Portable applications

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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