

Cover disc

Set up a secure remote connection to your PC, develop your own relational databases and wipe out any data trails that may be hiding on your system with this month's cover CD. Those with the DVD will also get an extra antivirus program, system update tools and a completely free office suite



Web Wipe

EXCLUSIVE FULL PROGRAM



Web Wipe is an unassuming little application that sits quietly in the corner your System Tray. But this modest tool will make sure that you don't leave a data trail behind you, including the quick and simple removal of autofill passwords and forms, document or application usage, cookies and Clipboard contents. Right-click on the icon and you can select any or all evidence of your recent online activity to be removed. This app is therefore ideal if you're sharing a PC with others - or sending it back to Dixons for a refund.

But that's not all that Web Wipe can do. It'll also keep those annoying and increasingly prevalent pop-ups at bay. There's the option to eliminate them

To install:

95 98 2000 XP

System requirements

200MHz Pentium PC; Windows 95/98/2000/XP; 32MB RAM

Installation details

Go to Start, Run. Type d:\webwipe\setup.exe

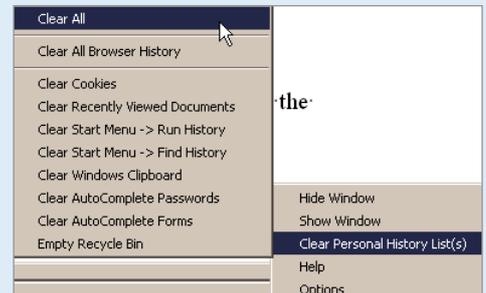
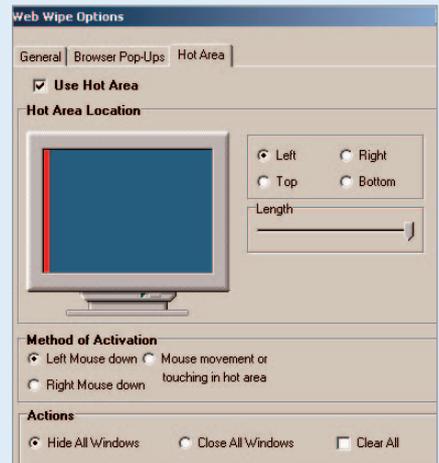
→ The Hot Area lets you shut down or hide open apps without having to lunge for the keyboard when your boss suddenly turns up

altogether or you can create a list of keywords or servers that you want to automatically block while allowing others through. Alternatively, you can limit pop-ups by size - useful if you simply want to avoid excessive demands on your struggling modem.

You can password-protect Web Wipe to make sure that no one else messes about with it, as well as creating custom shortcut keys for the Hide Windows feature.

You could describe this tool as an advanced Boss Key as it lets you hide applications from view without actually closing them down. Web Wipe can also respond to mouse activity in a specific area of the screen, allowing you to hide or close any apps quickly and without fuss. ☒

→ Web Wipe clears up everything you may have unknowingly left behind you



Secure Planet VPN

FULL PROGRAM



Virtual private networking is increasingly used by businesses to extend their network beyond the confines of company headquarters. Previously this has required leased lines connected directly to the network. This is a costly process, though, and there's an alternative solution.

Secure Planet VPN uses the internet to connect and is ideal for anyone who needs to access a network from a remote site such

as a home office. Using the web as your communications medium exposes your data to a greater risk of attack or interception, which is why Secure Planet VPN includes encryption protocols to ensure that your transmissions are secure.

Secure Planet VPN is simple to install and manage but, more importantly, it's easy to use. It used 3DES and AES encryption for data protection plus a key and certificates system to ensure that your identity is both verified and kept safe.

The software requires that you register online to obtain an activation key and contains both gateway and client apps. You'll need to install the client on the PC you want to access the remote network from and the gateway software on the network you want to hook up to. Once that's done, it's a short matter of configuring both so that they can talk to each other. ☒

To install:

2000 XP

Client system requirements

Pentium PC; Windows 98/Me/NT 4.0/2000/XP; 32MB RAM; 10MB hard disk space; internet connection

Installation details

Go to Start, Run. Type d:\secureplanet\client\client_sppvnp_1.81.exe

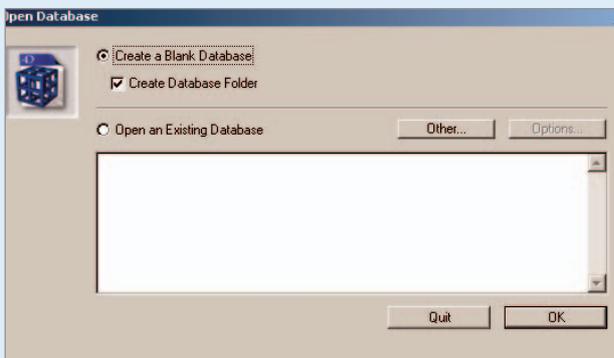
Gateway system requirements

Pentium III; Windows 2000/XP; 128MB RAM; 100MB hard disk space; ethernet card; internet connection

Installation details

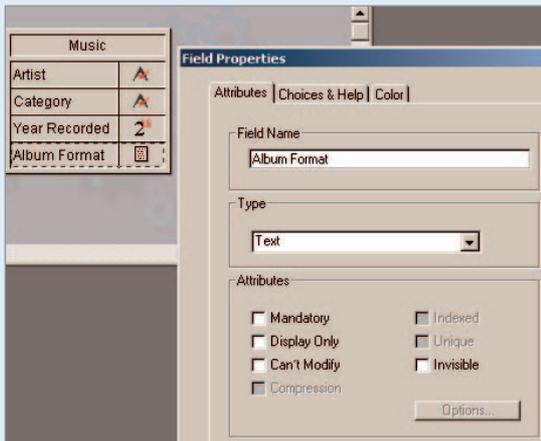
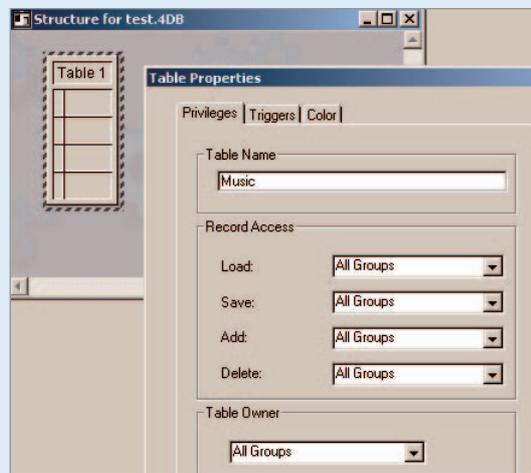
Go to Start, Run. Type d:\secureplanet\software\gateway_sppvnp_1.81.exe

Requires online registration. Go to www.secure-planet.com/promo/pcadvisor/mar04.



1 Open the 4D application and you'll be presented with the Open Database dialog box. Leave the Create a Blank Database and Create Database Folder checked then click ok. Enter your filename and save the new database

2 Now you'll see the Structure Window, which contains a default table called Table 1. Double-click on the table name to bring up the Table Properties box and type Music into the Table Name box. Click Done then double-click the first box beneath the new table name



3 Type Album Name into the Field Name box, select 'Alpha' from the Type drop-down menu and enter 45 into the Characters box. This restricts this field to 45 characters, which can either be letters or numbers. Repeat the process to create fields for additional information like Category or Album Format then click on Done

4 To enter some data, click on the Use menu and select User. A box appears asking if you want forms to be created. Click on Yes then select New Record from the Enter menu at the top of the page. The data-entry pane will now appear, ready for you to start filling out your new database



Fans of *Doctor Who* are most likely to be disappointed by this program as it has absolutely nothing to do with their time-travelling cult hero. However, if you're after a powerful relational database then 4th Dimension may be just what you're looking for. In fact, it's worth a look even if you're not sure what a relational database is. You'll probably be surprised at how useful and flexible these databases can be for all kinds of tasks.

Another dimension

4th Dimension lets you create database and web apps using a unified programming language. It has an intuitive interface along with support for a wide range of industry standards including ODBC, XML, FastCGI and Soap. It has been designed to provide a development solution for robust business-level databases, but can just as easily be applied to more simple tasks like managing your CD collection or keeping track of invoices or stock inventory lists.

It's not without its competitors, particularly when it comes to web-based database development. You'll also find technologies like ASP and applications like WebObjects and ColdFusion being used. But the developers claim that 4th Dimension 2003 offers a degree of simplicity that belies its flexibility and will save you both time and money when compared to alternatives such as Live Wire, WebLogic or One-to-One.

You'll need to get an activation key from www.4d.com before getting started, but it's well worth it. It's a complex app if you're a novice but comes with a useful set of tutorials and templates for common tasks. To show you how easy it is to set up, we've created a music collection database. ☒

To install: 95 98 2000 NT Me XP

System requirements

Pentium II; Windows 98/Me/2000/NT 4.0/XP; 64MB RAM

Installation details

Go to Start, Run. Type d:\4d\4d685_installer.exe

FileAssurity 1.3.1

FULL PROGRAM



Most of us are pretty complacent about data security. But when you consider the amount of sensitive information that we store on our PC's hard disk, perhaps it's time we started to look at things in a different light. With identity theft, credit card fraud, data protection infringement and unauthorised access crimes on the increase, it makes sense to protect your system from unwanted intrusion.

Meddle-proof documents

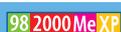
FileAssurity 1.3.1 lets you encrypt and digitally sign your files, folders and email attachments for secure storage or sending to a level that matches current US government standards. By encrypting your files using AES (advanced encryption standard), you can ensure that only trusted sources get to see them. Digitally signing your documents prevents them from being altered without your knowledge, as well as providing a guarantee to others that they originated from you.

We all know that deleting a file leaves most of the data intact on your hard disk. FileAssurity's Secure File Deletion stops this information from being recovered by writing over the data 15 times before deletion - a process that can be applied as easily to removable media as it can to your hard drive.

FileAssurity also maintains its own certificate and key store. You therefore needn't purchase these from a third-party service, although it'll still work with CA (certificate authority) keys that you may already have.

What's more, the people you want to share your protected data with don't have to purchase FileAssurity as a file reader is available for free download. ☒

To install:

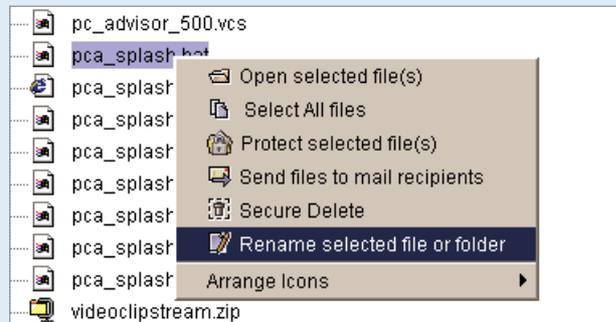


System requirements

Pentium PC; Windows 98/Me/2000/XP; 16MB RAM

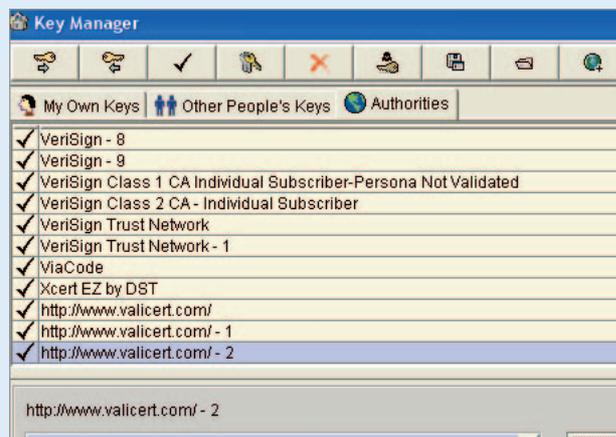
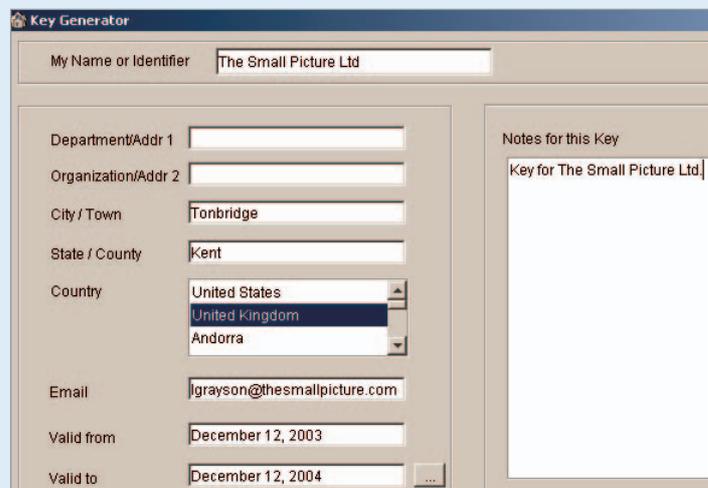
Installation details

Go to Start, Run. Type
d:\fileassurity\fileassurity.exe



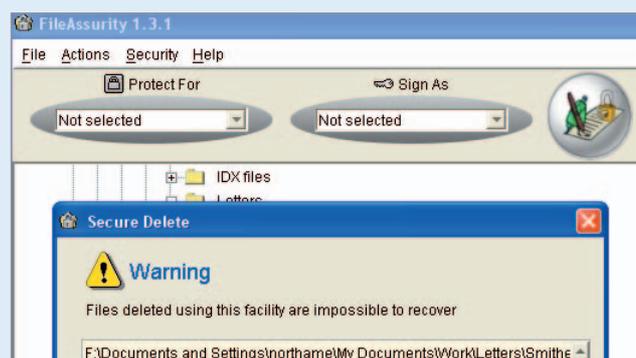
1 Right-clicking on a file in the Explorer window brings up a menu that lets you access the majority of FileAssurity's security features

2 The app generates its own secure keys, rather than having you purchase them from a third party



3 You can manage all imported keys - both yours and those of other users - in the Key Manager. Under the Authorities tab you'll also find a good selection of keys from authorising bodies such as VeriSign

4 You can right-click any file, as shown in step 1, and choose the Secure Delete option to erase sensitive data permanently from your computer





Command Antivirus 4.90.2

EXCLUSIVE FULL PROGRAM



There's nothing that's more important to today's connected computers than an antivirus utility. Common sense reduces the risk of infection considerably. But it doesn't really matter how careful you are with file attachments, unknown emails and suspicious websites - it's practically guaranteed that something nasty will find its way on to your hard drive at some point.

Based on the F-Prot engine and developed over a period of 10 years,

→ Keep your PC protected at all times by setting scheduled scans of your system drives

Command Antivirus from Authentium Software provides all the protection you need from unwanted invasions. Easy to use and simple to install, Command Antivirus has an extensive virus database that's constantly being updated by the manufacturer.

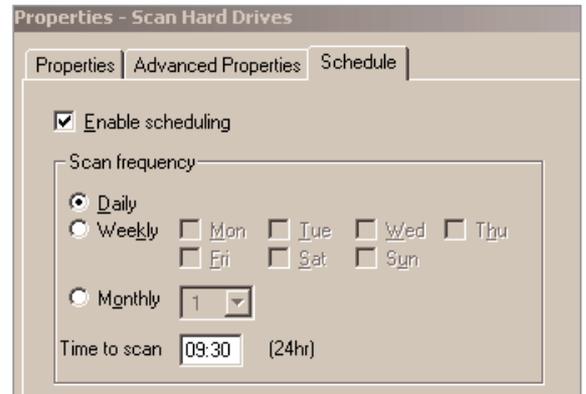
In addition to constant and unobtrusive virus scanning, Command Antivirus also monitors your emails and allows you to build a list of inclusion/exception file types as well as directories that you may wish to exclude from your scans. It works across network drives and can be applied to external drives and removable media.

As well as the more conventional and well-known virus types, Command Antivirus warns of potential threats such as backdoor executables and includes the removal of

document macros - an increasingly common virus transport medium.

You'll need to register with Authentium to obtain a login and password before installing the software. However, the manufacturer is so convinced that you'll be happy with the product it's letting you have it free for an entire year, complete with regular virus and software updates.

If you're not running antivirus software, don't you think that now might be a good time to start? ☒



To install:

95 98 2000 MeXP

System requirements

Pentium III; 32MB RAM; Windows 95/98/2000/Me/XP; 64MB RAM; 10MB hard disk space; 16bit colour or higher; 1,024x768 or higher screen resolution

Installation details

Go to Start, Run. Type d:\command\cs39ice1.exe

Requires online registration at www.authentium.co.uk/support/service/offers/idg.cfm



Driver Wizard 1.1

This handy little utility will prove invaluable for anyone who wants to keep up with the latest driver releases and is very simple to use. You'll be hard-pushed to find a more comprehensive pool of drivers on the web. Once you've registered your details at <http://pcadvisor.drivermagic.com>, searching takes a matter of seconds. Driver Wizard instantly identifies all of your PC's required device drivers and enables you to download them quickly without spending hours trawling the web. Also included is Norman AntiVirus, offering you the latest virus updates for three months.

To register, visit <http://pcadvisor.drivermagic.com/x/norman> or click on the link on this month's CD. ☒

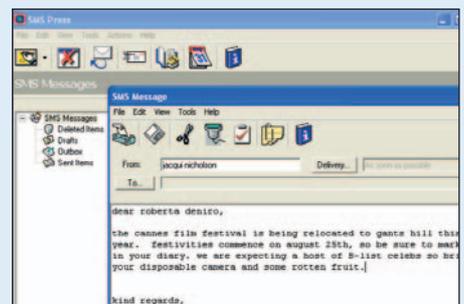


SMS Press 2.0

Sending text messages has never been more popular. But pressing away on fiddly buttons is slow and more often than not our messages are littered with mistakes and bizarre abbreviations.

SMS Press 2.0 allows you to compose and send messages to mobile phones from your computer. It adds a whole host of advanced features, so you can schedule when and who to send messages to. There's also the benefit of using a full-size keyboard and the speed of your internet connection to whizz your texts off to the recipients. You can even build up a database of individual contacts and groups then simply click on those you want to send your message to.

To use SMS Press you must register your details at www.dynmark.com. Once you have done this you will be credited with 30 free messages - after that you will have to pay for any more that you want to send. ☒



FOR HELP USING THE COVER DISC CALL 0870 739 7630



OpenOffice.org 1.1

Over 16 million people have downloaded OpenOffice.org 1.1 and it's easy to see why. This office suite contains four major applications; Writer, Calc, Impress and Draw. It provides pretty much everything you need for everyday office tasks such as word processing, spreadsheets, illustration and presentations.

Each of the applications have a similar look and feel, giving them a 'learn once, use everywhere' appeal, with shared tools like Navigator and Stylist. Information and files can be shared between the different programs. They also use the same industry-standard XML format that saves disk space and increases compatibility with other applications - including later versions of Microsoft Office.

Not only that, but this version of OpenOffice supports PDF and SWF file export, making it well suited for web document production.

At 60MB, though, this hefty suite could take up to a day to download on a 56K modem. Load up this copy from our cover disc and save yourself time and effort. You can install it on as many PCs as you like and can even burn copies to give to your friends. ☒



↑ Visit OpenOffice.org's website for complete product descriptions, FAQs, and white papers plus information of upcoming events, known issues and software updates

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