

Getting Professional Help

Matthew Jones

Finding a reputable professional can be difficult. If you need legal advice, medical care, or accounting services, you may not want to rely on the yellow pages to find the right professional. Now you don't have to. The web sites featured in this article can help you find a lawyer, a doctor, or an accountant who fulfills your criteria. If you need computing services, you can check out this month's network resource. You can then take a look at this month's games, and you can read all about the new products I have found. (See "Product Snapshots" on p. 52.)

WEB SITES

Whether you are being sued, you want to sue someone else, or you just can't talk your way out of a pesky indictment, you can find a lawyer to represent you at [Lawyers.com](http://www.lawyers.com) (<http://www.lawyers.com>). This web site allows you to search for a lawyer by city, county, state, or country. You can also search for a lawyer by keyword or specialty—everything from agricultural law to zoning law.

At [Lawyers.com](http://www.lawyers.com) you can also get tips on hiring a lawyer, and you can get information about arbitration services, legal aid programs, and other legal resources. In addition, you can educate yourself about legal issues in a number of specialties, and you can ask legal questions by using the discussion boards or chat rooms that are available.

[1-800-DOCTORS.com](http://www.1800doctors.com) (<http://www.1800doctors.com>) simplifies the process of finding a doctor in your area. You simply select the type of doctor you need and enter your ZIP code. [1-800-DOCTORS.com](http://www.1800doctors.com) then displays a list of doctors for your area. You can view a doctor's name, office address, and office telephone number. You can also access a short biography that offers information about the doctor's office hours, educational background, and philosophy of care. You can even make an appointment online.

[1-800-DOCTORS.com](http://www.1800doctors.com) provides the same services for dentists, enabling you to find a dentist who meets your needs. In addition, [1-800-DOCTORS.com](http://www.1800doctors.com) allows you to search for hospitals in your area and to view detailed information about each hospital.

After you have been treated for whatever ails you physically, you may want to use [Accountant Finder](http://www.cpafinder.com) (<http://www.cpafinder.com>) to find an accountant who can treat your bottom line.

You can search for an accountant by selecting the type of accountant you need and the state or country you live in. [Accountant Finder](http://www.cpafinder.com) then displays a list of accountants, along with contact information and areas of specialty.

NETWORK RESOURCE

The Computer Information Center (<http://www.compinfocenter.com>) offers a directory for just about every type of computer company or service. For example, you can find manufacturers, distributors, resellers, consultants, Internet service providers (ISPs), training centers, trade organizations, and user groups. You select the type of computer company or service you need, and you can then search by country or keyword. The Computer Information Center displays a list of hypertext links to the web sites of appropriate computer companies or services.

The Computer Information Center also provides many other computer resources. For example, at [The Computer Information Center](http://www.compinfocenter.com), you can take advantage of hypertext links to computer-related web sites, including web sites that provide industry news, technical information, and files that you can download.



Pandora's Box from Microsoft Corp.

STANDALONE GAME OF THE MONTH

[Pandora's Box](http://www.pandorasbox.com) from Microsoft Corp. is a highly original puzzle game designed by Alexey Pajitnov, the creator of Tetris. This game is like no other. Your objective is to capture the seven mythical tricksters that have escaped from Pandora's box to sow chaos and mischief. These tricksters have strewn pieces of Pandora's box throughout the world, and you must track the pieces down by solving a series of puzzles that the tricksters created to serve as clues. You must also capture the tricksters and restore order to the world.

[Pandora's Box](http://www.pandorasbox.com) features 350 puzzles that you stumble across as you travel from one city to another, searching for the pieces of Pandora's box. The puzzles are not typical word and logic puzzles. Instead, these puzzles challenge your visual skills, requiring you to manipulate images and patterns. The pictures that make up each puzzle are based on the city you are visiting.

You can select one of five difficulty levels. No matter which difficulty level you choose, the puzzles become more difficult as

Product Snapshots

When I am surfing the Internet, I often find new and interesting products. Product Snapshots gives you a quick overview of the most useful products I have found during the last month. (Please note that these are first-look reviews; I have not conducted exhaustive testing.)

ZIPMAGIC 2000

ZipMagic 2000 from Ontrack Data International Inc. is a utility that allows you to create and extract .ZIP files. ZipMagic 2000 loads a device driver that works at the operating-system level to make .ZIP files behave as ordinary Windows folders. As a result, you can access .ZIP files just as you access other types of files.

You can compress or extract .ZIP files by dragging them to or from a ZipMagic 2000 folder or by adding or removing the .ZIP extension in the folder's name. In addition, you can use ZipMagic 2000 to create DOS or Windows self-extracting .ZIP files, to password-protect .ZIP files, and to check the data integrity of .ZIP files. You can also use ZipMagic 2000 to read compressed files in other formats, including .ARJ, .LHA, .LZH, and .ZOO files.

ZipMagic 2000 includes a copy of Ontrack's DownloadMagic utility, which simplifies the process of downloading files from the Internet. When you select files in Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer, these files automatically appear in a DownloadMagic pop-up window. From this window, you can stop and resume downloads, restart crashed downloads, or queue files to download later.

ZipMagic 2000 supports Windows NT, 98, 95, and the soon-to-be-released Windows 2000. You can purchase ZipMagic 2000 through retail channels at the suggested retail price of U.S. \$39.95, and you can download a demo version from <http://www.ontrack.com/re/do/do.asp>. For more information about

ZipMagic 2000, visit Ontrack's web site (<http://www.ontrack.com>). You can also call 1-800-872-2599 or 1-612-937-5161.

SERVERMAGIC 3.0

ServerMagic 3.0 from PowerQuest Corp. is a must-have utility for anyone who maintains a NetWare server. With ServerMagic 3.0, you can copy, move, or resize entire NetWare, NT File System (NTFS), High-Performance File System (HPFS), File Allocation Table (FAT), and FAT32 partitions—all without losing a single trustee right, directory setting, or byte of data. You can also resize or merge NetWare volume segments, and you can resize Redundant Array of Independent Disks (RAID) partitions and volumes.

You can even use ServerMagic 3.0 to create a mirror of any NetWare partition. Using PowerQuest's SmartSector technology, ServerMagic 3.0 can create a mirror up to three times faster than NetWare's mirror function. After you have created a mirror with ServerMagic 3.0, NetWare maintains this mirror just as it maintains the original partition. If you copy, move, or resize a partition that is part of a mirrored set, ServerMagic 3.0 automatically detects the mirror and asks if you want to perform the same function with the other half of the mirrored set.

ServerMagic 3.0 includes a copy of PowerQuest's ServerImage utility, which allows you to create image files of partitions or volumes. ServerImage uses SmartSector technology to ensure that only the portions of the hard drive containing data are copied to the image file.

ServerMagic 3.0 supports NetWare 5, NetWare 4, NetWare 3.12, and Windows NT. You can purchase ServerMagic 3.0 through retail channels at the suggested retail price of U.S. \$495, and you can download a demo version from <http://www.powerquest.com/servermagic>. For more information about ServerMagic 3.0, visit PowerQuest's web site (<http://www.powerquest.com>). You can also call 1-800-379-2566 or 1-801-437-8900. ●

the game progresses. If you get stuck, you can access hints and wildcards to help you move on. A hint shows you the solution for a single piece of a puzzle, and a wildcard allows you to instantly solve a puzzle so you can advance to the next one.

Pandora's Box supports Windows NT, 98, and 95. You can purchase Pandora's Box through retail channels at the suggested retail price of U.S. \$49.95, and you can download a demo version of the game from <http://www.microsoft.com/games/pandorasbox/downloads.htm>. For more information about Pandora's Box, visit Microsoft's web site (<http://www.microsoft.com/games>). You can also call 1-800-426-9400 or 1-425-882-8080.

NETWORK GAME OF THE MONTH

Command & Conquer: Tiberian Sun from Westwood Studios is the latest game in the popular Command & Conquer series, which makes it one of the

most anticipated games of the year. As with previous games in the series, Command & Conquer: Tiberian Sun pits the Global Defense Initiative (GDI) against the corrupt Brotherhood of NOD.

This time, the Brotherhood of NOD is fighting to acquire the world's supply of tiberium, which is the last remaining global resource and the most powerful compound ever discovered. The GDI is fighting to stop the Brotherhood of NOD in its tracks. You can choose whether to fight on the side of the GDI or the Brotherhood of NOD.

Command & Conquer: Tiberian Sun features a redesigned graphics engine that uses Voxel technology. This technology improves the 3-D aspects of the game, making both terrain and battle units more lifelike. Command & Conquer: Tiberian Sun also features a new heuristic type of artificial intelligence. As a result, the computer can adapt it-

self to your playing style to become a more formidable opponent.

You can play Command & Conquer: Tiberian Sun with up to seven other people over a network connection. You can also play Command & Conquer: Tiberian Sun with up to three other people over an Internet connection or with one other person over a modem or a serial connection.

Command & Conquer: Tiberian Sun supports Windows NT, 98, and 95. You can purchase Command & Conquer: Tiberian Sun through retail channels at the suggested retail price of U.S. \$49.95. For more information, visit Westwood Studios's web site (<http://www.westwood.com>). You can also call 1-800-245-4525 or 1-650-628-7555.

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