FREEWARE

What do you expect from this workshop?

What we hope you will get from the workshop

- What is freeware
- Where to find freeware
- How to assess freeware
- Useful sites

What is freeware

- Free, gratis, nothing to pay
- Usually made by an enthusiast (but the audience can be ruthless!
- Other types are 'open source'(where the code is available
- Donation ware
- Nagware
- Baitware (free and pro versions)
- Cloudware (Google Docs and Microsoft Web Apps)
- Old versions (oldversions.com)
- Includes systems and applications (Google Chrome OS and Ubuntu and derivatives).

How to assess freeware

For every paid version of software there is an equally good free version

BUT

There are good free versions and bad free versions. The best way to decide is to look at independent reviews. Careful the reviews are not stacked by the manufacturer!

Some software has a malware 'payload' so make sure you do a malware check on each download (beware of gifts from friends that have not been checked).

Watch file size and source (use Web of Trust software check).

Check that there is not an attempt to sell you freeware. Examples include baitware like Avast advertisements. Also like CCleaner where you believe you need to use Paypal before downloading.

Finding freeware

Google freeware xxx where *xxx* is either the name of the software (if known) or the function you expect it to perform.

Preferably download from the host site or a 'mirror' recommended by the host. Still take care!

As noted above not all software needs to be downloaded. It can be cloudware (SaaS). Examples are Google Docs at http://docs.google.com and Microsoft Skydrive at http://goo.gl/yNoi .

Freeware may also include free books (ebooks), music and videos.

Some don't load to the registry e.g AMMYY – a free remote access programme.

Other good sources of freeware and reviews are newsletters and sites such as

- *Gizmo's Freeware* at http://www.techsupportalert.com/
- *SourceForge* at http://sourceforge.net/ is your location to download and develop free open source software.
- *makeuseof.com* at http://www.makeuseof.com/
- *Windows Secrets* at http://www.windowssecrets.com/ (free and paid version)
- *Information Avenue (Cloudeight)* at http://thundercloud.net/infoave/ (free and paid version).
- *The Linux Alternative Project* at http://www.linuxalt.com.
- *Open Disc* at http://www.theopendisc.com is a collection of high quality open source software for Windows.

Some 'essential 'freeware

- *CCleaner* http://www.piriform.com/ccleaner, described as "the number-one tool for cleaning your Windows PC. It protects your privacy online and makes your computer faster and more secure."
- *Advanced System Care Free* http://goo.gl/ibOM (formerly Advanced WindowsCare Personal) has a one-click approach to help protect, repair, clean, and optimize your PC.
- *Revo Uninstaller Free* http://goo.gl/Z1R1 Uninstall software, remove programs and solve uninstall problems. The site gives you a 30 day free trial of the Pro version and then reverts to the fre version (baitware?).
- *Speccy* http://www.piriform.com/speccy is an advanced System Information tool for your PC. Very good for monitoring computer temperatures.
- *Microsoft Security Essentials* at http://goo.gl/TWW8 , regarded as one of the best freeware antivirus programmes.
- *Malwarebytes* http://www.malwarebytes.org/ has tools that can identify and remove malicious software from your computer. When your computer becomes infected, Malwarebytes can provide the needed assistance to remove the infection and restore the machine back to optimum performance.
- *SUPERAntiSpyware* http://www.superantispyware.com/ detects and Remove Spyware, Adware and Remove Malware, Trojans, Dialers, Worms, KeyLoggers,

HiJackers, Parasites, Rootkits, Rogue Security Products and many other types of threats.

- *Sumatra PDF* http://goo.gl/9JgB is a slim, free, open-source PDF viewer for Windows.
- *FastStone Image Viewer* http://www.faststone.org/ An image browser, converter and editor that supports all major graphic formats including BMP, JPEG, JPEG 2000, GIF, PNG, PCX, TIFF, WMF, ICO and TGA. It has a nice array of features such as image viewing, management, comparison, red-eye removal, emailing, resizing, cropping, color adjustments, musical slideshow and much more.
- *Paragon Backup & Recovery Free Edition* http://goo.gl/ua5P restores your computer to an earlier state without losing data and reinstalling and reconfiguring your programs.
- *Ashampoo Burning Studio Free* http://goo.gl/vVzu is the complete and simple burning programme for CD?DVD and BluRay.
- *Xmarks* http://www.xmarks.com/ f or the backup online of your favourites or bookmarks.
- *VLC Media Player* http://www.videolan.org/vlc/ the media player that fills all your needs. It can handle DVDs, (S)VCDs, Audio CDs, web streams, TV cards and much more.

Online freeware

There are many free 'converters available online to convert files from one thype to another. One example is *Zamzar* http://www.zamzar.com/ described as an online file converter, covering a wide range of different image, document, music, video and compression formats. Free conversion for files up to 100MB,