

---

# BPSD Technology Publication

---

## Freeware

---

Compiled by Ron Nordstrom, Technology Coordinator ph. 476-3305 [rnordstrom@bpsd.mb.ca](mailto:rnordstrom@bpsd.mb.ca)

---

### Anti-spy Software

When you browse the Internet, did you know that spyware and adware is unknowingly saved to your computer? This spyware takes up system resources and slows your computer down. It may track your movements on the Internet in order to send you ads based on your browsing preferences. It then downloads popups on to your computer so they pop up when you are web browsing. At it's worst, this spyware may search and find bank account numbers, passwords, and other confidential information on your computer.

#### What can You do?

Download one or two free anti-spyware programs. Run them manually on a regular basis, as most cannot be set up to run automatically.



#### Where do I get them from?

**Ad-Aware SE Personal Edition 1.05** is available for download at:

<http://www.lavasoftusa.com/> or <http://www.spychecker.com/program/adaware.html>

**Spybot - Search & Destroy 1.3** is available at:

<http://www.spychecker.com/program/spybot.html>

**SpywareBlaster 3.2** does not search for spyware on your computer, but stops it from installing on your computer in the first place. I personally have not tried it, but you can download it and find more information at:

<http://www.spychecker.com/program/spywareblaster.html>

### Got Spam?

Spam is that annoying e-mail you get promising to give you more hair, lose weight fast, etc. You can use SpamBayes to block spam. For more information and to download go to

<http://spambayes.sourceforge.net/>

### OK, I have a Digital Camera, now what?



You have taken some photos. Some are good, some are not. Some have red-eye, others are too light, too dark, or not enough contrast in the picture. Do you throw them out and take more? Not necessarily.

Also, have you taken your digital pictures in for processing only to find that the process cut off people's heads from the photo?

That is because if you get 3 x 5 or 4 x 6 prints, the ratio is not the same as the 800 x 640 (or whatever) pictures on your camera. You may want to use software to crop the picture to whatever proportion you wish to print.

You can use expensive programs like Photoshop to enhance your digital pictures, or freeware that does a very good job. Two such programs available for download are

**FastStone Image Viewer** found at <http://www.faststone.org/download.htm>

and

**Irfan View** available at <http://www.irfanview.com/>

---

If you have a suggestion for a newsletter topic, please e-mail Ron Nordstrom at [rnordstrom@bpsd.mb.ca](mailto:rnordstrom@bpsd.mb.ca)  
Don't want to manually type in the web addresses on this newsletter. Go to the BPSD web site at [www.bpsd.mb.ca](http://www.bpsd.mb.ca) Click on  
Technology News and find the newsletter named Freeware. Archived newsletters also available at that location.

## Electronic Gradebook

1st Quarter  
Sample Class  
Thursday, September 26, 1995



Student	Subject	10 points	20 points	30 points	40 points	50 points	60 points	70 points	80 points	90 points	100 points
1. Albright, Amy	95%	A	10	9	23	10	45	94			
2. Bravado, Barbara	79%	C+	7	6	16	9	35	79			
3. Cunningham, Cathy	92%	A-	9	8	24	10	45	88			

You keep a paper copy of every mark you gave your students on their tests, assignments, projects, quizzes, and reports. It is now time for report cards and you need to spend hours using a calculator to figure out the mark for each student in each subject. Is there a better way?

Glad you asked. Sure, keep an electronic gradebook. You put in your marks just like a paper gradebook, but the program instantly updates the student's current mark. At report time, no calculating is needed, the computer already did it.

If you are a high school teacher in Beautiful Plains S.D., you already use an electronic gradebook called Integrate Pro. What about the other schools? One very good piece of freeware is Gradekeeper available for download at <http://www.gradekeeper.com/>

## Writing Report Cards

Do you use a word processor, spreadsheet, or database to write report cards? Do you spend hours typing out comments for your students subjects? Here is a simple, free answer to your woes.

Download **Teacher's Report Assistant** from <http://www.rayslearning.com/report.htm> The program comes with a small comment bank. You can add your own and/or download other teacher's comment banks First you type a student's name, then click on the appropriate comments. When you are finished, click a button to copy the comment paragraph to the clipboard. Open your report and paste the comment in.

## Typing

Need to enhance your or a family member's typing skill? Here is a no frills but small and free typing program. It can be loaded in various languages including French and Russian.

**KP Typing Tutor** download at:  
<http://www.fonlow.com/zijianhuang/kp/>

## PDF Creator

Ever browse the web and come across a link that opens Adobe Acrobat Reader? That means that a file was created in .pdf format. Big deal. The advantage of a .pdf is that everyone can open it. If you send a Word file to someone and they don't have Word on their computer, they can't open the file you sent. Solution: Convert the file to .pdf, then send it. Is it easy? When you have a .pdf converter installed, you click on the print button, then instead of choosing a printer, you choose the converter. It is incredibly simple. You can convert Word, Publisher, Excel and many other files including images.

You can spend a couple of hundred bucks on Adobe Acrobat or download and install a free .pdf creator. The one I use is PDF995 and is available for download at <http://www.pdf995.com/download.html>

Be sure to download the pdf995 printer driver AND the free converter.

Pdf995 2-Step Download	
<b>Pdf995 Printer Driver</b> Version 7.1s	<a href="#">Download</a> 1.2 Mb
<b>Free Converter</b> • Version 1.1	<a href="#">Download</a> 5.0 Mb
Consists of both the printer driver and a free Converter.	