



## My Word!

# Free, low-cost and specialized alternatives to *that* word processor

### DESKTOP WORD PROCESSORS AND OFFICE SUITES

[LibreOffice](#)    

[OpenOffice](#)    

[Kingsoft Office](#)      Download links for free, pro and mobile versions under "Products."

[SoftMaker FreeOffice](#)   

[SoftMaker Office](#)     Commercial version with additional features. Also available for Windows Mobile and CE (!)

[AbiWord](#)     The available Mac versions of AbiWord are described as "slightly outdated."

[XWord Free](#)   One of very few free native Mac word processors. Pro version is \$19.99

[Bean](#)   A well-regarded rich-text editor for Mac. Not quite a full-fledged word processor, but that's probably a good thing.

[SSuite Office Wordgraph](#)   Several other word processors and office suites are available on the same site.

[Mellel](#)   Mellel falls into multiple categories. It's a general word processor, but also has special features for authors and academics.

## ONLINE WORD PROCESSORS AND OFFICE SUITES

[Google Docs/Drive](#)   Requires a Google/Google+/Gmail account.

[Zoho Docs](#)    The standard 5GB account is free, other options cost a few dollars.

[Microsoft Office Web Apps](#)   Requires an Outlook/Hotmail/SkyDrive/Microsoft account

[Thinkfree Online](#)  

[Live Documents](#)  

## WORD PROCESSORS FOR SMARTPHONES AND TABLETS

*Note: Some of these mobile apps also have a web component for synchronizaton or online editing of documents*

[Quip](#)    Supposedly the first word processor designed expressly for the touchscreen, tablet interface.

[hopTo](#)   Marketed as a “true mobile workspace for the iPad.”

[Quickoffice](#)    Google’s free MS-compatible mobile office suite.

[ThinkFree Mobile](#)  

[Kingsoft Office Mobile](#)    Download links for free, pro and mobile versions under “Products.”

[Fiowriter](#)  

[iA Writer](#)  

## WORD PROCESSORS FOR PROSE AUTHORS

[Jarte](#)   Arguably the prototype for the minimalist, “distraction-free” word processor, but not as stripped-down as the following.

[WriteMonkey](#)    Minimalist, “distraction-free” word processor for authors.

[FocusWriter](#)     Minimalist, “distraction-free” word processor for authors.

**Writer: The Internet Typewriter**   Minimalist, “distraction-free” word processor for authors.

**WriteRoom**    Minimalist, “distraction-free” word processor for authors.

**MarkdownPad**    A light text editor that uses the “markdown,” don’t-take-your-hands-off-the-keyboard scheme for formatting.

**yWriter**   A specialty application for novelists, with multiple tools to outline, plot, keep track of your characters, etc. A maximalist, “distraction-plus” approach, so to speak.

## WORD PROCESSORS FOR SCRIPTWRITERS

**Scrivener**    Prose and scriptwriting specialty tool. Feature-rich and complex, but extremely powerful. Equally good for academic and scientific writing.

**Final Draft**     Film and TV screenwriting application, Hollywood’s de facto standard. Also used for stage, radio and comics.

**Celtx**     Screenwriting specialty tool, with additional templates for stage, radio and comics. The basic downloadable app is free, but add-on online features cost extra.

**Trelby**    Screenwriting specialty tool, with additional templates for stage, radio and comics.

**Adobe Story Free**   Free online screenwriting specialty tool. Yes, from Adobe.

**Plotbot**   Free online screenwriting specialty tool. I found it hard to use.

**ComiXwriter**   This project is in progress, details, features and pricing are still in flux.

**Bubble - Plain Text Markup for Comic Scripts**    The online version of this app is temporarily unavailable as Jan. 2, 2014, but I have the installable Windows version if anybody wants it. This is why I’m leery of becoming too dependent on online apps.

## WORD PROCESSORS FOR SCIENCE AND ACADEMIA

[Nota Bene](#)  

[Classical Text Editor](#)  

[Mellel](#)   *Mellel arguably falls into multiple categories. It's a general word processor, but also has special features for authors and academics.*

[Latex](#)    

[Lyx](#)    

## SOFTWARE AND WEBSITES DISCUSSED DURING THE PRESENTATION

[Pale Moon](#)   *Customized version of Firefox optimized for Windows. Comes in 32 and 64 bit versions.*

[Gizmo's Freeware at TechSupportAlert](#)   I think this is the best freeware review and download site on the web. They rate freeware in order of preference, with detailed overviews and feature listings.

[AlternativeTo.net](#)   Another great place to find freeware, shareware and commercial software. You search for alternatives to software products: i.e., if you search on Word, you'll be offered alternative word processors.

[PortableApps.com](#)   A site providing numerous applications which can be run directly from a flashdrive, without the need for installation. (On that note, it seems that FreeOffice *can* be run from a flashdrive.)

Please feel free to contact me with questions or comments at [mark@shainblum.com](mailto:mark@shainblum.com)

I'm in the process of rebuilding my websites, but they should be online again shortly at [www.shainblum.com](http://www.shainblum.com) and [www.northguard.com](http://www.northguard.com).