This is a list of FREE software I think you may find useful.

I was providing the actual software for you to download, but since software is constantly being updated, I am just providing the link here where you can download the latest version.

When possible it is best to download free software from its official web site. Some other sites that offer the download bundle the freeware with their own software that does things like put search bars on your browser or change your home page or install third-party software. Download.cnet.com is one of those that adds unwanted items.

Even when you do download the freeware directly from the author, a lot of times they try to get you to install other things too. So when you install any freeware it is best to select "Custom Installation" so you can de-select the unwanted extras. And you have to look carefully. They can be very tricky in the wording to get you to install something, like instead of selecting "No" you have to select "Yes" because the question is whether or not you want to NOT install the added item. I have even seen check boxes in the user agreement that you have to scroll down to see.

With that in mind, there is a program out there called UnChecky. After you install it it sits quietly in the background waiting and watching for you to install freeware, then it automatically de-selects the added items you don't want during the installation process.

If it turns out that you missed unchecking a box, or the freeware installed something without giving you the option to opt out, or UnChecky missed something (if you have it installed), you can use the first item on this list to get rid of the unwanted item.

(For files from FileHippo, click the green button on the right to download the latest version. If you need an older version, they are listed below that.)

Geek Uninstaller - This little program uses the software's own uninstall utility to uninstall it, just as Windows does, but then it searches for all of the leftover stuff that many programs want to hide and leave behind on your system and gets rid of that too.

Audacity - Is a free audio editor and recorder for Windows 2000, XP, Vista, 7, and 8. You can get Mac and Linux/Unix versions too. For some instructional help, see "How to Edit Audio with Audacity" in my Documents folder.

ImgBurn - I suggest using this program for burning the Audio DVD's I prepare. Though Ashampoo is also a DVD burner, it is a bit finicky in this area, while ImgBurn works, and works well. For instructions see "How to use ImgBurn" in my Documents folder, and in the Audio DVD folder.

lame_enc.dll – This file is needed for programs to convert/encode to MP3. If you get the error message "Error loading lame_enc.dll", or "The lame_enc.dll file was not found", than you need to get this file and place it somewhere on your computer where you want to leave it (like in C driver), and then point the program that wanted it to that location. If you need it for Audacity, it is easiest to just let Audacity go and get it for you.

wordweb6.exe - is a one-click English thesaurus and dictionary for Windows (2000/03/08/XP/Vista/7/8) that can look up words in almost any program. Though the word "Web" is in its name and can look up words in web references such as the Wikipedia encyclopedia, it works off-line too.

PC Decrapifier – Gets rid of all those unwanted pieces of software that comes on new computers and laptops.

CCleaner – Cleans up your temp folders and so forth.

Ashampoo Burning Studio 6 Free – Is a free CD and DVD burning program compatible with Windows 2000, XP, Vista, 7, and 8. For a basic CD burning tutorial, see "How to Make a CD" in my Documents folder.

Crystal Disk Info - Nice little program to see the health of your hard drives.

Free ISO Burner - Burns your ISO files.

IZArc - A simple easy-to-use zip and unzip utility. Install with care to avoid the unwanted add-ons.

Sumatra PDF - A nice little PDF viewer that also works with eBook, ePub, Mobi (Kindle), and other files.

HFS - Is the software I use to share these files with you. It is a single executable file and requires no installation. It says it works on all 32 bit Windows versions, but I am also using it on a Windows 7 64 bit computer to serve these files to you. If you would like to give it a try, let me know and I will share my suggested settings and other hints.

Wizmouse - With this fantastic software the mouse wheel works on background applications without giving them focus. Do you understand what that means? You can scroll background windows!!! How awesome is that! (click the green button to download)

VLC - For *ALL* of your video viewing needs. It even plays VOB files!

Bulk Rename Utility - For bulk renaming of files of course. It looks intimidating but is really simple to use once you know how.

TeamViewer - For free remote computer support.

KeyTweak - For remapping keys on your keyboard. I remap the tilde key to a 2nd Delete; the Caps Lock key to a 3rd enter key; and the Windows key to a 2nd Backspace key. If ever I need to type a tilde I can use the alt code 0152. And since I don't type in foreign languages I don't need that other symbol on the same key :^)
Since my right hand is on my mouse so much of the time with image and audio editing, the remapped keys let me quickly do those functions without taking my right hand off of the mouse or force me to lift my left hand and cross the keyboard.

Sandboxie - Access the internet without fear of being infected.

Other software provided here:

LevelatorSetup 1.1.0.exe - This is a great little program for those of you who record and edit speech/talks. As its name implies, it levels out the audio making the loud bits and quiet bit the same volume. Just drag-and-drop any WAV or AIFF file into Levelator and it will do its thing, creating a second file. It leaves the original file as it was, so there is no danger to it. If your audio file is not a WAV or AIFF

file , you will have to convert it to one of those formats. I use Audacity and save the file as a WAV. You can also use Audacity to convert the finished file back to MP3, if that is what you want it to be. There are newer versions of Levelator, but I see no difference in their output, only that the newer versions ask for donations and "Calls-home", and who wants that?

System Info - A little program produced by the WTB&TS that gives you basic information about your computer, including information about the WtLib you have installed.