

# Cool Tools for Tech Writers for <\$100

## SyncToy v1.4 (XP and Vista)

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/prophoto/synctoy.msp> In **Vista**, also see Start > System and Maintenance > Back up your computer

## Private Character Editor (XP and Vista)

[http://www.microsoft.com/resources/documentation/windows/xp/all/proddocs/en-us/app\\_start\\_character\\_editor.msp?mfr=true](http://www.microsoft.com/resources/documentation/windows/xp/all/proddocs/en-us/app_start_character_editor.msp?mfr=true)

In **XP and Vista**: Start > Run > eudcedit

Insert Characters using **Character Map** (Start > Programs > Accessories > System Tools > Character Map)

## Icon Forge (XP and more)

[http://www.cursorarts.com/ca\\_if.html](http://www.cursorarts.com/ca_if.html)

Stock icons: <http://www.iconexperience.com/>

## The Gimp (Windows 98/ME/NT4/2000/XP)

<http://www.gimp.org/>

**Gimp User Manual** <http://docs.gimp.org/en/>

## SnagIt (Windows 95/2000/XP/Vista)

<http://www.techsmith.com/snagit.asp>

## Snipping Tool (Vista)

<http://windowshelp.microsoft.com/Windows/en-US/Help/1337cdba-52a2-4704-ad4d-2d7bace605b41033.msp#EFD>

## Remove document metadata: In Microsoft Office 2007: Use the "Inspect Document" feature.

Older versions of Word; see: "Hidden Information for All to See" by Jack Molisani. STC *Intercom*, Sept/Oct 2005

## Mantis (Windows, MacOS, OS/2, Linux, Solaris, etc.)

<http://www.mantisbt.org/>

## Subversion (Unix, Win32, BeOS, OS/2, MacOS X)

<http://subversion.tigris.org/>

**Subversion Manual:** <http://svnbook.red-bean.com/>

**TextAloud** <http://www.nextup.com/>

**Audacity** <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>

**RecordPad** <http://www.nch.com.au/recordpad/>

Check out: <http://techwritervoices.com/>

## Hour Guard Time Sheet

(Windows 98/2000/XP/2003/Vista)

<http://www.nchsoftware.com/timesheet/index.html>

## Wiki tools:

**DokuWiki:** <http://wiki.splitbrain.org/wiki:dokuwiki>

**TWiki:** <http://twiki.org/>

**TiddlyWiki:** <http://www.tiddlywiki.com/>

**MediaWiki:** <http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/MediaWiki>

**Site with comparison information on over 50 Wiki tools:** <http://wikimatrix.org>

## SharePoint:

<http://www.microsoft.com/sharepoint/default.msp>

## Read more:

"Free or Open Source Tools for Technical Communicators" (Parts I and II) by Charles Curley, STC *Intercom*, December 2006/January 2007

"Useful Shareware and Freeware for Technical Writers" Ed Marshall, 2007 STC-Philadelphia Metro Chapter Conference (ed.marshall@verizon.net) <http://tinyurl.com/ya7cgm> (www.stcpcm.org)

## Google Docs and Spreadsheets:

<http://docs.google.com>

## Greeked text generator:

<http://www.duckisland.com/greekmachine.asp>

**Dictionary of computer and Internet technology definitions:** <http://www.webopedia.com/>

## PMS/RGB/Hex color chart:

<http://www.tridesign.com.au/index-tess1.php?ItemNo=2055>

## HATT Yahoo Group:

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/HATT/>

**Techwr-I ("Techwhirl"):** <http://www.techwr-l.com/techwhirl/index.php3>

**HAT Matrix:** <http://hat-matrix.com/>

**MSHelp Wiki:** <http://www.mshelpwiki.com/>

## Constant Contact:

<http://www.constantcontact.com/index.jsp>

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