

Freeware Procedures

*My procedures for
checking out new freeware
applications.*

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This session will be about how I check out new freeware for my own use.

You do not necessarily, and probably won't, use all the things mentioned in the slide show, but you should use the same basic procedures.

This slideshow will just outline the main points, and afterwards I will go more in depth.

What We Will Cover

- I – Testing & Safety
- II – Sources
- III – Organization of Information
- IV – Questions

There are three major topics to be covered.

In order of importance to me:

Testing and Safety – even though you would think that this should be the last in order, I think it is the most important.

Sources – This will cover where I discover new freeware, including webapps, of interest.

Organization of Information – this covers how I organize information from sources, as well as information found during the Testing and Safety research.

Questions – I am open to questions relevant to the topic being talked about at any time, but this section is for overall questions upon completion of the slideshow, if any.

Testing and Safety

- Research through trusted forums
- Google application name
- Scan when downloaded with multiple Anti-Virus/Malware scanners
- Run sandboxed (Sandboxie) until satisfied with safety

In no particular order of importance, I follow these procedures when considering new freeware.

There are some forums, RSS feeds and websites that I use to vet new freeware before using.

I Google the freeware application's name, for anything in the last month, and read about it, if I see one of my trusted sites, I definitely take into account their positive or negative thoughts.

Very importantly, I always scan the downloaded file with my installed Anti-Virus/Anti-Malware software, as well as stand alone similar software until satisfied it is clean.

After the scans, I run the application sandboxed, using Sandboxie, basically a virtual machine, to isolate it from my operating system, just in case.

Sources

- Feeds
- Websites
- Download Sites
- Magazine Articles
- Newspaper Articles
- Word of Mouth

I get my ideas of new freeware to try out from RSS feeds, Websites, Download Sites, magazines, newspaper articles, word of mouth, in fact from anywhere the subject turns up.

If it seems like something I might use, or replace something I currently use for more functionality, I research it, download it, test it, and use it, if it suits my purposes.

Organization

- Delicious Bookmarks
- Notes in Evernote

When I am researching new freeware, I use a combination of delicious.com and Evernote (free web version, and installed version synched with web).

Both of these are organized with tags.

Links

- Testing & Safety
 - <http://www.google.com/>
 - <http://www.sandboxie.com/>
- Sources
 - <http://www.google.com/reader>
- Organization
 - <http://www.evernote.com/>
 - <http://delicious.com/>

These links are for sites referenced in this slideshow and are in no way comprehensive. I will be adding links to a special page on the blog as we go along.

Questions?

- [Click to add an outline](#)

Contact Information

- E-Mail

- Be sure to start the subject line with either BRCS or SIG, so I know what it pertains to.
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- Blog

- <http://brcsfreewaresig.blogspot.com/>
- For other blogs social networking, etc.
- <http://card.ly/sefcug>

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