

WINSIG 4-25-09

Here's a brief description and the links to the free software applications I was able to successfully demonstrate today. And, one I wasn't.

Free Language Translator

A desktop language translator application using the Google translation service. It adds more features to the existing service and addresses some of its shortcomings.

Requires: Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0. (Note: Most likely already on your computer)
<http://www.codeplex.com/LanguageTranslator> This is the author's website.

Or here, FreeWareFiles website

http://www.freewarefiles.com/Free-Language-Translator_program_46862.html

PolSyFC

Solitaire has been part of Windows since the earliest days, when there was little, if any, other software to run directly in the environment. Since then, one or two useful programs have appeared on the platform, but people still play Solitaire, a lot. If you like Solitaire, but want a variation or two... hundred... you should check out the freeware program PySolFC.

PySolFC is a tremendous collection of Solitaire games, going well beyond the usual mix. In addition to traditional card games, there are Mah-Jongg tile matching games and Asian Hanfuda games. Within each category, there are sub categories, and sub-sub categories -- for example, under French games, you may choose "Fan Type", and under "Fan Type", the specific game Cloverleaf.

And it's all free.

Author's website <http://pysolfc.sourceforge.net/>

Or PCWorld.com site

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid.76815/description.html?tk=nl_ddxdwn

Shape Collage

Shape Collage takes your digital photos and creates an artistic collage from them. It's easy to use: Just drag a set of photos into the Shape Collage window and specify the shape of the collage that you want to make.

You can choose from among some simple shapes, such as a circle or a heart, or you can stamp out a collage from text. The Custom option lets you build a shaped collage from a photo (images with extreme contrast, like pure black and white, work best). You can even just sketch a shape to collage with the built-in paint program.

Shape Collage is easy to use and the results are so cool that you'll probably get addicted (as I did) to making lots of collages based on shapes and pictures just to see how they turn out.

Note: This software is free, but the author accepts donations through his Web site.

Author's website <http://www.shapecollage.com/>

Or PCWorld.com

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid.77346/description.html?tk=nl_ddxdwn

Bonus software. Shipsbell in ZIP form. Unzipped it's an exe file. I zipped it so your security software won't block it.