

How to Safely Download an App from the Internet

There are plenty of rogue sites on the Web, offering downloads that are either fake or malicious. But when we go looking for software downloads, we should be able to trust the big names like CNET, ZDNet, Adobe, Oracle and Tucows that have been around forever, right? Sadly, the answer is not always.

If you've ever downloaded Adobe Reader or Java, you've experienced the problem of unwanted toolbars, sneaky downloads, and changes to your browser settings.

The problem is especially bad at CNET's Download.com site, and they deserve to be shunned and scorned for it. A couple years ago, all of us went to download.com to obtain free programs with complete confidence that every download would be evaluated accurately by CNET editors and would not have any extra add-ons foisted on us. It now has the reputation of being one of the worst places to go for a program/application download!

Two other popular download sites, ZDNet and Tucows should be added to our "Do Not Visit" list.

On a positive note, there are a couple places to go for safe downloads. Try both [FileHippo.com](#) (hyperlink) and [Ninite](#) (hyperlink).