

# HANDPICKED SOFTWARE FOR MAC OS X

THE BEST NEW  
FREEWARE, SHAREWARE, AND  
COMMERCIAL SOFTWARE  
FOR MAC OS X

ROBERT ELLIS



# Handpicked Software for Mac OS X

Robert Ellis

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# README

## HOW I HANDPICKED THE SOFTWARE

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The selection of software in this book is completely subjective. I would consider myself a fairly typical Mac user, but your choices might be very different. If there are some conspicuous gaps in my selections, it may be because a company did not respond to my request to be included (or OS X-compatible versions of their software were not available at press time).

I considered five criteria in selecting the software: First, I considered only software that runs natively under **OS X**. Second, I considered **value**. If I found a freeware or shareware application that did the job as well (or better) than a commercial application, I gave the freeware application preference. Third, I looked at **design**. I included some things because they are excellent examples of software design, or early examples of what will come as more software is developed in Cocoa (OmniWeb and Okido Composer, for example). Fourth, I looked at **utility**. Some things do only one thing, but it's an important thing (SpamStopper is a good example). And fifth, I wanted to give you a **choice**. In Imaging & 3D, for example, there are so many good applications that it's presumptuous to pick a "best." What's best for me may not be best for you, depending on your needs, your experience, your budget, and probably a few other factors that are more or less important to each of us. I tried to include some of the standards from the leading publishers (like Adobe, Corel, and Deneba), and some innovative alternatives (TIFFany and Stone Studio are great examples).

I expect this book will primarily be of interest to people who are new to the Mac or new to OS X. I'm also assuming that you know the basics of operating your Mac and OS X, but just in case you're looking for some help, see the *Recommended Reading* beginning on page 165 for some books that I've found useful in my own transition to OS X.

## ABOUT THE CD

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For a complete list of what's included on the CD, see the Index on page 167.

Complete instructions for using the CD are provided on the CD. Please read them carefully.

Some versions on the CD are later than the versions I reviewed, which is why I haven't listed version numbers in the book. There may be new features or changes to the interface in several applications, developments that won't be noted in these reviews. Be sure to read the readme files closely.

## **DISCLAIMER**

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I have personally tested everything on the CD, but that's no guarantee that you'll have the same enjoyable experiences I've had. Your configuration may be very different from mine. Note that some of the software included on the CD is beta software, still in active development. You can check the Futurocity Web site at [www.futurocity.com](http://www.futurocity.com) for links to the latest updates.

**Please be advised that I can't offer any support for the software on the CD, and you use it at your own risk.** Read the disclaimers that accompany each application.

## **FREWARE AND SHAREWARE**

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There's freeware and then there's shareware. Shareware isn't free. Encourage and support software innovation. If you like the shareware on the CD-ROM, please pay the developer (see the readme files for information).

## **TALK TO ME**

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Let me know what you think about this book. Send me your corrections and/or comments to [robert@futurocity.com](mailto:robert@futurocity.com). And check the Web site at [www.futurocity.com](http://www.futurocity.com) for links to all of the software, any corrections, and current picks.