# How To Get Free & Discount Software

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# Free Microsoft software

## & Other Discount Software

To sell more copies of its software, Microsoft often gives away free copies of it's software for potential customers to try.

Microsoft Direct Access (MSDA) is for dealers and technology providers, but it is open to anyone who signs up.

You can read about it at: http://www.microsoft.com/directaccess or https://partner.microsoft.com/

It can help you regardless of business size or focus.

There are basically three levels:

**Registered Member Benefits**
**Certified Partner Benefits**
**Gold Certified Partner Benefits**

You can read a little on each and pick...you don't have to be a huge corporation to get free software keys...

You can sign up here:

https://partners.microsoft.com/partnerprogram/welcome.aspx

If you are a sole proprietorship, or small small business, you may just want 'Registered Member Benefits' which is the only level which doesn't require annual fees.

You can still get some great benefits though.

Also, one of the best ways to get free software is to show up at FREE local Microsoft events around the country.  There may be a short seminar but definitely worth it for a bunch of free software.

Microsoft Learning Center: https://partner.microsoft.com/40015797 for registered members.

To become a registered member takes about 10 minutes of filling in forms/profile.

Microsoft Connections
Offers free Microsoft Connections event series to help small businesses learn to use Microsoft products to increase security, conduct targeted marketing campaigns, and more. Visit site for details.
http://www.microsoft.com/smallbusiness/connections/default.mspx

Microsoft MSDN Website: Exclusive site for Microsoft Events!
http://www.msdnevents.com/

Often at these events attendees walk away with an Attendee kit chock full of evaluation products, detailed product information, beta releases, even free full versions of popular software.

The reason Microsoft gives stuff away is that they want business reps to buy many more copies for their business or organization.  Of course you are not obligated to buy anything.

Not every seminar gives out free software, so you should read the descriptions carefully or ask a seminar representative on the phone.  Even without free software these could be good networking opportunities.

You can also get computer training and phone support as a registered member.

You do not need a vendors or a resellers license or be an OEM

Other ways I have gotten free Microsoft Software:

I obtained a free copy of Microsoft FrontPage when I signed up for monthly web hosting.

You might ask the Microsoft Web Hosting service if they have any free offers going (this was a limited time promotion, but I believe they may offer free software with a month of hosting from time to time).

# GET HUGE DISCOUNTS ON SOFTWARE!
# Other ways: "Student Discount Software"

You can frequently get **HUGE HUGE** discounts on software if you are a student.

Software companies realize that students often can't afford software so they offer discounts if you have a student ID card.

If you want to get all of your business software, you might want to check out sites such as
www.gradware.com
or these sites:
www.journeyed.com
Save up to 85% on Adobe, Microsoft,  Alias, Avid, Macromedia and more.
www.academicsuperstore.com
Students: Save on Macromedia,  Adobe, Microsoft and more


Do a Google search for "student discount software"

There are plenty of sites where you can get up to 85% off retail price on popular software programs.

You can talk to an operator and ask for proof needed.

If you are taking classes it may be only a student ID...

So if you have been considering some computer courses like 'web design' at community college, this may be the perfect excuse to sign up!

You can get some great computer skills from teachers at a community college and outfit your small business with tons of discount software at the same time.

You could also of course talk to someone who is a student ;)  Student software is exactly the same as regular versions.

Many college campuses around the country have student software stores where you can get these discounts...And the online services typically ship pretty fast.

## To sum it up:

Microsoft has some good software, and you can sometimes get free software with a little effort.

Despite their 'evil empire' reputation on the market, I like Microsoft Software a lot!

There are some very useful programs for small business owners.

If you don't have money to spend, you may also check out open source software which is pretty good too: http://www.openoffice.org/

Recommended Links:

**Catalogue of tools & resources for websites.**
**http://www.resource-website.com**