

a curated list of 25–50 abandoned programs that still run well under Windows

Many classic Windows applications from the 1990s and 2000s have been discontinued but still run surprisingly well on modern Windows 10 and Windows 11 systems thanks to Microsoft's strong backward compatibility. ([PCWorld](#))

Office and Productivity

Microsoft Works
Lotus SmartSuite
Lotus Organizer
WordPerfect Office X3
Microsoft FrontPage 2003
Microsoft Office XP
Microsoft Publisher 2003
InfoSelect

Database Applications

Visual FoxPro 9.0
Paradox 9
dBASE Plus
Alpha Five
Microsoft Access 2003

Graphics and Imaging

Picasa
Paint Shop Pro 4
ACDSee 2.42
Microsoft GIF Animator
IrfanView 3.x

Internet and Communications

Opera 4
Eudora

Pegasus Mail

ICQ

mIRC

Trillian Astra

Multimedia

Winamp 5.666
Media Player Classic Home Cinema
foobar2000 Classic
CDex
Instagiffer

Utilities

Norton Commander for Windows
Filzip
SpaceMonger
Volumouse
Ethernvane Echo
PhotoFiltre 7

Programming and Development

PowerShell ISE
Programmer's File Editor
Borland Delphi 7
Visual Basic 6.0
Help & Manual 3

Visual FoxPro remains particularly popular among businesses maintaining legacy database applications. ([Reddit](#)). Several of these programs have been shown to run on modern Windows versions despite being decades old. ([TechRadar](#)). Winamp remains one of the most famous discontinued Windows applications still widely used today. ([TechRadar](#)). Several of these utilities are still recommended by enthusiasts for Windows 10 and 11. ([Windows Forum](#))

Top 10 Most Useful in 2026

If you want software that is both abandoned/discontinued and still genuinely useful today, these are among the strongest candidates:

- **Winamp 5.666**
- **Picasa**
- **Visual FoxPro 9.0**
- **Lotus Organizer**
- **Microsoft Works**
- **Media Player Classic Home Cinema**
- **Filzip**
- **InfoSelect**
- **WordPerfect Office X3**
- **Paradox 9**

For the strongest combination of nostalgia and practical usefulness, I would especially recommend Lotus SmartSuite, Lotus Organizer, Visual FoxPro, Microsoft Works, and Picasa. Many users still run these successfully on Windows 11, often without needing a virtual machine. ([PCWorld](#))