Leo A. Notenboom has been playing with computers since he was required to take a

What software do you use?

Those are just a few variations of a question that I get often. People frequently look to me for recommendations before spending the money or time to install a particular piece of software.

Looking for recommendations and others experiences is a smart thing to do.

And, in fact, you'll see I have an entire class of article categorized as Recommendations. But because I take actual recommendations fairly seriously, I don't do them as often as I'd like.

So, how about I just tell you what I have installed on my machine?

Snapshots in time

My original goal with this list was that it would be somewhat «incomplete» from the beginning and that I would come back and update it from time to time.

That was six years ago and the article hasn't been touched since.

Whoops. So much for good intentions.

So consider this more of a «snapshot» of the tools that I use today.

Recommended products

These are various tools that I not only use, but for which I've written formal recommendations.

Because there's really no useful order to this - there's no sense of importance or priority, for example - I'll just list them alphabetically by product name.

- 7-zip
- AutoHotkey*very*
- BoxCryptor
- CCleaner
- CutePDF Writer
- DBAN**always**
- Dropbox
- FastStone Image Viewer
- Foxit Reader
- ImgBurn
- LastPass
- Macrium Reflect
- Microsoft Security Essentials
- Process Explorer
- Recuva
- Revo Uninstaller
- SnagIt
- SpinRite
- Thunderbird
- TrueCrypt
- WebDrive
- WinPatrol

Also used & honorable mentions

This list of software includes some of the other tools that I use, perhaps daily, but that haven't written up a formal recommendation. Typically, the only reason for that is time and it in no way reflects negatively on the specific utility. While I don't consider my use of a particular piece of software an actual recommendation, being listed here does mean that I use and think well of it.

What software do you use?

Once again, the order here doesn't imply anything other than my ability to alphabetize.

- **Advanced Web Ranking**
- **Audacity**Answercasts
- Calibre
- Chrome
- Camtasia Studiomy books
- CyberDuck
- Cygwin
- Defraggler
- DVDFab
- Evernote
- GNU Privacy Guard
- HP16C
- ImageMagick
- Microsoft Office
- Microsoft Visio is what I use to generate conceptional network and PC diagrams. I'm running Visio 2000 which, thankfully, works under Windows 7, 64-bit.
- Firefox
- Parallels
- Photoshop
- PuTTY
- QuickBooks
- Quicken
- Skype
- Sony Vegas Movie Studio
- TeamViewer
- TeraCopy
- Trillian
- Vim
- VLC
- WinMerge
- World Of Warcraft
- xplorer2

I'm certain that I'm missing some items from the list, but it's a start.

As you can see, I've amassed quite the collection of tools and utilities that I rely on over time. Some I use daily (hourly even) and some only occasionally, but all are useful.

At least they're useful in some way to me.

(This is an update to an article originally published November 13, 2006.)