Portable applications

Article URL
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Author
SecurityHome.eu

Published: 23 August 2008

Last updated on 25 August 2008.

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If you are paranoid and trust no applications but your own, you can use portable applications

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These are application that do not need to be installed, and can be run from an usb-drive, cd-rom or flash card.

You have even entire suites. Such as a desktop suite with Firefox, thunderbirs, openoffice, ...
But also a XAMPP-suite (Apache, mySQL, PHP and Perl). Perfect if you want to do some developing or show a project.

They exists for Windows(XP) but also for Mac and Linux.

For a list of portable software check the wikipedia pages:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_portable_software

More applications can be found at these sites:
http://portableapps.com

http://www.pendriveapps.com

http://www.portablefreeware.com