

Applications: Making your Device(s) Useful

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Week 3

Application Software ([source](#))

An **application program** (app) is a [computer program](#) designed to perform a group of coordinated functions, tasks, or activities for the benefit of the user. Examples of an application include a [word processor](#), a [spreadsheet](#), an [accounting application](#), a [web browser](#), a [media player](#), a [flight simulator](#), a [console game](#) or a [photo editor](#). The [collective noun](#) **application software** refers to all applications collectively. This contrasts with [system software](#), which is mainly involved with running the computer.

Applications may be [bundled](#) with the computer and its system software or published separately, and may be coded as [proprietary](#) or [open-source](#).

Top paid/proprietary apps for PCs and laptops

- [Office 365](#) – office applications from Microsoft
- [Adobe Creative Cloud](#) – everything Adobe
- [WinZip](#) – file archiver
- [Kaspersky Lab](#) – antivirus
- [Malwarebytes](#) (paid version) – malware detection

Top 10 'free' apps for PCs and laptops

- [LibreOffice](#) – office applications
- [Firefox](#) - browser
- [Google Chrome](#) - browser
- [VLC Player](#) – media player
- [GIMP](#) – photo editor
- [Adobe Reader](#) – PDF reader
- [7-Zip](#) – file archiver
- [Avira Free Antivirus](#) - antivirus
- [Malwarebytes](#) (free version) – malware detection
- [Skype](#) – video chat and voice call service (owned by Microsoft)

Top 10 'free' apps for tablets and smartphones

- [Color Note](#) – notepad
- [Google Mail](#) (Gmail) – e-mail
- [CamScanner](#) – document scanner
- [Google Maps](#) – GPS navigation
- [Google Hangouts](#) – Google chat and phone
- [Evernote](#) – cloud note-taking
- [Weather & Radar](#) (Morecast App) – weather
- [Pandora](#) – music
- [WiFi File Transfer](#) – file transfer via WiFi
- [GasBuddy](#) – cheap gas

- Another source: [Best Android apps of 2016](#) + [Ghostery](#)

Top 10 'free' apps for Chromebooks

- (Microsoft) [Office Online](#) – cloud based Office apps
- [Gmail Offline](#) – sync and read e-mail offline
- [Overdrive](#) – eBook and audio book reader
- [Evernote](#) – cloud note-taking
- [LastPass](#) – password manager
- [Kindle Cloud Reader](#) – eBook reader
- [Weatherbug](#) – weather
- [Pandora](#) – music
- [Polarr](#) – photo editor
- [VLC for Chrome OS](#) – media player

- Another source: [30 Best Chrome Apps](#)