Shareware

It works in DOS, the basic commands are easy to learn. ✤✤  S129 • ViaCrypt 4.0, 602-944-0773

PROFESSIONAL CAPTURE SYSTEMS
Professional Capture Systems is a screen capture utility that works in both DOS and Windows. Unlike Screen Thief, Professional Capture Systems can run alongside several memory-intensive games. Warcraft, however, rendered it useless by locking out keyboard commands. If Professional Capture Systems included an animation utility for automatic captures, it would be an excellent product. ✤✤  S39 • JASC, 800-622-2793

SCREEN THIEF
Screen Thief is among a handful of programs that let you take digital still shots of other computer programs as they run. Simply load Screen Thief into RAM before running other programs and hit keyboard commands when you want to capture a screen image. The pictures are stored as PCX files, which can be used and viewed with most word-processing and desktop publishing programs. However, many games use so much RAM that they won't run in tandem with Screen Thief. ✤✤  S29 • Nildram Software/FormGen, 800-263-2390

TELEX FOR WINDOWS
As communications managers go, the shareware version of Telix for Windows competes well with such established giants as Delrina's WinCom. It allows background transfers, features a powerful user phone book, and has a fairly understandable graphical interface. The retail version even allows you to view image files during downloads. The shareware version of Telix for Windows has two main drawbacks: It does not display GIF files and (like other shareware programs) it turns itself off after a 45-day trial period. ✤✤  S89.30 • DeltaComm Development/FormGen, 800-263-2390

WinZip Self-Extractor is a simple utility with an equally simple interface.

Shareware on the WEB

INTERNET EXPLORER 2.0
In an unusual turn of events, Microsoft has found itself lagging behind the pack on Internet browsing software. Microsoft's Internet Explorer is tough to learn and cannot access many kinds of files.

This summer Microsoft will release Internet Explorer 3.0, which will have progressive rendering and will match many of the features available from competitor Netscape Navigator 2.0. ✤✤

Free at http://www.msn.com • Microsoft, 800-426-9400

NETSCAPE NAVIGATOR 2.0
With advanced features such as framing and progressive rendering of graphics, and with more proprietary extensions than its competitors can offer, Netscape Navigator 2.0 is the best Internet browser available (see our April feature, "Browser Battle," page 66).

Tapping into this extra power, many companies have used Netscape server tools to create their Web sites. In fact, "Netscape Enhanced" has become a common sign along the information superhighway. ✤✤  S49 (free trial version at http://www.home.netscape.com) • Netscape Communications, 415-254-1900

SHOCKWAVE
Shockwave is a plug-in that allows Internet browsers to access animations created with Macromedia Director. Since Director handles both audio and visual effects, it provides an effective way to advertise on the Internet. It also enables publishers to jazz up their Web sites considerably.

Free at http://www.macromedia.com • Macromedia, 800-326-2128

JAVA APPLETS
3-D NAVIGATION
This Java applet by Jean-Claude Dufour is a 3-D cube that you can spin using your cursor. On each side of the cube you’ll find an international flag that’s hyperlinked to a specific Web page. Hack the source code to create your own version. ✤✤

Free at http://www.elec.ens.fr/java/n/test.html

CELEBRITY PAINTER
This paint program created by Jeff Orkin allows you to paint brush strokes with celebrity faces. Mixing and matching them yields mischievous fun. ✤✤

Free at http://www.demonsys.com/orkin/CelebrityPainter/celebrity