

PentaWare PentaSuite 7.0

MOBILE TOOLKIT FOR THE TECH SAVVY

Being mobile means your office is wherever you happen to be: on a plane, in a hotel room, in the back of a cab. The lifestyle requires a minimum of paper clutter — but many still worry that their important files don't make it to the office. PentaSuite 7.0 becomes an ally at any desk jockey's cubicle.

To get a handle on your hard drive, try PentaWare's PentaSuite 7.0, a grab bag of helpful utilities for browsing, viewing, compressing, archiving, uploading, and otherwise managing burgeoning file collections.

One of the suite's tools, PentaZip, compresses and extracts files in almost every major archive format, including zip, GZip, Tar, Cab, and Jar (though support for Stuffit-compressed files, popular among Macintosh users, is lacking). PentaZip has options for scheduling and scripting batch compression jobs, which can be useful for backups. You can also encrypt compressed files using a variety of algorithms, including AES, Blowfish, Mars, and Serpent, with support for extremely long key sizes in each.

A viewing application, PentaBrowser, provides an alternative to Windows Explorer that lets you view and edit a wide range of image files and documents. PentaPDF encodes files in PDF format for sending via e-mail.

PentaDVD burns files to CDs and DVDs quickly and easily.

PentaSuite also includes a tool for converting image files between different formats. Another tool auto-generates Web-ready thumbnail galleries from any set of images. And finally, the suite includes an FTP utility.

The biggest problem with PentaSuite is that these utilities aren't well integrated. Each tool operates in a separate window, and after browsing your hard drive, opening a Zip file, committing a new file, and burning a CD, your taskbar will be littered with "Penta..." buttons. The suite would be slicker and easier to use if everything operated within the same window.

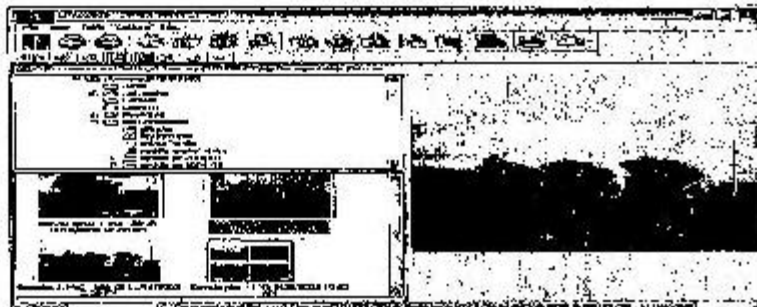
That said, PentaSuite's value alone is a decent value. For security- and backup-conscious mobile users who are extremely savvy, PentaSuite can be a tremendous asset. For those who have yet to enable their system firewall, it may be a bit much.

Dylan Fierman



PentaWare PentaSuite 7.0 | 5.0
 System reqs/compat: Windows 98 SE, ME, NT, 2000, XP, 32MB RAM, 4MB of hard disk space

PentaSuite's PentaBrowser offers an Explorer-like document tree with built-in previews of image files. PentaSuite's main window provides access to the suite's many utilities.



Fits everyone.

