

Your most popular programs of 2015

Thanks to how we shorten URLs, we can work out which software you've downloaded most over the past 12 months. Here's your top 10...

One of the things we dislike most about the internet is typing long URLs into our browser bar. We know you're not keen on it, either. That's why in every issue we use our Snipca URL-shortening to shrink web addresses, turning unwieldy beasts like the link for Microsoft's Windows 10 forum (http://answers.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/forum/windows_10?tab=Threads) into manageable snippets: www.snipca.com/19031.

Because it's our very own service, we can monitor how often each Snipca is clicked. That gives us an accurate indication of which programs, websites and online tools you're most interested in – so we can give you more of the same. Here's our top 10 of your most clicked software in 2015, with last year's top program continuing to lead the pack.

For the purposes of this list, we're not counting Windows 10 as software. Snipcas related to Windows 10 were so popular this year that they deserve a chart all of their own. You'll find some of these on page 13.

1 AdwCleaner

www.snipca.com/16022

AdwCleaner's second consecutive year in the top spot is a reflection of how effectively it removes adware from your PC. Its biggest update came in April, which we marked by making it the lead program in Best Free Software (Issue 447, page 16). Since then it has been updated to work with Windows 10.

2 Autoruns for Windows

www.snipca.com/15791

We get lots of emails from readers

LAST YEAR'S TOP 10

- AdwCleaner
- CPU-Z
- Process Hacker
- CCEnhancer
- Clean Master
- DNS Benchmark
- Wise Care 365
- MyUninstaller
- Driver Booster
- Glary Utilities

worried about unexpected items launching when they turn on their PC, so it's not surprising that Autoruns is popular. It's always been great at revealing the programs that start automatically, and in 2015 teamed up with VirusTotal to let you check files for malware – see Secret Tips, Issue 451, page 48.

3 Google Earth Pro

www.snipca.com/15715

Previously a £260 download, Google Earth Pro became free in January 2015, and quickly became one of your favourite programs. One of the best things you can do with it is record a 3D virtual tour of anywhere in the world (assuming Google has mapped it), as we explained in our lead Workshop in Issue 445 (page 35).

4 PC Decrapifier

www.snipca.com/16331

The popularity of this junk-removal program is symptomatic of one of the year's biggest scandals – manufacturers stuffing their PCs with system tools that are at best pointless, and at worst malicious. It took pride of place in our 'Remove built-in junk' Cover Feature in Issue 449.

5 Belarc Advisor

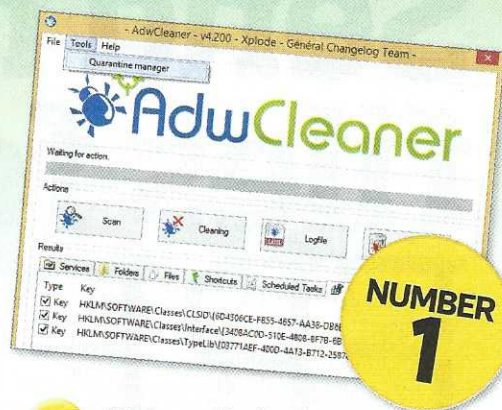
www.snipca.com/17465

All year you've loved programs that lift the lid on your PC, to reveal what's really going on inside. Belarc Advisor does just that, analysing your hardware and software to help you identify problems. It is the program you clicked most in Issue 462's Cover Feature: 'Make your PC live longer'.

6 SlimDrivers

www.snipca.com/15419

As the launch of Windows 10 approached, thousands of you wanted to make sure your PC was in the best condition to receive the upgrade. One program that helped make this possible was SlimDrivers, which scans your system looking for out-of-date drivers. It first appeared in 2015 in our 'Make your PC run like new' Cover Feature (Issue 444).



7 Malwarebytes Anti-Rootkit Beta

www.snipca.com/15810

Some of the most important programs are security tools that protect you from threats your antivirus can't. Of those we recommended in our 'Remove hidden malware' Cover Feature (Issue 446), Malwarebytes' rootkit-attacking software was your top download. It's still in beta, but it's highly effective.

8 Reason Core Security

www.snipca.com/16566

Another tool that works alongside your antivirus is Reason Core Security, which warns you when a program you're about to download comes riddled with junk. Thousands of you downloaded the software following our Workshop on it in Issue 451 (page 42).

9 IObit Uninstaller

www.snipca.com/17838

Talking of junk, we've often slated IObit's programs for containing plenty, and told you to steer clear. But the company cleaned up its act in 2015, and you quickly forgave it for past misdemeanours. In fact, you liked it so much that no other uninstaller in Issue 458's Cover Feature ('Software you must uninstall now') was clicked more.

10 CCEnhancer

www.snipca.com/15280

We know you love CCleaner, so it's no shock that you also love a tool that gives it more options. CCEnhancer appeared in Issue 443's Cover Feature ('Hack your software') and, with AdwCleaner, is one of only two programs to feature in the top 10 for 2014 and 2015. **ca**

READ ABOUT ALL THESE PROGRAMS ON OUR 2015 BACK ISSUE CD

For more info visit www.snipca.com/19124

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