

## **Recommended Utilities and Application Programs for Windows Computers, Rev. 8/2/2017.**

Prepared for members of the Lexington Computer and Technology Group. It's intended that this list will be reviewed perhaps twice a year, in meetings of our group, for changes to recommendations.

This collection is in Two Sections;

The first section is "**The Windows Secrets' Newsletter Ultimate Utilities List**," the editors' selection of the ten essential items of software they recommend be installed on every Windows p.c.

The second section is a continuation of the Windows' Secrets list, plus recommendations by our own members, grouped into application categories.

(Recommended Frequency of Use guidelines are given for the first few, and some of the other software).

Section One, the Windows Secrets' Ultimate Utilities list -

### **"When we set up a new Windows PC, here are the first ten utilities we install:"**

#### 1) An Anti-virus/Anti-malware program (of your choice).

"Note: Windows 10 comes with the capable, if not top-notch Windows Defender Anti-virus app.

Based on testing, Defender is generally good at finding known malware but is less capable at blocking zero-day threats.

If you're careful about your online and email-attachment activities, Defender should be sufficient.

But users who pay little or no attention to computing security really need a more-comprehensive, paid, third-party program/service." (quote from Windows Secrets' Editors)

As of now, Gary Patrick's Survey of Independent Lab Test Results for 2017 versions, reconsidered in June 2017, points to:

AVIRA Free as the best of the free Anti-virus programs;

Norton Security as the best choice of the paid programs.

Recommended Frequency of Use: In addition to having anti-virus detection running real-time, run a manually-initiated full scan about every two months, or sooner if your PC starts acting up or running unusually slowly. (Virus or malware infection is not the only possible cause of a PC slowdown; also consider item 13, below (Ccleaner), to remove file clutter from your p.c. ).

It is assumed that your anti-virus program is updating its detection-signatures automatically.

Now and then, your anti-virus program may notify you it needs a program update, and possibly a re-start of your computer to finish the update.

Comments from our Group members;

A vote for Kaspersky by Denise: "the best! no need for malwarebytes with Kaspersky."

A vote for Norton by Bob Eckert, from his years of experience reviving Windows computers, that it slows down a p.c. less than other AV programs (Eset, in particular).

#### 2) Malwarebytes Anti-Malware (free/paid) [http://www.malwarebytes.org/products/malwarebytes\\_free/](http://www.malwarebytes.org/products/malwarebytes_free/) (note there's an underscore before 'free/')

Use it for manually-initiated on-demand scans — a good practice for confirming that another AV product such as Defender hasn't missed something.

**Note:** Annoyingly, Malwarebytes' free download assumes you want to run the premium (full-time scanning) trial version that lasts 14 days.

To keep the free, on-demand edition, you have to go into the app's settings (My Account tab) and select the option to "Deactivate Premium Trial."

Actually, MalwareBytes is no longer in the Windows Secrets' List, "because its performance is not tested by any of the independent Anti-virus/Anti-malware evaluation labs. Apparently, Malware Bytes does not allow its app to be evaluated by independent third party organizations."

"As an alternative, Windows 10 Defender now includes an option to scan a PC offline, which gives the detection system a better chance of finding hidden malware." (quote from Windows Secrets)

Recommended Frequency of Use: In addition to having ONE anti-virus program running real-time, run a manually-initiated full scan with MalwareBytes about every two months, or sooner if your PC starts acting up or running unusually slowly. (Although malware is not the only possible cause of a PC slowdown).

Manually update the detection-signatures before running a full scan. (Usually, after you start MalwareBytes, it flags you if it needs an update, and presents an "Update" button).

**Some experts advocate running MalwareBytes in Windows Safe Mode rather than normal mode, to improve its chances of finding malware that might try to hide itself from MalwareBytes.** There's no harm in running MalwareBytes in normal mode first, and then try Safe Mode, if nothing was found.

How to enter Safe Mode:

Restart your Windows p.c. by "Start" "Shutdown" > "Restart" subchoice;

Early in the boot-up sequence, press the f8 key (applicable to Dell and many other machines)

A menu of startup choices appears; use the arrow keys to select Safe Mode, Enter.

3) An Alternative Web Browser vs. Microsoft Edge (Windows 10) or Internet Explorer (Windows 7-8.1); Windows Secrets' Newsletter editors - "Windows 10's new Edge browser is more secure than Internet Explorer, but it's still getting a high number of security fixes.

Edge is behind Chrome, Firefox, and other third-party browsers in usability, flexibility, and security."

User comments about the Edge Browser:

a) Bob Eckert complains that Edge doesn't provide for you to specify what web page to open if you open a new tab.

b) Peter Albin complains the Edge browser doesn't let him change the default search engine from Bing to Google – an open case with Microsoft Support – seems to be unique to Pauls machine configuration.

Note the availability of Browser Add-ons and Extensions, in Section 23a, below;  
such as Ad Blockers, Anti-tracking cookie management, and cookie removers.

4) Data File Backup and Storage:

Actually, this topic should discuss a whole category of file management capabilities, that are covered in numbered sections below. (But Windows Secrets has only data backup software in its Top Ten list).

a) data file backups, remotely on a third-party cloud server – see 4a) immediately below.

b) data file backups, locally, on your own external drive or network disk drive. Item 7;

c) file compression (to save space) and/or file encryption (for privacy): Item 5) and Item 23b);

d) disk drive image backups: Item 7), Windows own, and Item 24b), third-party software;

e) recovery of data files accidentally deleted, Item 18.

Recommended Frequency of Use: How often to make data backups and disk image backups is highly individualized. Back up your data files often enough so you would not be emotionally or functionally devastated by data files suddenly becoming inaccessible on your principal storage medium. This interval may be each day for some, or once a week, or less often, depending upon how many files you are creating and modifying per day, and how critical they are to reconstruct.

You should make a Windows drive image backup often enough to be able to recover your

Windows system in a recent-enough state, in case of hard disk failure, or a ransomware attack. (Instead of paying a ransom, one can restore the p.c. from the image backup).

Knowing that Windows OS Updates occur once a month, that's a good frequency, but intervals as long as a few months are okay, depending upon how frequently you are adding or changing application programs. Also bear in mind you are depending on image backups to capture your web browser bookmarks or "favorites," unless you have manually done so during data backups.

A pertinent point-in-time might be once-a-month, just before the second Tuesday, in case the Windows Update that month "breaks" something on your p.c. (older peripherals and drivers can be left in the lurch on occasion, by a Windows Update).

These imaging programs are not in the top ten utilities list by Windows Secrets, but are in Section Two, Item 24b).

4) continued: Windows Secrets' Ultimate Utilities list includes Cloud Storage (renting file storage space from a remote system provider) as their Item (4), and Windows' built-in File Backup capability (improved in Windows 8 and Windows 10 over previous versions) as their Item (7).

"4) Favorite Cloud Storage - Dropbox (<https://www.dropbox.com/>) - Store backup copies of your files on Dropbox's cloud server. 2 Gigabytes is provided free; 1 Terabyte for \$99/year, or \$9.99/month. Although Microsoft's OneDrive is included with Win10, Dropbox is still the better app/service for cloud storage, especially in a mixed-vendor (Microsoft, Apple, Google, Linux, etc.) environment." You can give access to your Dropbox files to other persons, for sharing photographs, etc.

Comments from our Group members:

"Rarely use Dropbox," and a vote for Carbonite for backup/restore, from Denise.

"Google Drive, and ExpanDrive to map multiple Google Drives," from Bob Eckert.

"I set up a daily backup to Dropbox for a web site for which I am responsible. No problems encountered in months of backups." from Carl Lazarus.

5) File Compression and or Encryption:

7-Zip (<http://www.7-zip.org/>), (free);

(Article ref: May 15, 2014, Top Story "Better data and boot security for Windows PCs.")

Recommendation for use:

combining multiple files into a single file for sending by email as an attachment.

saving data files in a secure format, not readable by a hacker.

AxCrypt for local file encryption, recommended by Bob Eckert.

(Also see Section Two, Item 23b) below for more encryption software).

6) A Password Manager (free/paid): As with Antivirus products, there's a wealth of good password-keeper choices; some examples: (also see Item 23h, below)

AgileBits' 1Password (paid) <https://agilebits.com/onepassword>

KeePass (free) <http://keepass.info/>

LastPass (free/paid) <http://lastpass.com/>

Siber Systems' RoboForm (free/paid) <http://www.roboform.com/>

Dashlane; <https://www.dashlane.com>, (recommended by Peter Albin – his comments:

"using the paid version (\$40) (although there is a free version);

share it on multiple devices; has plug-ins available for many browsers on multiple platforms;

has an "emergency" feature that allows access to users you select;

a complex password generator that will update "insecure" passwords."  
SplashID, splashid.com (free or paid Pro version) recommended by Bob Eckert, desktop & mobile.

7) Backup and restore (free): comments by Windows Secrets' Newsletter editors:

"Windows 10 includes a comprehensive and easy-to-use set of data-protection tools."

For example, if you have not set up File History, you should do so soon. For more info, see the October 15, 2015, Top Story, 'Best of breed: Win10's hybrid backup system'."

Windows built-in Backup and Restore software includes the ability to make disk drive images, too, to protect your whole Windows system and personally-added programs and files, but there are better alternatives for image backups and drive cloning – see Item 24b), below.

Continuing on the subject of data file backups, there are a number of third-party alternatives: some locally oriented, and some cloud-based backups.

Second Copy, secondcopy.com (\$29.95) advocated by Bob Eckert for automated data file backup.

Cobian Backup 11 Gravity (free) [www.cobiansoft.com](http://www.cobiansoft.com): advocated by Steve Isenberg: "I use it to do automatic backups of one directory to another. I use a USB stick and have Cobian back up documents and other important files on an hourly basis to the stick (it only copies the changed files) for example."

Note: some disk imaging backup programs make it possible to peek at or pull individual data files out of a drive image backup. It may require paid versions of Acronis True Image or Macrium Reflect, for example, to do this. See Section Two, Item 24b)

8) VideoLAN VLC media player (free) <http://www.videolan.org/index.html>:

Will play nearly any video format you're likely to see.

Windows 10 does not include a media player the way Windows 7 and 8 did.

Known users within our Group: Steve Isenberg, Bob Eckert, Carl Lazarus.

comment from Carl: "plays a DVD on your PC."

comment from Bob: "also allows recording of streaming video from lab cameras"

9) Notepad ++ (<https://notepad-plus-plus.org/download/v6.9.2.html>) (free; a powerful Windows Notepad alternative).

comment by Steve Isenberg: "You can edit several files at a time in tabs, switch between them. Exit and return, see the tabs you'd been working on. Colors the text meaningfully based on the type of file (extent). Becomes a right-click option for all files, interesting to see the text inside an executable (it lets you)."

Another choice: Textpad: <https://www.textpad.com>, \$27, one time - added by Peter Albin – his comment: "It has many extensions for viewing an extensive list of file formats that include color key word coding."

Ken Heyda brought forth the point that text files assure cross-platform compatibility.

10) Oracle VirtualBox (free): <https://www.virtualbox.org/wiki/Downloads>. For power users, the classic choice for creating virtual machines. (More choices in Item 23j, below). It's relatively easy to use and supports a wide variety of guest operating systems.

comment by Peter Albin - "I have used Oracle VirtualBox without incident.

It is a handy tool to install a virtual Oracle database for training. (Many Oracle courses have installable

modules that provide the hands-on portion of the training in an off-line environment).

Charly Sestokas voiced a reminder that your p.c. hardware needs to be compatible with the O.S. you want to run, even inside a virtual machine. For example, it's unlikely you could run Windows XP in VirtualBox on a machine designed to run Windows 10.

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Section Two: **Additional recommended utility programs**, from the Windows Secrets Ultimate Utilities List, and from our own members.

11) Data File Managers:

Advanced Renamer: a program for renaming multiple files and folders at once.

Useful for organising digital pictures or MP3 music files, for both professionals and beginners.

recommended by Al Sherman. <https://www.advancedrenamer.com/>

12) PDF document file managers As noted, some of them view and manage printing of PDF's, others offer document changes or commenting, and the most capable can create a PDF document.

Note: Windows 10 includes the ability to create PDF documents, BUT, it can only produce screen-readable files! You need a third party app program to generate a high quality printed PDF.

There may be a free download from Microsoft that adds that capability to MS Office.

12a) Foxit Reader, recommended by Steve Isenberg: "I like that I can have several open in tabs in the program (not a one-at-a-time) and switch from one to the other."

Foxit Reader can create a PDF.

12b) PDF Redirect (<http://www.exp-systems.com/PDFreDirect/Downloads.htm?1>)

also recommended by Steve Isenberg: "works as a printer on your machine, to produce PDF files."

12c) PDF Architect for editing / combining PDF's, recommended by Bob Eckert.

12d) PDF creator for creating PDF's, recommended by Bob Eckert.

12e) PDF SPLIT and Merge, (free) <http://www.pdfsam.org/>, recommended by Al Sherman.

12f) GreenPrint (paid - \$19) can cherry-pick what actually gets printed of a PDF.

12g) Nitro Pro (free trial/paid; PDF creator) (selected by Windows Secrets)

12h) Pdfcrowd (free/paid; webpage-to-PDF conversion) (selected by Windows Secrets)

12j) SlimPDF Reader (free) just the basics - read, print, and search for words and phrases.

12k) Scribus (free): a desktop publishing application that can create PDF documents – even animated and interactive, but still more broadly, Scribus is designed for layout, typesetting, and preparation of files for professional-quality image-setting equipment. - added by G. Gamota.

Wikipedia provides a comprehensive classification of various PDF programs available.

Windows Secrets provides a review of 11a, 11f, 11g, and 11j in its 6/13/2017 issue.

14) Piriform CCleaner (free/paid; diagnostics and repair): <http://www.piriform.com/CCLEANER>

**Note**: CCleaner is on alert for use in Windows 10, because of a conflict with Windows Defender, that has a workaround: "In the "Cleaner" section, under the "Applications" tab, in "Utilities," uncheck the checkbox for "Windows Defender," before running "Analyse" or "Clean."

Explanation: If enabled (checked), this option deletes Windows Defender's history and logs.

Defender uses these local records to determine when it last scanned your PC and when it should scan again. If the records are gone, Defender assumes it has never run and issues

frequent "need to scan" notifications. [Piriform should remove this function from CCleaner]."

Comment from Beryl Rodewald: "an out of date version doesn't work in Windows 10; having difficulty finding how to install the latest."

15) Privacy Badger (free); spyware and tracking blocker – installs as a browser extension in Chrome or Firefox. <https://www.eff.org/privacybadger>, not available for Internet Explorer. >continued

A project of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, it blocks spy ads and hidden trackers.  
(Article ref: Oct. 23, 2014, Windows Secrets "On Security" column for more info.)

16) DuckDuckGo: <https://duckduckgo.com/about> (free; private searches – no tracking, no ads, and doesn't collect personal information):  
Launch it in place of Google Search, Bing Search, or Yahoo Search, etc.  
comment by Peter Albin - "use it on my phone in Safari. In general I have been pleased with the results. As you probably know the key feature of this search engine is they claim to not track you."

17) Free Screen Recorder (part of the Windows Secrets' List)  
(<http://www.dvdvideosoftware.com/products/dvd/Free-Screen-Video-Recorder.htm>)

Small icons let you capture or record the full desktop, a window, or a region — especially useful with multi-monitor setups. A simple Options window lets you record screen activity with or without audio.

You can, for example, pull audio out of a video and save it as a separate file. You can also transfer files from one video format to another and — in theory — remove the audio track.

You can also quickly set video type and quality plus output folder.

Other options include image type, file-naming structure, and language.

Can download a YouTube video as an MP4 file.

Note, however, as with all freeware products, you need to watch carefully for potentially unwanted program (PUP) offers during the installation process. Malwarebytes and other AV apps will probably flag these; the offers aren't malware, but they are annoying. The installer pops up a window titled "Install Additional Software." Rejecting these offers is a bit tricky: you must click the link to "customize the installation" and then uncheck the "Install [application]" checkbox (see Figure 1).

Once the video recorder is installed, you'll probably want to go into its settings and turn off automatic launching on Windows boot. (It's not a tool most of us will use every day.)

18) Piriform Recuva, a deleted-file recovery tool (free, or paid Pro edition, \$19.95)  
(featured in Windows Secrets NL July 13, 2017)

If you can get to a deleted file before it's overwritten, you can often recover either the entire file or at least a good portion of it.

Works on hard disk drives, USB external drives, and SD memory chips.

The advantage of installing it on a portable device instead of your hard drive is that the program won't potentially overwrite the deleted files on your hard disk, giving you a better chance at successfully restoring them.

If you want to have it on your hard drive, it's a good idea to install it before you need it.

Recuva provides a Wizard for using it, by which you tell it where to look. Advanced mode enables one to search filenames including wildcards.

Other undelete programs you may want to consider (Windows Secrets suggestions, are:

[Active UnEraser from LSoft Technologies](#),

[Glary Undelete from Glarysoft](#), and

[Puran File Recovery from Puran Software](#).)

19) Productivity Programs in use by our Group members'

19a) Word Processing, Spreadsheet, Visual Aid Slides, etc.

Microsoft Office – Bob Eckert, and many others.

LibreOffice Suite (free) – Gary Patrick, Peter Albin

19b) Financial Management:

Quicken

19c) Informed Delivery Notification for U.S. Mail (contributed by Al Sherman, 7/11/17:

Look for a link to it on <https://www.usps.com/> or go directly to:

<https://informedelivery.usps.com/box/pages/intro/start.action>. Apparently it tells you when your postal carrier has stopped at your box each day.

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20) **Handy Utilities that are built into Windows** (outside of the Windows Secrets' List)

Calculator

Magnifier

Snipping Tool: click and drag to define an area of your display to copy & save;

but Windows Secrets recommends TechSmith Snagit (free trial/paid; screen capture)

Task Manager (Performance tab shows how much memory and processing time is in use).

Sound Recorder

(and Speech Recognition, linked to Microsoft Office, and even to Wordpad.)

Sticky Notes

System Tools (including Disk Cleanup, Defragmenter, etc.)

Windows Built-in Backup & Recovery (item 7 above in this list)

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## 21) **Additional General Utilities:** (now we're back to the Windows Secrets' List again)

All of this subgroup are for more advanced PC maintenance & monitoring.

Mythicsoft Agent Ransack (free); File search software that is more highly targeted and customizable than Windows Explorer searches.

TechSmith KeyFinder (free/paid; product-key retrieval)

LapLink PCmover (paid; system transfers)

TeamViewer (free trial/paid; remote access/control)

Known users within our Group: Steve Isenberg, Al Sherman,

Jam TreeSize Free (free/paid); file size map of your p.c.;

Run this from within your Administrator log-in account, if you want to see all detail of the C: drive. strongly recommended by Steve Isenberg: " Easy to see what's in different directories, and which are taking up the most space." Also recommended by Paul Lewis, long ago.

Belarc Adviser: inventories the programs and version on your PC, (added by George Gamota)

## 22) **Entertainment related**

### 22a) Image editing applications:

Adobe CC Photography (subscription): Lightroom and Photoshop for advanced photographers.

Lightroom is excellent for working with RAW images.

Photoshop, users in our Group: Denise

GIMP (free) Image editor

Google Photos (free) photo management and editing in the cloud – recomm. by George Gamota  
supercedes Picasa 3 & 4, that ran locally on your PC.

comment by Gary Patrick: "Picasa had the most natural looking red-eye reduction."

Greenshot (free; screen-capture tool)

Irfanview (free photo editing utility) recommended by Al Sherman.

Movie Maker – added by George Gamota.

Paint.NET (free)

PhotoFiltre (free)

Sony Vegas (video editing) recommended by Steve Isenberg

### 22b) Audio track editing:

Audacity: audio track editing (free) – added by George Gamota.

Mp3tag (free; music metatag editor)

WaveShop (free) audio track editing, recommended by Gary Patrick.

### 22c) Games

<https://greenfelt.net/freecell> and

<http://www.jigzone.com/puzzles/daily-jigsaw> both recommended by Al Sherman.

## 23) **A Long list of security tools:**

### 23a) Browser add-ons and security helpers

Adblock Plus (free) – A classic tool for blocking ads, trackers, popups, and so forth. Versions for all major browsers.

Disconnect (free/paid) – Blocks tracking sites; versions for all major browsers except IE. Android, iOS, OS X, and Windows versions.

Codefocus [Donotlink](#) (free) – Allows you to link to suspect sites without elevating their Google rankings.

(See the Aug. 28, 2014, LangaList item, “Free service prevents skewed search results.”)

[Ghostery](#) (free for personal use) – User-controlled tracking and site blocking. Versions for major browsers plus Android and iOS.

[NoScript](#) (free; Firefox only) – Blocks JavaScript, Java, Adobe Flash, and other plugins unless you specifically allow them.

Ove [Self-Destructing Cookies](#) (free; Firefox) – Automatically removes cookies and trackers; lets you add trusted sites to a whitelist.

### 23b) [Encryption](#)

[Boxcryptor](#) (free/paid) – File-based encryption; versions for Android, iOS, OS X, and Windows.

IDRIX [VeraCrypt](#) (free) – The successor to the popular but now defunct TrueCrypt.

Creates encrypted devices, volumes, and containers.

Reads TrueCrypt volumes/containers.

[7-Zip](#) (free) - in the top ten list above.

### 23c) [Firewall checkers](#)

HackerWatch [Probe](#) (free)

[ShieldsUP](#) (Gibson Research Corporation; free)

### 23d) [Networking Tools](#)

[Wireshark](#) (free), a classic network sniffer.

This site also includes other worthy networking tools.

Metageek [inSSIDer](#) (free) – Wi-Fi analysis tool

### 23e) [On demand antivirus scanners](#)

Microsoft Windows Defender Offline (free)

the Windows 10 version is included in Windows 10.

Microsoft Malicious Software Removal Tool (free)

Microsoft Safety Scanner (free)

ESET [Online Virus Scanner](#) (free)

Trend Micro [HouseCall](#) (free)

[Quttera Free Online Website Malware Scanner](#)

### 23f) [Online password checkers](#)

How secure is my password? (free)

How big is your haystack? (Gibson Research Corporation; free)

Password Meter (free)

Microsoft Safety & Security Center page (free)

### 23g) [Password recovery](#)

Use the ResetPassword page for your online MS account.

### 23h) [Password vaults](#) (all covered in item 6 above)

AgileBits 1Password (paid)

Dashlane (free)

LastPass (free/paid)  
KeePass (free) – open-source  
Siber Systems RoboForm (free/paid)

23j) Virtual Private Networks. (Also see Item 10, above)  
Betternet (free) – consumer-based VPN service  
CyberGhost (free/paid)

24) **Diagnostics and repair** (I moved this down from its actual position in Windows Secrets' List, because these utilities are for advanced users.)

24a) Hard drive utilities, for p.c. tuneup, and disk drive partitioning:

PassMark DiskCheckup (free/paid)  
Paragon Hard Disk Manager (paid)  
EFD Software HD Tune (free/paid)  
Paragon Alignment Tool (paid), tunes the timing of hard disk reads/writes for faster access  
Paragon Partition Manager (free/paid); create and manage partitions on your drives.  
EaseUS Partition Master (free/paid); create and manage partitions on your drives.

24b) Hard disk drive Imaging and Cloning programs

Acronis True Image (paid) - back up drive images, and cloning a hard drive,  
recommended by Bob Eckert.  
Macrium Reflect (free or paid) – back up drive images; and cloning a hard drive (paid version req'd)  
Paragon Drive Copy Pro (paid)

24c) Temperature monitoring of your p.c. processor:

Softpedia CoreTemp (free)  
Softpedia MobileMeter (free)  
SpeedFan (free)

24d) Network and Peripheral Device Tracking:

Nirsoft USBDeview (free); lists all USB devices that currently connected to your computer, as well as all USB devices that you previously used. <http://www.nirsoft.net/utills/>

25) Advanced security tools and sites

Microsoft Autoruns (free) – An excellent tool for finding out what's starting automatically in Windows. (For more info, see the Jan. 20, 2016, Best Utilities story, "Revisiting MS TechNet's updated Autoruns utility.")

Microsoft EMET (free) – Helps protect Windows PCs from new attacks by blocking suspect activities. Installs with several default defenses, but often needs user customization. Designed primarily for the enterprise, but can be use on standalone system, too. (For more on EMET see the Sept. 25, 2014, Top Story, "Enhance Windows' online security with EMET 5.")

Microsoft Process Explorer (free) – Great for finding potentially malicious processes. (For more info, see the Feb. 12, 2015, Best Utilities story, "A tour through Windows Process Explorer: Part 2.")

HiJackthis (free) – A classic tool for finding potential malware activity on Windows systems. Barebones, its

reports can be difficult to decipher, and clicking the wrong entry could damage your OS.

Malwr (free) – A malware reporting and listing community

Virus Tracker (free) – Lets you enter a suspect IP address and see whether the site is known to host malware. Alternatives include CSI: Websense, IP Void, MX Toolbox, robotex, Sucuri, urlQuery, and many others.

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**Reference:** The Windows Secrets' Newsletter Recommendations list is presented in its entirety in Issue #519, 2/01/2016, with an update 12/20/2016 considering Windows 10. Additional Apps well thought of by Lexington Computer Group members have been added, to complete the total list you see above.

Some programs that were in previous editions of the Ultimate Utilities List, and were dropped are:

Secunia Personal Software Inspector (free; application updating service, that checks the revision level of your Windows System, your web browser(s), and hundreds of Windows application programs. It warns when your software is out of date, and can install updates if configured to do so) [http://secunia.com/vulnerability\\_scanning/personal/](http://secunia.com/vulnerability_scanning/personal/) dropped because it operates very slowly.

#### **Appendix:**

1) If you have a Google Docs login, Al Sherman recommends another list to look at: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EOMSdHgmU0T\\_fkrUBjEzEvT6rZU1OklaDay7YPiEW1I](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EOMSdHgmU0T_fkrUBjEzEvT6rZU1OklaDay7YPiEW1I)

[end, Gary Patrick, editor, 8/02/2017]