



Gerry Kennedy IT Consultancy

ABN: 20 850 457 606

Training & Consultancy in Education & Assistive Technologies

P.O. Box 5073, Laburnum, Vic. 3130
 email: specmelb@bigpond.net.au
 Ph: 61 3 9894 4826 Fax: 61 3 9894 4936
 Mobile: 0411 569 840

PORTABLE APPS FACT SHEET

What is a portable program?

A **Portable App** or program is a piece of software that can be accessed from a portable USB device (USB thumb or pen drive, PDA, iPod or external hard disk) and used on any computer. It could be an email program, a browser, a system recovery tool or a program to achieve a set task – reading, writing, music editing, art and design, magnification, text to speech, OCR or to provide more efficient or equitable access (e.g. *Click 'n' Type* onscreen keyboard). There are hundreds of programs that are available.

All of a user's data and settings are always stored on the thumb drive so when a user unplugs the device, none of the personal data is left behind. It provides a way of accessing and using relevant software – anywhere, anytime. *Portable Apps* are relatively new. Apps do NOT need to be installed on the 'host' computer. No Tech support is required on campus. No permissions are required in order to have the software made available to them. Students can work *anywhere* - as long as they have access to a computer. The majority of programs are free (Freeware or Open Source). Fact sheets, user guides and support are all available on the web or within the Help File in the various applications. Or – have students write their own!

Be sure to encourage all users to **BACK UP** their files as USB drives can be lost, stolen, misplaced, left behind, erased -due to strong magnetic fields or accidentally compromised (left on a parcel shelf in a car, or left in clothes and washed!). The Portable App(s) can be re-installed, but users files must be duplicated onto a

- Home Computer hard drive
- An external hard drive
- A Notebook (or Netbook ,Ultralight or Laptop computer
- A school/University/TAFE/College/Polytechnic/Academy/Work Place computer or server

Note: When purchasing a USB drive, locate models that are easy to use, are USB 2.0, swivel or retract and are at least 4GB in capacity. A key ring or lanyard is also strongly recommended.

The following links will prove to be invaluable in locating web resources that provide a range of different opportunities for acquiring Portable Apps. These Apps are available for

- a. MS Windows (most likely Windows XP and Vista)
- b. MAC OS (look for Version X for the later MAC models)
- c. Linux (or Ubuntu and other free, Open Source platforms)

The EduApps site in Scotland (www.eduapps.org) leads the way in providing equitable, elegant and sustainable solutions for students and educators/trainers/workplace providers in identifying, sourcing, testing and delivering the best solutions for students. Go there first. Then, visit these other 100 sites and build your own solutions. Students with difference require robust and reliable technologies, in order for them to function at school as well as in society.

With Portable Apps, they can immediately become more confident and independent users of IT and achieve the results that they require. **EduApps** is the leading solution, but there are other options to cater to students who need different applications. They're also great for teachers, SSOs and therapists, too!

1. [Portable Office Software](#)
2. [Portable Email/Calendar/ToDo Programs](#)
3. [Portable Text and Voice Messengers](#)
4. [Portable Media Tools \(Audio / Video\)](#)
5. [Portable Graphics Viewers and Image Editors](#)
6. [Portable Browsers and Web Tools \(FTP, Feedreaders, Torrent clients...\)](#)
7. [Portable Security Software](#)
8. [Portable Games](#)
9. [Other Portable Utilities](#)
10. [Portable Developer Tools \(Techies Only\)](#)
11. [All-In-One Packages](#)
12. [Portable Operating Systems \('HowTo' Articles\)](#)
13. [USB ThumDrive Tips](#)

Portable Office Software

- Abiword [[Win](#) (6.3 mb) / [Mac](#) (9.5 mb)] – word processor (compatible with Microsoft word)
- OpenOffice [[Win](#) (65 mb) / [Mac](#) (127 mb)] – free alternative to Microsoft Office (fully compatible with Microsoft Office docs)
- PDF Viewers: [Sumatra](#) [Win (1.1 mb)], [Foxit PDF Reader](#) [Win, (1.8 mb)]
- [Notepad ++](#) – feature-rich Notepad replacement.

Portable Email/Calendar/ToDo Programs

- Mozilla ThunderBird – [[Win](#) (6 mb), [Mac](#) (20.5 mb), [Cross-Platform](#) (Win, Mac)] – very [good email client](#) (built-in address book, import/export, [tons of addons](#))
- Calendars: [Mozilla Sunbird](#) [Win, 5.6mb], [Sunbird](#) [Mac, 9.7mb], [Lightning](#) [Win, 1.3mb) - ThunderBird addon
- [Mail](#) [Mac] – requires locally installed Mail.app
- [iCal](#) [Mac] – requires locally installed iCal.app
- [Address Book](#) [Mac] – requires locally installed Address Book
- [Quick Mailer](#) [Win, 20kb] – tiny program for sending quick e-mail messages
- [qDisk](#) [Mac, 1020kb] – handy program that turns your gmail account into a portable hard drive. (More [stuff for gmail](#))

Portable Text and Voice Messengers

- All-in-One (Yahoo, MSN, ICQ, etc.): [Gaim](#) [Win, 6.9 mb], [Miranda IM](#) [Win, 1.2 mb], [Adium](#) [Mac, 15.5mb], [Trillian](#) [Win]
- [iChat](#) [Mac] – requires locally installed iChat
- [Newspeak](#) [Mac, 1mb] – Newspeak Cocoa IRC client
- [Skype](#) – explains how to make skype portable

Portable Media Tools (Audio / Video)

- Audacity [[Win](#) (2.4 mb), [Mac](#) (5mb)] – simple audio editor and recorder
- VLC [[Win](#) (9.3 mb), [Mac](#) (24 mb)] – powerful media player that plays almost all popular audio and video formats
- K-Lite Mega Codec Pack with Media Player-(resource unaccessible) – another powerful media player for playing all conceivable formats
- [iShout](#) [Mac, 7mb] – record and listen to your favorite internet radios.
- [CocoaJT](#) [Mac, 8.7mb] – stream live TV programs from major broadcast channels.

Portable Graphics Viewers and Image Editors

- GIMP [[Win](#) (8.6 mb), [Mac](#) (87.5 mb)] – free alternative to Photoshop
- [IfanView](#) [Win, 1013kb] – fast graphic viewer with basic image editing features
- [XNView](#) [Win, Mac, Linux] – image viewer and converter (supports more than 400 image formats)
- [Inkscape](#) [Mac, 24.6mb] – scalable vector graphics editor

Portable Browsers and Internet Tools (FTP, Feedreaders, Torrent Clients...)

- Firefox [[Win](#) (5.8 mb), [Mac](#) (21.9mb), [Cross-platform](#) (Win, Mac)]
- Other browsers: [Camino](#) [Mac, 16.2mb], [Opera](#) [Win], [Safari](#) [Mac] – requires installed safari

- [Feedreaders](#) (RSS, Atom ...): [RSSOwl](#) [Mac, 5mb], [Feed](#) [Mac, 564kb], [GreatNews](#) [Win], [Sage](#) [Win, 0.2 mb]
- [FTP Clients](#): [Filezilla](#) [Win, 2.3 mb], [FireFTP](#) [Win, 0.1mb], [CyberDuck](#) [Mac, 9.9mb]
- [TrayURL](#) [Win] – bookmark manager
- [uTorrent](#) [Win] – popular torrent downloader

Portable Security Software

- [Antivirus](#): [ClamWin](#) [Win, 5.9mb], [Dr.Web CureIt](#) [Win, 5.5 mb]
- [Keepass Password](#) [Win, 1mb] – securely store and manage your passwords
- [Omziff](#) [Win, 0.5mb] – lets you encrypt/decrypt a file, using secure encryption algorithms. Also includes a password generator, file shredder, file splitter and some more tools.
- [LockNote](#) [Win] – simple text file that lets you store sensitive info with 256bit password encryption.
- [RoboFor2Go](#) [Win] – secure password manager and form filler
- [Smart Sniff](#) [Win, 57kb] – lets you inspect network traffic that passes via your network adapter.

Portable Games

- [Sudoku](#) – popular puzzle game
- [Bricks2000](#) – popular tetris clone
- [Logix](#) – something similar to minesweeper
- – fast-paced puzzle game
- [GeneRally](#) – 2D racing game
- [Nagaskaki](#) – chess game
- [NarkoMania](#) – cool minesweeper clone
- [NeverBall](#) – part puzzle, part action game

Other Portable Utilities

- [7Zip](#) [Win, 1.1 mb] – file archiver and compressor, supports 7z, ZIP, GZIP, BZIP2, TAR, RAR and more
- [Registry Tweaker](#) [Win, 1.52mb] – registry tweaking tool
- [Restoration](#) [Win, 229kb] – handy program for recovering deleted (or formatted) files
- [YamiPod](#) [Win] – powerful iPod manager (copy mp3/AAC files to and from your iPod, import/export playlists, search for songs, remove duplicates,...). More [iPod tools](#)
- [Drive Manager](#) [Win, 1191 kb] – quick summary for each local and removable drive.
- [PStart](#) – lets you organize and create menu-like list for quicker access to your portable programs.
- [SyncPAppX](#) – script that syncs preferences between portable and local applications.
- [RQ Money](#) – handy utility to manage your credits and debts
- [SIW](#) – a system analysis tool that tells you almost everything you need to know about a computer, i.e. hardware, configuration settings, etc.
- [WinAudit](#) – one more analysis tool
- [Convert](#) [Win, 155 kb] – fast metric unit conversion tool (distance, temperature, volume, time, speed, mass...)
- [UK Calender](#) [Win, 321kb] – straightforward calendar with ToDo and reminders
- [CPU-Z](#) [Win] – provides detailed info about your processor and other components
- [Country Codes](#) [Win, 1358 kb] – a small database of country codes and additional information for all countries.
- [TreePad Lite](#) [Win, 866kb] – personal database program, lets you store all your notes, emails, bookmarks, etc. into one well-structured file
- [StartupList](#) [Win, 158 kb] – displays all items that are in any way related to your computer startup and are executed without any user interactions
- [eTextReader](#) [Win, 279kb] – read plain text files provided by Project Gutenberg in a book-like manner.
- [Index Your Files](#) [Win, 640kb] – provides an easy way to create index databases (of specified folders and drives) for quick file/term search
- [RockXP](#) [win, 768kb] – handy utility for retrieving Win XP's product key
- [WhoisThisDomain](#) [Win, 42kb] – view owner and registration info for any domain name
- [Converter](#) – portable unit conversion utility

Portable Developer Tools (Techies Only)

- [Nvu](#) [Win (7.3 mb), Mac (12 mb)] – easy-to-use webpage editor. Simpler alternative to Dreamweaver and Microsoft Frontpage
- [Server2Go](#) – apache webserver (no configurations needed)
- [InstantRails](#) [Win, 60mb] – contains Ruby, Rails, Apache, and MySQL, all preconfigured and ready to run.
- [Putty](#) [Win, 0.9 mb] – lightweight telnet and SSH client
- [Follow-Me IP](#) – displays your external IP address
- [XAMPP](#) [Win, 25/17 mb] – integrated server package of Apache, MySQL, PHP and Perl. Just Unzip and Run

- [HTTP File Server](#) [Win] – simple and easy-to-use file server for personal file sharing.
- [CurrPorts](#) [Win, 46kb]- lets you view a list of ports that are currently in use, along with applications that use them
- [FTP Servers: Quick'n Easy FTP Server](#) [Win, 355kb], [PureFTPdManager](#) [Mac, 10.9mb]

All-In-One Packages

- [PortableApps Suite](#) [Win, 89.5mb] – includes 7 programs for essential needs (office, email, IM client, etc.) + cool Startup manager and backup utility
- [FSuite](#) [Mac, 668.3mb] – over 30 useful tools in one file (Office, Graphic, Audio, Video, Internet, Developer Tools and Games)

Portable Operating Systems ('HowTo' Articles)

- [Mac OS Classic 7](#)
- [Portable Linux: Knoppix, Ubuntu](#)
- [Win XP](#)

USB ThumDrive Tips

- [How to create a bootable USB key](#)
- [Never Forget your USB Stick](#)
- [QuickLaunch your USB workspace](#)
- [How To Make Skype a Portable App](#)

Other useful sites include

[Portablefreeware.com](#) and [Tinyapps.org](#)

Spend some time investigating and exploring these links. Better still, allocate set tasks to students at your campus. Let THEM decide and determine which tools make sense to them. Allow them time to install the programs and test them.

Encourage students to write software reviews and publish them in a school newsletter or local paper. Give students the opportunity to engage and be more aware of the wonderful applications that can empower and create confidence in learning. With Web 2.0 tools, the web and Portable Apps – they're in charge!

Add two or three links to the school/college newsletter to inform parents of software that can encourage students to use a variety of software programs at home and at school.

(Links acquired from - <http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/portable-software-usb/#office>. MakeUseOf is a fantastic resource)

For another handy list of Portable Apps, link to and read the WikiPedia entry:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_portable_software

The screenshot shows the JISC website header with a search bar and navigation links. The main content area features a purple headline: "Scottish Open Source software award for AccessApps". Below this is a banner for "Scottish Open Source AWARDS 2009". The text below the banner reads: "AccessApps, a package of over 50 open source and freeware assistive technologies run from a USB stick, has just won the Excellence in Education category at the Scottish Open Source Awards." It also mentions that the software was developed by the JISC Regional Support Centre (RSC) Scotland North & East and made freely available following a collaboration between JISC TechDis and JISC's RSC Scotland South & West. A small image of a USB stick with the AccessApps logo is shown on the right.

Author: Gerry Kennedy – August 2009