

# Research Software Programs


The purposes of application software vary based on the type of task it performs. Software can be classified according to its purpose. Below is a typical list of software categories (from Download.com)

- Security Software
- Browsers
- Communications
- Desktop Enhancements
- Developer Tools
- Drivers
- Educational Software
- Entertainment Software
- Games
- Graphic Design Software
- Home Software
- Internet Software
- iTunes & iPod Software
- MP3 & Audio Software
- Productivity Software
- Screensavers & Wallpaper
- Utilities & Operating Systems
- Video Software

Software review/evaluation websites categorize software and provide a forum for editorial and consumer reviews. Tucows.com and Download.com are two examples of software review sites. Both sites have been evaluating software since the 1990's so they have a long history. **These sites are NOT the recommended sites for actually downloading software.** But, visiting a software review site for general information is an excellent first step in researching software. This provides an authoritative site regarding software publishers, latest versions, possible editorial reviews and user feedback and ratings.

For instance if you were researching an anti-virus or security software program, you would not want to conduct an internet search because you may get a phishing or malware site appearing in your search results. **However, visiting a credible software review site can provide you the correct web address for the software publisher's website.** Always download from the software publisher's website.



 **Beware** of animated and/or prominent buttons for “easy” download options. Often they are “bundled” with bloatware, ad tracking software or even malware.

Read about one study conducted by the “How To Geek” website: <http://www.howtogeek.com/198622/heres-what-happens-when-you-install-the-top-10-download.com-apps/>