Better **PROVEN** Software replacements...,
(and save a ton of money while you're at it)...

But first clean up your computer and make it run smoother which appears/shows as increased speed...
Use CCleaner to get there... I've been using it since 2004 w/o issues..
CCleaner Is Disk Cleanup On Steroids...
Note... the 1st time you run CCleaner it may take a long while... As in it just may take a very long while... Use it daily, then it's cake and pie taking mere seconds to do it's thing...

Ccleaner takes the Disk Cleanup concept and runs with it, extending it to more data in Windows and third-party programs that the Windows Disk Cleanup tool won't touch. For example, it will erase cache files for other browsers like Chrome and Firefox, or delete the useless setup folders NVIDIA's graphics driver installers create when you update your graphics drivers, which can consume hundreds of megabytes each.
CCleaner has three main uses.

1, it scans for and deletes useless files, freeing up space.

2, it erases private data like your browsing history and list of most recently opened files in various programs....

3, it cleans out malicious cookies...

for private user their free edition is way more than adequate...

CCleaner Also Deletes Private Data

CCleaner has another purpose: it will also delete private usage data. For example, CCleaner will erase your browser history, cookies, and cache files for any browsers you have installed — Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, even Opera. It will go beyond that, erasing the cookie data stored by the Flash Player. It will even wipe out other potentially privacy-risking data, such as the list of recently opened file names in Microsoft Word, Adobe Reader, Windows Media Player, VLC media player, and other common Windows applications...

Boost your speed

Computers often tend to slow down with time. It's not because of the hardware - it's because over time, unused programs accumulate, often running in the background without you knowing it. Changes may be made in the registry that are no longer needed, and your cache file grows and makes response slower when you're surfing the Internet. Cleaning out all of these unused, redundant and unnecessary files delivers a speed boost instantaneously.. Can we say, be more productive here...

Firefox to replace any browser out there...

People who are used to using one type of Internet browser may be reluctant to trying another brand, even when people claim the wonders of one over the others. While programs like Internet Explorer® serve many people well, some users may want to consider Firefox® if they have dealt with certain issues, like security breaches and download problems, in the past. Each browser software has its own pros and cons, but Firefox® is often considered to be among the fastest and safest available....

- **Speed** — Firefox® is reported to be the fastest browser when it comes to download speed. Not only do programs and files download faster, but users get a record of all their downloads in the form of a table, so they can erase or move them at their convenience.
- **Security** — This browser has some advanced security measures that help protect a computer from spyware and even certain viruses. It also comes with a state-of-the-art popup blocker that stops almost 100% of popups.
- **Tabbed browsing and other advanced features** — Tabbed browsing allows the user to open an unlimited number of pages in a single window, thus helping to organize browsing. Firefox® also has an embedded memory, which means if the computer is turned off by mistake, the browser will remember which sites were open and offer to restore the previous session.

Search engines...

DuckDuckGo w/o a second thought...

What is DuckDuckGo? The short definition....

DuckDuckGo is a search engine that, unlike Google, tries to protect the privacy of its users, by deliberately showing all users the same search results for a specific keyword, without filtering/censoring those search results and personalizing them based on the history of the user....

What DuckDuckGo does that Google does not..

DuckDuckGo is a different kind of search engine, especially when compared to Google. Here are some of the things that DuckDuckGo does or does not when compared to Google:

- It does not store the IP addresses of its users
- DuckDuckGo does not log any user-related information, only keyword-related information
- For a given keyword, it returns the same search results to all users
- DuckDuckGo does not share data about a user's search keywords with the websites that they visit as a result of their search
- It includes data from a compilation of over 400 sources, including Bing, Wolfram Alpha, Wikipedia, Yahoo!, its own web crawler, called the

DuckDuckBot, and many others.
- It uses cookies only when needed
- It relies on many open-source technologies and projects to provide you with private search results
- It is run by a small team of people. At the time of writing this article, they were fewer than 50 people

The benefits of using DuckDuckGo, for users

DuckDuckGo offers a couple of important benefits that search engines like Google do not:

- **User privacy/security...**
  There is no personal information collected and stored about users. There is no search history, IP address or cookies stored for you as a user. As a result, if governments or institutions like the police, request data about you from DuckDuckGo, there is no data to be shared with them. It also uses points to encrypted version (HTTPS) of websites. So, that's an added security.
- **It prevents search leakage.**
  The websites that you visit from DuckDuckGo do not know what you searched for, to get to them.
- Direct contact with the developer team. DuckDuckGo has a small team behind it, and it relies on its user community to improve steadily. If you want to, you can provide feedback to DuckDuckGo, by going to their community website. You can contribute by submitting translations, features ideas, bug reports, etc.
- Transparency about how it works and how it treats users. If you want to know their history and evolution, where their team is based, how to access their community and read their up-to-date privacy policy, go to this page: About DuckDuckGo...

- **Ad Free Search**
  Though it is not turned on by default, the user can opt to have ad-free searches. It is an option in advanced settings.

- **Category Pages**
  Category pages provide instant answer to many of the questions. It is context relative and presented in a crisp format.

- **Regional Search**
  DDG provides a regional and language search that will provide different results for different regions selected.

- **Customization**
  Customization is one of the key features of DDG. You can change the theme, fonts, colors to your liking. You can have it any way you want.

For more features, refer to Nipun Sher's answer to What does DuckDuckGo

[search have to offer that other search engines don't?](#)

Office Suites...

Apache Open Office and it's libraries are next level outstanding...

Here are some of the advantages of OpenOffice.org over other office suites:

- **No licensing fees**. OOo is free for anyone to use and distribute at no cost. Many features that are available as extra cost add-ins in other office suites (like PDF export) are free with OOo. There are no hidden charges now or in the future.
- **Open source.** You can distribute, copy, and modify the software as much as you wish, in accordance with either of OOo's Open Source licenses.
- **Cross-platform.** OOo 2.x runs on several hardware architectures and under multiple operating systems, such as Microsoft Windows, Mac OS X, Linux, and Sun Solaris.
- **Extensive language support**. OOo's user interface is available in over 40 languages, and the OOo project provides spelling, hyphenation, and thesaurus dictionaries in over 70 languages and dialects. OOo also provides support for both Complex Text Layout (CTL) and Right to Left (RTL) layout languages (such as Hindi, Hebrew, and Arabic).
- **Consistent user interface**. All the components have a similar "look and feel," making them easy to use and master.
- **Integration.** The components of OpenOffice.org are well integrated with one another.
    - All the components share a common spelling checker and other tools, which are used consistently across the suite. For example, the drawing tools available in Writer are also found in Calc, with similar but enhanced versions in Impress and Draw.
    - You do not need to know which application was used to create a particular file (for example, you can open a Draw file from Writer).
- **Granularity.** Usually, if you change an option, it affects all components. However, OOo options can be set at a component level or even document level.
- **File compatibility.** OOo includes PDF and Flash export capabilities, as well as support for opening and saving files in many common formats including Microsoft Office, HTML, XML, WordPerfect, and Lotus 123 formats.
- **No vendor lock-in**. OOo 2.x uses OpenDocument, an XML (eXtensible Markup Language) file format developed as an industry standard by OASIS (Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards). These files can easily be unzipped and read by any text editor, and their framework is open and published.

- **You have a voice.** Enhancements, software fixes, and release dates are community-driven. You can join the community and affect the course of the product you use.

You can read more about OpenOffice.org, its mission, history, licensing, and other organizational information here: http://www.openoffice.org/about.html

PDF's...
Nitro Reader...
Excellent privacy, no riders, no bloat, not propitiatory and not a facilities hog as what Adobe is...
Here, read for yourself..
There is a free version available of Nitro that may meet all of your needs...
Nitro vs Adobe round 1
Nitro vs Adobe round 2

Viewing...

VLC Media Player … Shames MS...

I have been using VLC for some time and find it very useful.

1. Open source software and free updates
2. Even though it is open source there are no ads
3. Supported on various platforms Windows, Andriod, iOS and Linux. It can be installed in your iPhone, iPad or any other Smartphone.
4. Supports various formats of video and audio files and doesn't require any additional codecs and you can also stream files online directly from source and play them using VLC media player.
5. Doesn't take much space in your computer/phone and it is very easy to download as well
6. It doesn't require you to download additional add-ons for it to function
7. You can play a video or audio instantly by just dragging it on the VLC player and it plays it automatically. You can also play files while still downloading them. This makes you sure that the file you are downloading is the actual file you wanted
8. VLC is free of viruses as it doesn't use any additional add-ons...

More about VLC...