

Getting Something for Nothing

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Does your personal web site need a little excitement? Using the resources you'll find at the web sites featured in this article, you can add sound files, 3-D animation, icons, and other images to your web pages—all free. In fact, some of the web sites even feature tutorials and other tools to help you improve your web page-design skills. After you have spiced up your web pages, be sure to check out the network resource, game of the month, and "Product Snapshots."

WEB SITES

ArtToday (<http://www.arttoday.com>) hosts more than 1,200,000 images, 185,000 of which you can access free by registering with the web site. You can preview the remaining images and choose whether or not you want to become a paying subscriber to ArtToday. As a paying subscriber, you can download fonts, high-resolution photographs, additional clip art images, and more. Subscriptions range from U.S. \$29.95 to U.S. \$99.95 per year.

No matter how you register, you can take advantage of ArtToday's powerful search engine to find the exact image you need. For example, you can search by keyword or by category. You can also participate in ArtToday's online community by posting messages to the message board or by searching through the online classifieds.

At ArtToday, you can read tips about creating better graphics and using design software and utilities. ArtToday also includes news about the latest developments in the technology industry.

You'll find an extensive library of clip art at AAAClipArt.com (<http://www.aaacclipart.com>). The images available at AAAClipArt.com are arranged according to subject. For example, you can find subjects such as animals, backgrounds, and cartoons. If you can't find what you are looking for at AAAClipArt.com, you can take advantage of links to other clip art web sites.

Free graphics aren't all the freebies you'll find at AAAClipArt.com. In fact, you can join various mailing lists that will notify you about special offers, discounts, and contests.

DEWA (<http://www.dewa.com/dewa-free-graphics.shtml>) is an umbrella web site for more than 15 web sites that provide free graphics. These web sites are arranged according to the type of graphics they provide. For example, some of these web sites feature 3-D animation, clip art, animated GIFs, and text with neon glow and mirror effects.

FreeFoto.com (<http://www.freefoto.com>) features thousands of free photographs available for noncommercial use. If you want to use the photographs for commercial purposes, you can purchase the right to do so. FreeFoto.com has hundreds of photographs of various locations throughout the world, including Europe, Asia,

and Australia. You will also find pictures of architecture, everyday objects, recreational activities, and transportation.

At Sound America (<http://soundamerica.com>), you can download thousands of sound clips and sound effects. Clips are arranged in categories, making it easy to find what you are looking for. For example, you can access clips from categories such as cartoons, theme songs, movies, and television programs. Sound effects range from various alarms to a zipper zipping. Sound America also features links to several sound utilities that you can download.

NETWORK RESOURCE

Cool Solutions (<http://www.novell.com/coololutions>) is an online community for users of NetWare and other Novell products. At Cool Solutions, you'll find feature articles, time-saving tips, and answers to frequently asked questions. Cool Solutions also features several downloadable tools and utilities, as well as demo versions of useful software.

Among the most useful parts of Cool Solutions are the forums and discussion groups. In these areas, you can ask questions, provide answers to other networking professionals' questions, and do some personal networking. For example, you can participate in a Novell Directory Services (NDS) support forum or submit your ideas for a future live-discussion topic.

Cool Solutions also includes links to other helpful information on the Novell web site. For example, you can follow the link to the Novell Education web site to find information about new courses, or you can follow the link to our own *NetWare Connection* web site to read enthralling articles, such as the one you are reading now. You can also subscribe to the Cool Solutions newsletter. This newsletter will be delivered to you via e-mail when the Cool Solutions web site is updated.

NETWORK GAME OF THE MONTH

Vampire: The Masquerade—Redemption from Nihilistic Inc. is a role-playing game based on White Wolf's World of Darkness series of pen-and-paper role-playing games, of which Vampire: The Masquerade is one volume. Vampires are some of the most popular villains in modern mythology. Their life of darkness is portrayed in everything from prime-time television to popular fiction. Now, Vampire: The Masquerade—Redemption brings the night-cloaked world of vampires vividly to life on your computer.

You led a crusade against evil before you became one of the undead creatures you once battled—a vampire. Now, as Christof, a vampire of the Brujah Clan, you must face a series of brutal confrontations with your nemesis, Vukodlak, a powerful



Vampire: The Masquerade—Redemption

vampire lord. Your unholy showdown begins in medieval Europe and rages on into modern-day London and New York, as you track a soulless enemy in an eternal struggle to destroy him. While you are battling Vukodlak, you must also control the battle that rages inside you—your desire to save humanity from Vu-

kodlak's apocalyptic destruction versus your need to feed on human blood. Along the way, you are joined by other vampires who will fight by your side as you complete a series of quests.

Vampire: The Masquerade—Redemption's world of darkness is created by the Nod engine, which was developed by Nihilistic. As you fight your way through the medieval cities of Prague and Vienna, dramatic lighting, fog effects, and intricate landscapes almost bring the nightmarish past to life. In addition, the modern landscape of London and New York are transformed into a gothic nightmare.

Although the standalone mode offers excitement, Vampire: The Masquerade—Redemption promises to break new ground in multiplayer mode with its storyteller mode. Just as traditional pen-and-paper games require a Game Master to invent a story, trigger events, and bring the game to life, the storyteller mode will en-

able one player to control the game. In addition, a variety of multiplayer chronicles ships with the game.

You can play Vampire: The Masquerade—Redemption in standalone mode or with up to four people via an Internet connection. Vampire: The Masquerade—Redemption supports Windows 98 and 95 and is available through retail channels for the suggested price of U.S. \$49.95. The game was released June 7. For more information about Vampire: The Masquerade—Redemption, visit <http://www.activision.com/games/vampire>.

Thanks to Eric Quigley for bringing Vampire: The Masquerade—Redemption to my attention. We want to hear about all the cool web sites and games that you know about. Send your review of a great web site, network resource, game, or new product to editors@nwconnection.com. If we print your review, you'll become instantly famous. In addition, we'll send you a free NetWare Connection T-shirt. ☛

Product Snapshots

Advancements in technology always bring new products. Product Snapshots gives you a quick look at some of the new products that we find particularly interesting. (Please note these are first-look reviews; we have not conducted exhaustive testing.)

OLYMPUS EYE-TREK FMD-150W

Want the cinematic experience at your beck and call but can't fit a movie screen through your front door, not to mention into your briefcase? The Eye-Trek FMD-150W virtual goggles from Olympus America Inc. are the solution. You can take the Eye-Trek FMD-150W anywhere you go and use it at your convenience—without disturbing others. The Eye-Trek FMD-150W is compact, easy to wear, and weighs less than 4 oz. To use the Eye-Trek FMD-150W, simply connect it to any VCR, DVD-player, camcorder, or any other video source and enjoy the clear, high-resolution image. For the ultimate in mobility, connect the Eye-Trek FMD-150W to a portable DVD player, and you can watch your favorite movie anywhere—on your next flight, in your hotel room, or in the middle of the desert (providing you have enough battery power in reserve). The Eye-Trek FMD-150W ships with an included battery, which provides more than eight hours of use, and with an AC adapter. The AC adapter also doubles as a battery charger.

But what good is an awesome picture if the audio sounds like it is being piped through vacuum tubes? The Eye-Trek FMD-150W has you covered there as well. The foam-covered, earbud-style speakers store neatly in the tips of the ear supports on the goggles. The sound these speakers produce is clear and sharp. You can control the volume using the knob on the attached control box. The control box also houses the battery, power switch, S-video input, AC power input, and a wheel that enables you to control your visual aspect ratio, sharpness, contrast, color levels, brightness, and more.

The Olympus Eye-Trek FMD-150W is available through retail channels for the suggested price of U.S. \$899. For more information about the Eye-Trek FMD-150W, visit the Eye-Trek web site (<http://www.eye-trek.com>).

IBM DESKSTAR 75GXP

The Deskstar 75GXP hard disk drive from IBM Corp. combines a 7,200 RPM with internal transfer rates of 444 Mbps and average seek times of 8.5 milliseconds to enable a sustained data transfer rate of up to 37 Mbps. Capacities range from 15 GB to 75 GB. Tagged command queuing and hardware caching boost sustain data rates to reduce wait times. The Deskstar 75GXP has an ATA/66 interface.

The Deskstar 75GXP includes a new safety ramp feature to eliminate damage to the data area caused by drive mishandling before installation. Also included is a thermal monitor that protects data writes and reads over the full system temperature range.

According to IBM, a single drive can store the equivalent of up to 18 DVD movies, 159 music CDs, or the data contained in a 12,525-foot pile of typed, double-spaced paper—that's 20 times taller than the Washington Monument. In addition, the Deskstar 75GXP is the first IBM desktop drive to use load/unload technology. This feature "parks" the recording heads off of the disk surface when you are not using them, dramatically increasing the amount of shock the drive can handle during that time.

The Deskstar 75GXP is available through retail channels. Prices vary, depending on the storage capacity you choose. (For example, the 75 GB version usually sells for U.S. \$630.) For more information about the IBM Deskstar 75GXP, visit the IBM web site (<http://www.storage.ibm.com/hardsoft/diskdrdl/prod/deskstar.htm>). You can also call 1-888-SHOPIBM in North America. In other areas of the world, visit IBM's web site for contact information. ☛