

Dick Curry Comments on Helpful Websites

February 21, 2008

Strong passwords: How to create and use them

<http://www.microsoft.com/protect/yourself/password/create.mspix>

Password checker: Test the strength of your passwords

<http://www.microsoft.com/protect/yourself/password/checker.mspix>

Microsoft Baseline Security Analyzer: program designed to determine the security state of a computer in accordance with Microsoft security recommendations. Offers specific remediation guidance.

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/tools/mbsahome.mspix>

File and Disk Utilities, Network Utilities, Process Utilities, Security Utilities, System Utilities, and Miscellaneous Utilities. Great utility programs.

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/default.aspx>

Many free software programs – some betas – available from Microsoft

<http://www.microsoft.com/beta/downloads/default.aspx>

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Beta Downloads website. At the top, there is a search bar labeled "Search Downloads" and a "Browse Downloads" button. On the right side, a vertical menu lists: Trial Software, Download Notifications, Update Services, Related Sites, About the Beta, and Send Comments. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features two sections: "Popular Downloads" and "New Downloads". The "Popular Downloads" list includes: 1. Microsoft Office Compatibility Pack for Word, Excel, and...; 2. Windows Internet Explorer 7 for Windows XP SP2; 3. .NET Framework Version 2.0 Redistributable Package (x86); 4. Windows® Defender; 5. DirectX End-User Runtime. Below this list are links for "More" and "Popular by Categories". The "New Downloads" list includes: 1. HIS 2006 Transaction Integrator Performance; 2. Microsoft Transporter Suite; 3. Configuring IP-DLC Link Service; 4. Microsoft Transporter Suite Release Notes; 5. Optimize Your Application Platform To Power The People... Below the "New Downloads" list is a "Download" button and a "Date Published: 02/20/2008" label. The right column is titled "Download Resources" and contains four sections: "Software Updates" (with links to Microsoft Update, Office Update, and Automatic Updates), "Marketplace" (with links to Windows Marketplace, Product Information Center, and Mactopia), "Tech Zone" (with links to TechNet Downloads, TechNet Update Management, and MSDN Downloads), and "Microsoft Technologies" (with links to Internet Explorer, Windows Media Player, DirectX, Windows Live Messenger, and Security Products). Two red arrows point to the "MSDN Downloads" link in the Tech Zone section and the "Download" button in the New Downloads section. At the bottom of the page, there is a banner for "PROBLEM SOLVED." with the "OBA CENTRAL" logo and a photo of a man.

Shows where all your disk space has gone and helps you clean it up

<http://windirstat.info/>

Advanced WindowsCareV2 (beta). Performs routine maintenance and applies system optimization tweaks

<http://www.iobit.com/>

Enables you to monitor all open TCP and UDP ports on your computer

http://www.download.com/Active-Ports/3000-2085_4-10062969.html?part=dl-ActivePor&subj=dl&tag=button&cdlpid=10062969

Secunia PersonalSoftwareInspector (beta). Secure your computer from software vulnerabilities

<https://psi.secunia.com/>