stores your passwords online. It also offers extensions for all major browsers and mobile devices, allowing you to sync passwords across multiple browsers and operating systems and all your gadgets. In addition, LastPass provides a secure password generator, which creates nearly uncrackable passwords.
<https://lastpass.com/>

- Xmarks BooMark Sync is a really cool tool if you use multiple computers and devices. You BookMarks (Favorites) will be anywhere you need them! What good are your bookmarks if you cannot access them anywhere?
<http://www.xmarks.com/>
- 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>
- DocsPal is a free online file converter that supports all kind of documents, video, audio, images, e-books and archives like microsoft word, powerpoint, excel, open office documents, pdf, Etc. Docs Pal offers an online viewer that allows you to view documents and images online directly in your browser, without having to install anything else. <http://www.docspal.com/>
- PDF2JPG is the easiest way to convert your PDF documents to a usable image in JPG format for FREE. File limit is 10MB which should accommodate just about any PDF page you want to convert. Once converted you will have the opportunity to download the picture(s) as a Zip File, as well. <http://pdf2jpg.net/>
- TouchPDF is an online PDF editor. It allows you to view PDF files online, add text, shapes, and images to existing PDF documents. You can also use it to merge multiple PDF files in to one PDF document!
<http://www.touchpdf.com/>
- ILovePDF is a great tool to merge or split PDF files easily. You can merge up to 10 PDF files, and extract pages from a PDF document up to 8MB in size. A very useful tool! <http://www.ilovepdf.com/>
- Scribd is a cool tool to upload and view documents in various formats in full screen. You can mark them private and/or make them accessible by a specific URL, or simply share them with the world! You can even embed the viewer into your website and blog!! <http://www.scribd.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>

- Looking for another storage alternative? Check out CX.com! CX.com allows you to Store, Share, and access files anytime, anywhere. There is a Sync function that allows you to access your files across multiple devices, you can set up files for collaboration with clients, co-workers, or your friends, and CX.com gives you 10GB of FREE space to start. That's 8GB more than Dropbox! <http://www.cx.com>
- Need to create a chart to share in your website or blog? Google Image Chart Editor is your answer. Select the type of charts, enter chart title, data and other specifications, dynamically the chart image is created for you to right click and save to your PC in png format. An image link is provided for you to share, or import for editing. <http://imagecharteditor.appspot.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>
- Glide Desktop is a comprehensive Ad-Free cloud computing solution. Glide provides a free suite of rights-based productivity and collaboration applications with 30GBs of storage. The Glide OS provides automatic file and application compatibility across devices and operating systems. This is the future of computing.. still a work in progress but really cool! <http://www.glidedigital.com/>

- 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

- DropGallery is a great way to get all your pictures online. Simply add them to the dropgallery folder on your computer and they will automatically appear in your personal online or private photo galleries. Free 2GB storage with iPhone and Android apps! <http://www.dropgallery.com>
- 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/>
- CutMyPic, 3 simple steps that allow you to quickly upload a picture, cut and customize it, and mail it to a friend or save it to your computer. Image customizing includes rounding corners and adding a shadow with thickness of your choice. <http://www.cutmypic.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/>
- 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 **Quick Response** 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](#).

FREE Online Tools for Photo Effects

- Photo 505 – Great effects and lots of cool filters. <http://www.photo505.com/en/>
- Fun Photo Box – Great effects and really easy to use. <http://funphotobox.com/>
- MakeOVR – Virtual Makeover Appset with 10 quick tools for an online makeover . <http://makeovr.com/>
- PiZap – Almost an image editor but still fits this category. <http://www.pizap.com/>
- Image Chef – Four great tools with lots of effects for each. <http://www.imagechef.com/>
- Photo Montage – Very easy and lots of fun. <http://www.writeonit.org/photomontage>
- Dumpr - Very easy with some different effects from the others with advanced options <http://www.dumpr.net/>
- Photo Funia – Cool tool that will automatically identify the face and lets you add cool effects. <http://photofunia.com/>
- Loona Pix – Gigantic list of effects with access to your web cam for on the fly pics. <http://www.loonapix.com/>
- BeFunky – Photo Editing, photo effects with design goodies. <http://www.befunky.com/>
- FotoFlexer creates dazzling photo effects in a simple interface with optional fullscreen editing. Supported features include one-click auto fix, red eye removal, resizing and cropping, rotating and flipping, 20 over filtering effects, decorations, animations, layers and more. <http://fotoflexer.com/>
- PhotoVisi is a free and easy to use online photo collage maker. Select one of the many designs, add your photos and then customize by dragging items around. After the collage is finished, it's available for download and print! <http://www.photovisi.com/>

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>
- Google Chrome has quickly turned into the browser to beat. It's a top choice for multi-platform Web browsing due to its amazing performance, built in support for Flash, PDFs, extensions, and HTML5. It's already taken over 10.7 percent of the browser market, so don't be left behind. <http://www.google.com/chrome/>
- Lightning isn't a standalone program, but a powerful extension for the Thunderbird e-mail software. It's got all of Outlook's capabilities, including a powerful calendar you can sync with Google and a task list. MUST have if you don't want to pay for Outlook! <http://www.mozilla.org/projects/calendar/lightning/>
- 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>
- 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/>
- FreeFileSync - All backup tools should be as easy as multi-lingual FreeFileSync. It's not only easy to setup, it doesn't waste time backing up files that don't need it, resolving conflicts instantly. <http://sourceforge.net/projects/freefilesync/>