

# **NET & NETWORKING**

# BOOKIT

## WHO ?

EVERYDAY SOFTWARE

## WHAT ?

BOOKMARK MANAGER

## WHERE ?

[HOMEPAGE.MAC.COM/EVERYDAY/INDEX.HTML](http://HOMEPAGE.MAC.COM/EVERYDAY/INDEX.HTML)

## HOW MUCH ?

\$12.00

## WHAT ELSE ?

If you like to use different browsers, or find yourself switching from one browser to another as you try to keep up with the browser wars, your bookmarks can become scattered among several different applications. Bookit helps you keep your bookmarks synchronized between all of your browsers. It reads bookmark files from five different browsers: iCab, Internet Explorer, Netscape, OmniWeb, and Opera.

To use Bookit, you specify which bookmark files you want Bookit to import into an edit window. You can edit and organize all of your bookmarks, then write an edited file to any of the supported browsers. Bookit can also create a backup of your bookmarks, so you can restore them if you don't like the changes you've made.

## SO WHAT ?

If you use more than one browser, Bookit is a handy tool for keeping your bookmarks synchronized.

# BRICKHOUSE

## WHO ?

BRIAN HILL

## WHAT ?

FIREWALL

## WHERE ?

PERSONALPAGES.TDS.NET/~BRIAN\_HILL/INDEX.HTML

## HOW MUCH ?

\$25.00

## WHAT ELSE ?

BrickHouse is a graphical front-end to the network traffic filter—or firewall—that hides within OS X. A firewall keeps your computer secure from being accessed by unauthorized users when connected to a network. OS X includes the software to protect you, but to be effective you must configure it properly. The only way to do that without an application like BrickHouse is to open Terminal and get under the hood where you can tinker with OS X's Unix underbelly. As Brian Hill says in his description of BrickHouse, "My mom isn't going to be able to do this."

Fortunately, BrickHouse makes it easy. When you first launch BrickHouse, a Setup Assistant greets you. After selecting the connection you want to configure (DSL or Cable Ethernet, Dialup, DSL or Cable PPPoE, or Airport), you move to a Quick Configuration window where you can select more advanced options. BrickHouse allows you to create outgoing or incoming filters to allow or deny traffic from a specific source or to a specific destination, or to use a default configuration that is suitable for most home users. If you have more than one computer sharing an Internet connection, you can also set up IP sharing. After you've set up your firewall, you can use BrickHouse's Firewall Monitor to see how often a service attempts to connect to your computer.

## SO WHAT ?

You shouldn't be connected to the Internet without some protection from intruders. BrickHouse takes the pain out of setting up a firewall, at a very reasonable price.

# CAPTAIN FTP

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**WHO ?**

XNET COMMUNICATIONS

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**WHAT ?**

FTP CLIENT

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**WHERE ?**

CAPTAIN-FTP.XDSNET.DE

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**HOW MUCH ?**

FREE

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**WHAT ELSE ?**

Captain FTP is a simple, easy to use FTP client. Transferring files is as simple as drag and drop. Navigation is straightforward with Captain FTP's Finder-like Session window. You can connect to a server using Quick Connect (just enter the host name, user name, and password), or connect from a bookmark in your user list, where you can edit various session parameters (such as specifying the default remote directory).

Captain FTP allows you to have multiple sessions running, so you can connect to different servers and have simultaneous transfers going. If a transfer is interrupted, you can resume the download where you left off. You can also perform basic manipulations to files and folders, such as copying, renaming, creating, and deleting them.

If you're familiar with FTP clients, Captain FTP allows you to dive right in. If you need some help, a PDF manual explains everything.

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**SO WHAT ?**

Captain FTP makes file transfers a breeze.

# FIRE

## WHO ?

EPICWARE

## WHAT ?

MULTIPLATFORM CHAT CLIENT

## WHERE ?

WWW.EPICWARE.COM

## HOW MUCH ?

FREE

## WHAT ELSE ?

Fire allows you to access six chat services (AOL Instant Messenger, ICQ, IRC, Jabber, MSN Messenger, and Yahoo! Messenger) through one simple window.

Fire has a refined interface that pays attention to detail (like a Dock icon that tells you how many Buddies are connected), and offers a full palette of preferences and added features. For example, you can customize the toolbar in the chat windows, adding and deleting icons, just like a Finder toolbar. You can save the current session to a file, and Fire can automatically save transcripts of your conversations.

Fire also includes some features you won't find in other chat services, like GPG support, which allows you to send and receive encrypted messages during your cyber trysts, and translation of messages into French, Spanish, German, Italian, or Portuguese. You can pretend you're French and Fire will instantly translate your sweetheart's "I love you" into "J'taime". Fire can also speak your messages and notifications. It can be a bit startling to have your computer suddenly talking to you, but it certainly gets your attention.

## SO WHAT ?

Fire is a full-featured, multiplatform chat client that gets better with every version. If you use several chat services, Fire will help keep the clutter on your desktop to a minimum.

# LIMEWIRE

## WHO ?

LIMEWIRE

## WHAT ?

GNUTELLA CLIENT

## WHERE ?

WWW.LIMEWIRE.COM

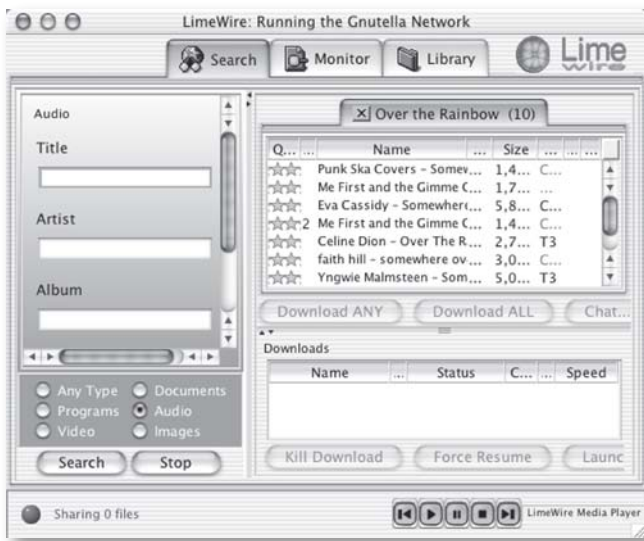
## HOW MUCH ?

\$8.50 PRO, FREE FOR BASIC VERSION

## WHAT ELSE ?

LimeWire is a client for the Gnutella peer-to-peer file-sharing network. LimeWire allows you find and share just about any kind of file (documents, software programs, audio, video, and image files) with anyone else on the Gnutella network.

LimeWire is a Java application. When you launch it, a tabbed browser window opens. A Search tab shows any searches and downloads you have going, a Monitor tab monitors incoming searches, a Connections tab lists connected hosts, and a Library tab gives you access to downloaded (and incomplete) files.



Searching is easy. Just enter some keywords and select the kind of file you're looking for (or select Any Type). You can do advanced searches for audio or video files, specifying numerous search criteria, including title, artist, album, genre, type and bitrate, and more.

LimeWire has built-in chat, so you can send instant messages to someone who shares your taste for downtempo deep house future lounge ambient grooves. You can also select your favorite song or movie and click the Buy button to be connected to Amazon (although because of the arbitrary way songs are sometimes listed in LimeWire, the link to Amazon usually gives you the message that Amazon can't find what you're looking for).

If LimeWire finds multiple copies of the file you're looking for, select Download Any and LimeWire will cycle through the available files until it finds the fastest copy it can successfully download, saving you time. You can also select multiple files and download them simultaneously (the number of downloads is only limited by your bandwidth). Once a file has begun to download, you can launch the file in an appropriate application. For example, you can listen to MP3 files while the download is in progress.

LimeWire allows you to set numerous options to control searching, file sharing, firewalls, and a several other preferences. LimeWire also gives you the option of shutting down after transfers are complete, so you can start a batch download and leave your computer unattended.

## **SO WHAT ?**

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There are numerous Gnutella clients available for OS X, but good luck getting them to work. LimeWire X is the most reliable client I've found, and while the Basic version does the trick, the Pro version is well worth the modest price.

# NET MONITOR

**WHO ?**

GUY MEYER

**WHAT ?**

NETWORK MONITOR

**WHERE ?**[HOMEPAGE.MAC.COM/ROMINAR/NET.HTML](http://HOMEPAGE.MAC.COM/ROMINAR/NET.HTML)**HOW MUCH ?**

FREE

**WHAT ELSE ?**

Net Monitor displays information about the throughput of your network interfaces (Ethernet, Internal Modem, etc.). You can display a graph of your network activity in a floating window, or in the Dock or from the menu bar. If you select the menu bar option, you can also display the information as text or as Lights. The display is highly customizable, including the size, colors, grid, alignment, transparency, and whether to display transmit information only, receive only, or both. You can also adjust the update interval.

**SO WHAT ?**

Net Monitor is a simple application with a simple purpose, and it fulfills that purpose elegantly. If you want an informative, readable, customizable monitor of your networking activity, this is the one to get.

# OMNIWEB

## WHO ?

THE OMNI GROUP

## WHAT ?

WEB BROWSER

## WHERE ?

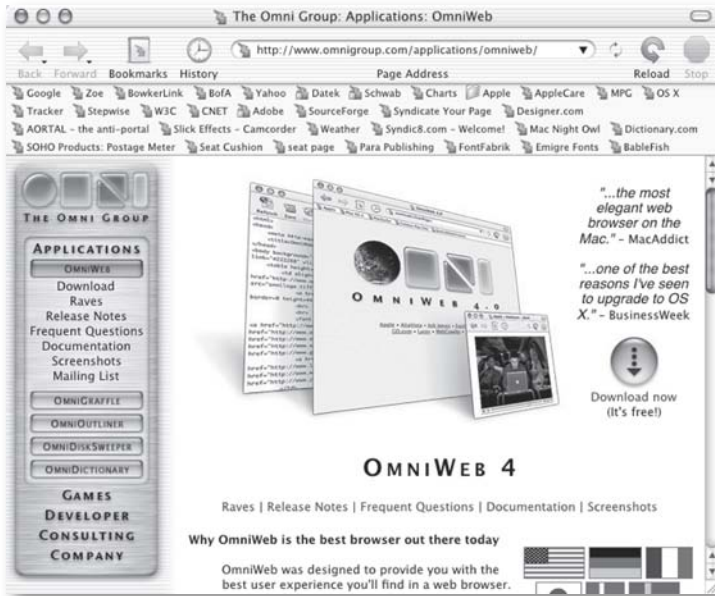
WWW.OMNIGROUP.COM

## HOW MUCH ?

\$29.95

## WHAT ELSE ?

OmniWeb is a full-featured Web browser with an Aqua interface and some nice extras not found in other browsers. It's an ideal alternative to Microsoft's Internet Explorer, written in Cocoa to run natively in OS X (IE is a Carbon application).



OmniWeb has some great features. You can set OmniWeb to check for new content automatically, or to filter dead bookmarks. OmniWeb uses the Quartz

graphics layer to smooth fonts, making OmniWeb one of the most pleasurable browsers to look at.

You can set numerous preferences, including AutoFill for forms, font smoothing, how many times to play animations on a page (stop those annoying ads), adding your own shortcuts (for example, typing “?” could open your favorite search engine). One of my favorite features is the ability to block specific sites (block those irritating pop-up ads!), or to block images that match the standard size for ads or aren't from the site you're browsing.

### **SO WHAT ?**

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While no browser is perfect, OmniWeb may be the best browser for OS X. A beautiful interface and gorgeous display make it the perfect alternative to Internet Explorer.

# POWERMAIL

## **WHO ?**

CTM DEVELOPMENT

## **WHAT ?**

EMAIL CLIENT

## **WHERE ?**

WWW.CTMDEV.COM

## **HOW MUCH ?**

\$49

## **WHAT ELSE ?**

PowerMail supports common email protocols, including POP3, SMTP, and IMAP (the default protocol for OS X Mail). The Address Book supports groups, individual contacts can have multiple email addresses, and you can sort contacts into folders. You can create schedules for automatic retrieval and set up filters based on any column of a folder. Create multiple signatures to choose from or have PowerMail select them at random.

Migrating from another email client to PowerMail is painless. Using the Import Assistant, you can copy your messages and addresses from many popular email programs, including Mac OS X Mail, Microsoft Entourage, Outlook Express, Claris EMailer and Netscape Communicator 4.x.

PowerMail uses Sherlock technology for searching, and it's fast. You have to create an index first, but you can set PowerMail to index messages automatically. After searching, PowerMail displays the results in a browser window with a preview pane, and results are sorted by relevance.

## **SO WHAT ?**

**Easy importing and fast searching make PowerMail the perfect upgrade from OS X's Mail application.**

# SLASHDOCK

## WHO ?

STAS PIETRUCHA

## WHAT ?

NEWS GRABBER

## WHERE ?

HOMEPAGE.MAC.COM/STAS/SLASHDOCK.HTML

## HOW MUCH ?

FREE

## WHAT ELSE ?

SlashDock grabs headlines from Web sites and displays them in a dock menu. When new headlines arrive, the icon flashes. You can browse the headlines in the dock menu. Selecting one that interests you opens your default Web browser and takes you to the site.

SlashDock comes with several popular Apple-related Web sites preconfigured: slashdot.org, macslash.com, macrumors.com, kuro5hin.org, macosxhints.com, and macosxapps.com. You can also add your favorites by entering a URL in a Sites Preferences pane. SlashDock will attempt to configure the site for you, or you can edit the settings manually (including the refresh rate).

To add a site to SlashDock it must be compatible with Slashdot or RSS (Rich Site Summary). The author's Web site gives instructions on how to configure SlashDock, and provides links to other sites where you can learn about the formats and find lists of compatible sites. There are hundreds of sites available, covering just about any interest you can imagine.

SlashDock is an easy way to stay on top of the latest Apple news (or news from your favorite compatible Web site), and it's got a nifty icon with a clever tag line: "Think Nerd."

## SO WHAT ?

Why waste time surfing when SlashDock can put the shortcuts to what you're looking for in a Dock icon menu?

# SOCKHOEASYFIND

## WHO ?

SOCKHO SOFTWARE

## WHAT ?

NET SEARCH TOOL

## WHERE ?

[WWW.SOCKHO-SOFTWARE.COM/ENGLISH/INDEX.HTML](http://WWW.SOCKHO-SOFTWARE.COM/ENGLISH/INDEX.HTML)

## HOW MUCH ?

\$9.95

## WHAT ELSE ?

SockhoEasyFind (not to be confused with EasyFind, see page 135), is a tiny utility to help speed your Internet searches by giving you quick access to as many as six popular search engines simultaneously: Yahoo, Google, Google Groups, AltaVista, Lycos, and Excite.



SockhoEasyFind installs as a skinable "remote control" window (several skins are included), which slides almost out of view when not in use (it minimizes to a small tab which you can arrange anywhere on the left or right side of your screen), and as a Service. To search using SockhoEasyFind, just click in the remote control and type what you're looking for, or highlight some text in any native OS X application and select SockhoEasyFind from the Services menu. SockhoEasyFind will open your default browser and display tabs for any search engines you've checked in the Preferences.

Note that SockhoEasyFind requires a browser that supports JavaScript and DHTML. It will work with Internet Explorer; but not OmniWeb (at least as the time of this writing).

## SO WHAT ?

SockhoEasyFind is an inconspicuous and elegant little app, and provides a quick shortcut to the most popular search engines.

# SPAMSTOPPER

## WHO ?

RAILHEAD DESIGN

## WHAT ?

EMAIL ADDRESS ENCODER

## WHERE ?

WWW.RAILHEADDESIGN.COM

## HOW MUCH ?

FREE

## WHAT ELSE ?

RAILhead describes SpamStopper as “a simple tool to aid in the fight against those lame, scum-sucking, infuriating, petty, low-life, piece-of-crap, waste-of-my-time, ‘beings’ that use up the Free World’s oxygen.” Personally, I think they’re being too kind.

SpamStopper is designed to do one thing, and it does it well. What SpamStopper thankfully does so well is this: it encodes the text of your email address to conceal it from Spam harvesting spiders. Your email address appears normal to the average reader, and any links continue to work, but spiders will ignore it.

SpamStopper couldn’t be easier to use. Enter your email address and the link display text in the SpamStopper window. Then, click the Convert button. SpamStopper spits out your encoded address, ready to be cut and paste into your Web pages.

SpamStopper works by converting the letters in your address to their ASCII values. Every letter and punctuation mark has an ASCII value, a string of numbers that represent that character. SpamStopper converts your name@domain to something that looks like complete gibberish: &#110;&#97;&#109;&#101;&#64;&#100;&#111;&#109;&#97;&#105;&#110;&#46;&#99;&#111;&#109;. Spiders won’t recognize it and will spin their Web somewhere else.

## SO WHAT ?

**If you have a Web site that includes your email address, you need SpamStopper.**

# STREAMCATCHER

## WHO ?

BOMBICH SOFTWARE

## WHAT ?

STREAMING AUDIO CATCHER

## WHERE ?

WWW.BOMBICH.COM

## HOW MUCH ?

FREE

## WHAT ELSE ?

StreamCatcher lets you listen to your favorite streaming music and record it at the same time. Actually, StreamCatcher is nothing more than a pretty face for a command-line-only Unix application called streamripper. You probably don't want to go messing around with a command line just to enjoy your favorite music, so StreamCatcher is pretty nifty.

StreamCatcher is incredibly simple to use. When you launch the program the StreamCatcher window displays a drop menu for what site to catch (Tag's Trance Trip is the default, but that's just so you won't have an empty menu to start with). You can easily add more stations to the menu by clicking the Edit button, or by dragging a radio station from the iTunes window onto your desktop, and then dropping it on the StreamCatcher Dock icon. Set the directory where you want to save your streams, and hit the Record button.

To listen to your music while you're recording, check the Local relay checkbox and then click the Listen button. If you're concerned about filling up your hard drive, you can also put a time limit on how long you want to record. If your favorite station supports it, StreamCatcher will split the recorded stream into individual songs, saving incomplete downloads to a separate folder for easy deletion. I tried it with one of my favorite stations (Groove Salad at somafm.com) and it worked without a hitch.

## SO WHAT ?

**Why search for your favorite music? Let it come to you. Turn on StreamCatcher and go trolling.**

# WATSON

## WHO ?

KARELIA

## WHAT ?

WEB INTERFACE

## WHERE ?

WWW.KARELIA.COM/WATSON/

## HOW MUCH ?

\$29.00

## WHAT ELSE ?

Sherlock Holmes had Dr. Watson as his sidekick, and OS X's Sherlock has Karelia's Watson. Watson picks up where Sherlock leaves off by putting the Internet (or some of the most useful parts of it, anyway) inside a point-and-click desktop interface. You have quick access to some of the most commonly accessed information on the Net, like eBay auctions, movie and TV listings, images, stock quotes, currency exchange rates, flight information, phone numbers, recipes, Yahoo!, Zip Codes, and package tracking. Karelia is always adding new services so you may never have to type a URL again.



Sure, you could find all this stuff in your Web browser—and you should hold on to your browser (Watson occasionally uses it after you've found the information you want)—but Watson has some definite advantages over surfing the old-fashioned way. It presents information in a more organized interface, and gives you more control, eliminating endless click-throughs to find the stuff you really want.

### **SO WHAT ?**

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**Watson puts some of the most important information on the Internet at your fingertips. It's a time-saver, a real pleasure to use, and should become even more useful with time.**

# WEBGRABBER

## WHO ?

EPICWARE

## WHAT ?

WEB ARCHIVER

## WHERE ?

WWW.EPICWARE.COM

## HOW MUCH ?

FREE

## WHAT ELSE ?

WebGrabber is a utility for downloading Web sites. You can download a Web page for archiving, or an entire Web site and any Web pages linked to that site (you set the download depth). It's perfect for loading your PowerBook with reading material for your next cross-country flight.

There are numerous options available to help you fine-tune your grabbing, from specifying the download depth to the maximum number of files to download, or the maximum size of the transfer, all accessed from a simple tabbed interface. There are filtering options to allow or disallow specific file types, domains, file patterns or URL patterns. Once you've selected all the options, you can save the WebGrabber file and update it anytime without having to reconfigure.

In addition to downloading, you can update links or synchronize a previously downloaded site, or resume getting files that haven't been completed. WebGrabber can provide authentication to download password-protected directories. There's even an option to ignore robots.txt, the file that tells a Web crawler to bypass specified files or directories on a site.

WebGrabber also works as a Service under OS X, so if you use OmniWeb, you can highlight a URL and select WebGrabber from the Service menu to grab that site.

## SO WHAT ?

WebGrabber is a handy, flexible utility for archiving Web sites.