Free Software for your Windows PC

At the "Fun With Free Software" conference session you would have seen Free Software running on the Linux operating system. Many of those software packages are also available for use on the Windows operating system. Here's a small sample:



GIMP - the GNU Image Manipulation Program

GIMP is an image manipulation program which you might use for such tasks as photo retouching, image composition and image authoring. It works on many operating systems, in many languages.

http://gimp-win.sourceforge.net/



Inkscape

Inkscape is a scalable vector graphics editor. You can use Inkscape to create your own images and documents using a range of drawing tools. You can also import clipart from the free collection at http://openclipart.org/

http://www.inkscape.org/download.php



Firefox

Firefox is a web browser which offers many advantages over the browser included with Windows. Firefox protects you from viruses, spyware and pop-ups. The tabbed browsing feature allows you to open multiple web pages in a single window. http://www.mozilla.com/firefox/



Thunderbird

Thunderbird is a powerful email program with intelligent spam filters, quick message search, and customizable views. Attachments are never run without your express permission, protecting you from many worms and viruses.

http://www.mozilla.com/thunderbird/



MSW Logo

If you want to try your hand at programming in Logo, the MSW Logo kit is a free implementation for Windows. The web site includes a tutorial, video and links to Logo resources on other web sites.

http://www.softronix.com/logo.html



TUX Magazine

If you decide to try running Linux, you might be interested in TUX Magazine - the first and only magazine for the new Linux user. TUX Magazine is not free, but you can download one trial issue for free and a one year subscription (12 issues) is great value at only \$9.95 USD. http://www.tuxmagazine.com/



Remember, you should never, EVER install software on a computer without the permission of the computer's owner. If you want to try these things out at home, ask your parents first. You should definitely not install any software on a school computer without the permission of your teacher or ITC administrator