

## TECHFOCUS

Desktop search tools

# Making your data even more accessible

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MAGINE Google telling you exactly where you kept a certain document on your computer, or help you look for a file when you need it in a hurry. The built-in search feature that comes with Windows is painfully slow and unhelpful most of the time. Desktop search applications makes the job a lot easier. It makes a long list of every document, pictures, and saved web-pages and, when you need them, the software brings them up quickly and efficiently. Some desktop search software even catalogue audio, video and any other type of data files too.

Desktop search applications are software that searches the contents of your own computer files, rather than searching the Internet.

Desktop search software gives emphasis on data mining all information that is available on the user's PC, including web browser histories, e-mail archives, word-processor documents, and so on. One of the main advantages of Desktop Search programs is that search results come up in a few seconds. For home users, it means faster access to everything stored on the computer. For business users, it means added productivity and simplifying the workflow.

The popularity of the desktop search software has been increasing tremendously in the recent years, with all of the major players in online searching releasing their desktop search software. Users who've been using desktop search software find them indispensable now.

But which offering is the best? Here we take a look at some of the most popular desktop search tools out there.

**Google Desktop Search**  
Google's desktop search software has been around for a while and it's quite popular. The software indexes all documents, web-pages, emails from Outlook, a wide variety of data files, from Word to PDF to videos and more. The search is very convenient to access too, just press Ctrl twice and a Quick Search Box pops up. When you type in your query, it searches and instantly shows results. Google Desktop Search is particularly useful for finding a file, email, bookmark, or browser



cache based on the file contents. It indexes relatively quickly, and displays results in your browser in that familiar Google-search style. It's also pretty accurate most of the times.

The company recently released the version 4 of the software which adds a nifty sidebar tool, the likes of which Microsoft promised in Windows Vista. The sidebar gives users one-stop access to all kind of fun stuff, like email, weather, games, a note pad, and more. The software is available for download for free at [desktop.google.com](http://desktop.google.com)

**Yahoo! Desktop Search**  
Yahoo's desktop search software is capable for some serious file searching. Like Google's Desktop Search, it searches all the documents, saved web-pages and emails. It also searches music and images, in addition to more than three-hundred file types and even searches inside compressed or.zip achieves.

Unlike Google, Yahoo! Desktop Search does not display

results in search engine results like manner in your web browser. This program has its own interface and its own window. It has an easy to use column-based sorting system that can be used to filter searches by name, size, date, and path. It's also easy to use the field-based filtering to further refine your search. The software also has a nice 'instant preview' feature, similar to Google's quick search, which is nice for fast typers. It's available for free at [desktop.yahoo.com](http://desktop.yahoo.com)

It's not all good news, though. The software doesn't shine so brightly when it comes to performance: it's a huge memory hog and it doesn't index files frequently enough for some users.

**Copernic**  
Copernic is an extremely strong desktop search application that indexes files literally as soon as they are stored and lets you preview files in a separate preview window. It's also notably faster than Google and Yahoo's similar software. And because it keeps on

cataloguing files, you'll find newly created documents and files on Copernic's index faster than on software from its competitors.

Also, if you prefer to tag the files and folders with keywords yourself, Copernic does a great job of separating out your searches according to keyword and category.

Copernic never stops indexing files and that could lead to a possible overload problem eventually.

But it can be turned off when needed. Copernic also doesn't work on older versions of Windows either — only Windows XP/2000/NT is supported. Copernic is available for download at [copernic.com](http://copernic.com)

**Ask**  
Ask Jeeves Desktop Search is a small application (some 750K), but is nevertheless able to search your hard drive for documents, emails and various text, image, music and video files just like the other desktop search engines. The technology is based on a desktop search tool developed by

Tukaroo, a company Ask Jeeves bought in June 2004.

This desktop tool gives users more control over the software than some of the competitors. Hence users can define how much of their hard disk they want indexed, as how much processor power should be allotted to this task. Ask Desktop Search gives you the option to view your desktop search results within your browser or in the interface, which is a nice feature. You can also use Ask Desktop Search from within almost any application on your computer; for example, if you open up Word and can't remember where you pasted a quote, you can use Ask Desktop Search within Word to find it. You can also preview your files within the Ask.com application interface. Ask Desktop Search is available at [sp.ask.com/en/docs/desktop/overview.shtml](http://sp.ask.com/en/docs/desktop/overview.shtml)

#### MSN

One of the most interesting features of MSN Desktop Search is the fact that you can pick and choose what you would like it to index. Plus, it comes bundled with the MSN Search Toolbar, which has all sorts of handy features such as tabbed browsing, an automatic form filler, and a pop-up blocker. MSN Desktop Search can index more than 200 different file types.

The new MSN suite also includes a pop-up blocker and an automatic form fill feature that remembers often used personal information. Like the Google toolbar, the MSN Toolbar Suite includes a 'highlighter' that colours the relevant keywords on the web results pages. MSN Desktop Search is available for free download at [desktop.msn.com](http://desktop.msn.com)

And these aren't all. There are dozens of software out there aiming to make your data even more accessible to you. Interested? Hear over to Wikipedia for more information. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desktop\\_search](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desktop_search)

The desktop search tools are immensely useful and they take the user's pain and frustration of not being able to find what the he is looking for. That being said, we sincerely hope that the next version of Windows, Vista, will include with a fast, thorough desktop search, rendering most of these applications obsolete.

## Motorola 6800

The 6800 is a microprocessor produced by Motorola and released shortly after the Intel 8080 in 1975. It had 78 instructions, including the (infamous, undocumented Halt and Catch Fire (HCF) bus test instruction. It may have been the first µP with an index register. It was usually packaged in a 40 pin DIP (dual-inline package). Several first-generation microcomputers of the 1970s, available by mail order as kits or in assembled form, used the 6800 as their CPU. The 6800 fathered several descendants, the pinnacle being the greatly upgraded 6809, which was used in the Vectrex video game console and the TRS-80 Color Computer, among others.

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## TECHNEWS

## Red Hat showcases enterprise Linux solutions

RED Hat Inc. showcased the benefits and features of its Linux solutions among other things on a day-long awareness-raising event in the city on July 5.

At the event, Red Hat officials from India and South Asia talked and discussed about the current situation and the future of Red Hat in the country with local Red Hat enthusiasts.

The presenters focused on the many benefits of using Linux. "Red Hat Enterprise Linux will not only give the users the latest technology and security, it'll also offer its services at a cheaper price," said a Red Hat official. In the country, the price of a one-year subscription of Red Hat Linux has been set to around three thousand taka.

In India, Red Hat Linux is used for e-Governance and in leading private organisations. The number of home users of Red Hat Linux is also increasing, said the presenters at the event. The presenters also focused on the future of Red Hat Linux here in the country. They said that Red Hat Linux will be



particularly suitable for large private organisations like the telecom industries, banks and also for e-Governance.

Red Hat officials also focused on the details of Red Hat Professional Services, Red Hat Global File System, Red Hat Directory Server and Red Hat Certification System. Later in event, the presenters discussed the current situation of Linux in the country, potential commercial and home users.

Red Hat, Inc. is one of the largest and most recognised companies dedicated to open

source software. Red Hat Linux is marketed primarily as a server operating system. Since 2003, Red Hat has discontinued the Red Hat Linux line in favour of its new Red Hat Enterprise Linux. It is also popular among computing firms and the like as the built-in installation scripting tool 'kickstart' enables fast configuring and set up of standardized hardware. From version 8.0, Red Hat has also targeted the corporate desktop.

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## TECHNEWS

## ZyXEL unveils new product line for local market

## STARTECH DESK

ZyXEL Communications Corporation, one of the leading providers of complete broadband access solutions for service providers, as well as business and home users, introduced their wide range of latest products in the local market at an 'IP Networking' event on July 5.

"ZyXEL, after working in so many different parts of the world, has now chosen Bangladesh, due to the expansion of its IT sector," said SMM Hasan, managing director of Mosita Group, the local distributor for ZyXEL.

"We believe in a competition through innovative, effective and latest-technology solutions and not price-cut, because price competition has the chances of affecting the quality of services," said Chen Ker-Ming, vice president of the company.

Showrooms and retail management service (RMS) centres of ZyXEL will be available within the coming months. For the last five years Mosita has been

providing after sales support to the ZyXEL customers in the country. At present there is a two-year warranty on ZyXEL products sold in Bangladesh, which can be extended up to five-years based on payments.

ZyXEL is also training engineers in Bangladesh, who will be taken abroad later on to learn the aspects more practically and deeply. This training and certification is offered up to three times a year.

At the event ZyXEL introduced their wide range of product line that included IP DSLAM (Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer), VDSL (Very high data rate Digital Subscriber Line) products, VoIP and Internet Security related products, Ethernet switches, Wi-Fi and Broadband products, Network Storage products and many more.

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## Tech snippets

### Samsung's Braille Cellphone for blind users

Samsung certainly makes the some of the most innovative cellphones. It was Samsung who were showcasing a handset with a 10 mega pixel camera in CeBIT this year. Now, they're showcasing a cellphone designed for visually impaired people. The handset has 12 buttons that acts as two Braille keypads to enter in text for text messaging to other cellphones. Incoming messages are displayed using Braille on the bottom half of the phone.



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Samsung only has this as a prototype for now, but if they want to commercialise it, the seriously under-served market would be most grateful.

### Magnetic Floating Bed

Every so often, we come across things whose functionality isn't measured in gigabytes or megabucks, but instead just look amazing. This mag-

netic floating bed may be among the coolest things money can buy. Designed by Dutchman Janjaap Ruijsenaars who spent six years developing it, it's got enough magnets to keep 900 kilograms floating in the air. To make sure that the bed doesn't float away should it become windy, it's tethered to the walls by four cables.

Technically, the magnetic floating bed is for sale, but at a price of 1.53 million dollars, you're not likely to find these selling at Nilkhet or the Stadium Market in Dhaka. One day, hopefully, the prices will come down and we'll be able to enjoy the joy of the levitating goodness.

### Million dollar cellphone

If you're looking for a particularly stylish and expensive cell phone, check out this million-dollar-handset from Goldvish of Switzerland. It's not the technology that makes it so expensive; it's

all the platinum, gold and diamonds put into it. This glitzy phone is made of 18-karat white gold and encrusted with 120-carats of VVS-1 grade diamonds. As for the specs it comes with EDGE connectivity, 2 GB memory, MP3 player, World FM radio and USB. Beats the Nokia N-series or the handsets from Vertu! Personally, I think the similarly priced Bugatti Veyron a much better deal: it's the best production-car out there and it goes from 0 to 60mph in less than 3 seconds.

## PHOTOTECH



## BLUE GOGGLES

A model demonstrates bluetooth technology which enables handsfree mobile phone usage, during the Indonesia cellular show 2006 in Jakarta on July 5. Some 24 exhibitors of various cellular phone brands are participating in the five day long exhibition that has attracted large numbers of visitors.

PHOTO: AFP