FREE SOFTWARE LINKS

There are certain key pieces of software that most people need to have. Here are some suggestions for completely **free** alternatives.

1. **Office Software** – There are several options, the best being **OpenOffice https://www.openoffice.org/** and **LibreOffice https://www.libreoffice.org/** – they both have loads of facilities and features. For more limited choices, don't forget **Google Docs https://www.google.co.uk/docs/about/**

2. **Email Software** – There are loads of options, but most aren't free. If you like Outlook, you'll probably find that **Thunderbird https://www.thunderbird.net/en-GB/** is your best choice. But don't write off **Gmail**

3. **Photo Software** – This is another area with loads of options. It depends on what you want to be able to do with the software. For simple editing of photos, **Paint.NET https://www.getpaint.net/** is a great choice. If you need more sophistication, **GIMP https://www.gimp.org/** is very powerful, although it does have a steep learning curve. Another option is **Ashampoo Photo Commander FREE https://www.ashampoo.com/en-gb/photo-commander-free** which is very much the Swiss army knife of photo editors

4. **Audio Software** – This is useful but less crowded! The obvious choice is **Audacity https://www.audacityteam.org/** which handles just about everything you could wish for and more!

Obviously, this brief list doesn't cover absolutely every category of software, but actually there are examples of every kind of software application. If you are trying to find something, search online. You will find that certain names will feature in several results, which should be your starting point. There are also reliable sources of free software which are worth checking out (*not listed in any particular order of priority*):

1. **Softpedia** – **https://www.softpedia.com/**
2. **MajorGeeks** – **https://www.majorgeeks.com/**
3. **FileHippo** – **https://filehippo.com/**
4. **CNET Download** – **https://download.cnet.com/**
5. **Download Crew** – **https://www.downloadcrew.com/**

This is not a list of the only reliable sources – it is also worth checking the websites for specific software as well. Most companies that produce free software also produce paid-for versions with additional features, and these can also be worth checking.

As always, if there is anything that I haven't covered, please feel free to contact me.

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