

Plug-Ins: Free Internet Software You Should Have

WOW is the only word to describe the Internet with Plug-ins! Plug-ins make the Internet sing, move and do almost anything. They are little software programs, which add function to your Internet browser. They used to be difficult to download and install... now the operation is all automated! In this workshop we will cover 4 of the most common plug-ins: RealPlayer, Adobe Acrobat, Quicktime, and Shockwave.

RealPlayer:

www.realplayer.com

The goal of Real Player is provide you with on-demand audio and video. You can see music videos, watch the latest news, and listen to the radio. There are two versions of RealPlayer G2. One is free. The other is the Plus version, which you must pay for. The free version will do most anything you want. The download is simple. Just complete the form and click on the download button. It should download and install all on its own.

When you find a page with a RealPlayer link, it should open the program and play the audio or video file. These files can be rather large, so wait patiently for them to load. There are play, pause and stop buttons on the top of the window and a volume control near the bottom. In addition, you have the ability to select from a list of channels on the left side of the screen. But wait until you have seen the first file before you select another channel.

Try out:

Great Speeches from The History Channel

<http://www.historychannel.com/speeches/index.html>

This Day in History from the History Channel

<http://www.historychannel.com/tdih/index.html>

Current Events from CNN

<http://www.cnn.com/videoselect/>

Adobe Acrobat

<http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html#reader>

Adobe Acrobat Reader allows you to view and read documents saved in a PDF file format. PDF files are available on all computers, so everyone can read them. They are wonderful when you need to print a document. HTML files don't format very nicely for page breaks... but Adobe Acrobat files do.

This is an easy download. Simply select make your selections from the options on the download page and click on the download button. The program should install itself.

When you view PDF files with Adobe Acrobat, sometimes you will see the file in your browser with a new tool bar at the top. Other times it will open the document in a separate window. Both work just the same.

Try out:

Quicktime

<http://www.apple.com/quicktime/>

Quicktime, like RealPlayer, allows you to view streamed video and audio on demand. There are lots of movie trailers, which use this format. Quicktime also has virtual reality capabilities, which allow you to move around a room as if you were really there.

Just fill out your email address and click on download. Save the file to your desktop. When it has completed the save, double click on the program. Click on next or continue until the installation is complete.

Try out:

Virtual Parks

<http://www.virtualparks.org/>

Movie Trailers

<http://www.apple.com/quicktime/trailers/index.html>

Shockwave

<http://www.macromedia.com/shockwave/download/>

Shockwave adds incredible animation and interactivity to the Internet. All kinds of games, simulations and multimedia can be found.

To install, follow the three steps listed on the download page.

Try out:

The Virtual Body

<http://www.medtropolis.com/vbody/>

Dr. Seuss games

<http://www.randomhouse.com/seussville/games/>

Beakman and Jax's Science Demos

<http://www.beakman.com/interact/demo.html>

There are many more plug-ins available. Don't be afraid to try them. If you click on a web site that encourages you to download a plug in, give it a try. It's usually worth the effort.

Try the Plug In Gallery and Demo to find more examples:

<http://www2.gol.com/users/oyamada/>