

From time to time we will have a section here called the “**Glitch Corner**” to help our customers with various topics geared around computers.



This month's topic is “**Free Programs**”. There are a number of applications out there that make your computing experience better. They fall into 3 categories

1. Antivirus, spyware cleaners: 3 very good antivirus programs are out there and free makes them even better. AVG, AVast and Microsoft Security Essentials. Only use one of them but any one of them work fine. The downside to these when they are free they often try to sell you the pay version, but you don't have to purchase it. Unfortunately they are not always clear on how to stay free. AVG for example with update and point you towards the pay or trial version and take you away from the FREE. However to their credit when you try to uninstall it, the program will ask you if you want to stay with the free version. Spyware removal applications like Malwarebytes are another must have application. Similar to other free programs they promote the pay versions.
2. Utility programs: Adobe Reader, Flash and Shockwave, Oracle's Java, Microsoft's Silverlight, etc. The programs make it so you can view files written to these formats, they are free. The trick is to keep them updated. Often they will remind you on a regular basis.
3. Productivity: Open Office or Libre Office are Microsoft compatible programs that will open and save Word, Excel, Power Point files without the need to purchase an office product. There is also a PDF creator application available to make PDF files. This is great for laptop users when you are away from a printer or a way to save paper.

Where do I get these programs? There is a wonderful web site [www.ninite.com](http://www.ninite.com) . This site has all of these programs and more in one place and installs them without toolbars or spyware. Not sure how long this will last but for now this is the best place to get these files and to make sure the correct version gets installed on your machine.

We offer professional setup of these programs if you don't want to do them yourself, all this at very reasonable pricing.

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