

Find files faster

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While maintaining your hard drive is no big problem, finding the files you need among 60-120GB of images, songs, movies, Web pages, Word docs, and other personal data can be a challenge, especially when you need something ASAP.

The big boys of online search (Google, Yahoo, and MSN) all offer desktop apps that work reasonably well. Despite accusations of bloat and recent security issues, [Google Desktop](#) is the king so far, most likely because of its domination of online search.

Yahoo tried to compete with a free Yahoo Desktop Search product but stopped development to partner with X1, perhaps most famous for its e-mail search. Yahoo's new desktop search app is now simply [X1 Professional Client](#), which offers a 30-day trial for its \$50 software.

Don't worry, Microsoft still wants to own your desktop search too. Its free client, [Windows Desktop Search](#), is widely used, free, and integrated well with the Microsoft Office Software suite.

Among the small guys, one of the user favorites on CNET Download.com is [Copernic Desktop Search](#). Like the rest, it's freeware, and it offers some nice features, like a customizable preview pane.

A new program (still in beta) is [tag2find](#), which incorporates the popular practice of adding "tags" or keywords to your files. You're probably familiar with ID3 tags for your MP3 music files; tag2find uses the same concept, but with all of your files.

New releases

[AVG Anti-Virus Free Edition 7.5.476](#)

Protect your computer from viruses and malicious programs.

[Advanced WindowsCare Personal 2.51](#)

Protect, repair, optimize, and clean your computer in one click.

[SmartFTP Client \(32-bit\) 2.5.1006.5](#)

Upload and download files using FTP.

[Easy CD-DA Extractor 10.2.2](#)

Rip audio CDs and convert music files.

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