



## Games

- **Twine:** [twinery.org/](http://twinery.org/)  
Operating system: **All**  
Easy-to-create interactive, story-based game engine. Add slides and embed media. Coding knowledge is not required.
- **GameMaker:** [yoyogames.com/gamemaker](http://yoyogames.com/gamemaker)  
Operating system: **Windows and macOS**  
Simple-to-use 2D game development engine. Coding knowledge is not required. Free trial available.
- **Unreal Engine:** [unrealengine.com/en-US/what-is-unreal-engine-4](http://unrealengine.com/en-US/what-is-unreal-engine-4)  
Operating system: **Web-based**  
Advanced game engine to create 2D, 3D, mobile and VR games. Knowledge of programming is not required.
- **Playcanvas:** [playcanvas.com](http://playcanvas.com)  
Operating system: **Web-based**  
Simple-to-use 3D game engine using HTML5. Create apps faster using Google Docs-style realtime collaboration.
- **Unity:** [unity3d.com/](http://unity3d.com/)  
Operating system: **Windows and macOS**  
Easy-to-use game engine for importing 3D models, creating textures and building environments.
- **Chatmapper:** [chatmapper.com/](http://chatmapper.com/)  
Operating system: **Windows**  
Software for writing non-linear dialogue, ideal for games. Free trial available.

## Animation

- **Maya and 3ds Max:** [autodesk.com/freesoftware/](http://autodesk.com/freesoftware/)  
Operating system: **All**  
Educational institutions can access a range of software for 3D modelling, animation and rendering. Free trial available.
- **Synfig:** [synfig.org/](http://synfig.org/)  
Operating system: **All**  
Vector-based 2D animation suite.
- **Three.js:** [threejs.org/](http://threejs.org/)  
Operating system: **Web-based**  
Create animated 3D computer graphics on a web browser using HTML.
- **Blender:** [blender.org/](http://blender.org/)  
Operating system: **All**  
Easy-to-use software to create 3D models, environments and animated films. Can be used for VFX and games.
- **Stop Motion Studio:** [cateater.com/](http://cateater.com/)  
Operating system: **Windows, macOS, Android and iOS**  
Stop-motion animation app with in-app purchases.

**Learn how to use your work to build a portfolio and get a job:**

[screenskills.com/building-your-portfolio](http://screenskills.com/building-your-portfolio)

**Find a job profile that uses your skills:**

[screenskills.com/job-profiles](http://screenskills.com/job-profiles)



## Software guide

**Free software to help you develop your skills and create a portfolio for the film, TV, animation, VFX (visual effects) and games industries**

## Audio editing

- ▣ **Audacity:** [audacityteam.org/download/](http://audacityteam.org/download/)  
Operating system: **All**  
Easy-to-use, includes some professional features.
- ▣ **Ocenaudio:** [ocenaudio.com/](http://ocenaudio.com/)  
Operating system: **All**  
Easier than Audacity, good for effects and filters.
- ▣ **Frinika:** [sourceforge.net/projects/frinika/](http://sourceforge.net/projects/frinika/)  
Operating system: **All**  
Music editing and audio recording.

## Screenwriting/storyboarding

- ▣ **Trelby:** [trelby.org](http://trelby.org)  
Operating system: **Windows and Linux**  
Easy-to-use software, good for applying standard industry formatting.
- ▣ **Fade In:** [fadeinpro.com](http://fadeinpro.com)  
Operating system: **All**  
Clear interface and usable with any text editor.
- ▣ **Cletx:** [celtx.com/index.html](http://celtx.com/index.html)  
Operating system: **Web-based**  
Script editing software. Make PDFs, import and export.
- ▣ **Storyboarder:** [wonderunit.com/storyboarder/](http://wonderunit.com/storyboarder/)  
Operating system: **All**  
Storyboarding software which allows you to plot and create the animatics of a story.
- ▣ **Highland:** [quoteunquoteapps.com/highland-2/](http://quoteunquoteapps.com/highland-2/)  
Operating system: **macOS**  
Writing software that puts work into script layout.

## Visual effects (VFX)

- ▣ **Natron:** [natrongithub.github.io](http://natrongithub.github.io)  
Operating system: **All**  
Easy-to-use node-based interface for 2D compositing, rotoscoping and 2D tracking.
- ▣ **HitFilm Express:** [fxhome.com/express](http://fxhome.com/express)  
Operating system: **Windows and macOS**  
2D and 3D compositing and video editing software with preset special effects, keying for green screen and online tutorials.
- ▣ **Nuke:** [foundry.com/products/nuke](http://foundry.com/products/nuke)  
Operating system: **All**  
Industry-used software with dynamic 3D compositing, 3D particle effects and tracking. Free trial available.

## Photo editing and design

- ▣ **Pixlr:** [pixlr.com](http://pixlr.com)  
Operating system: **Web-based**  
Photo and graphics editor.
- ▣ **Tinkercad:** [tinkercad.com/](http://tinkercad.com/)  
Operating system: **Web-based**  
Easy-to-use software for 3D design.
- ▣ **GIMP:** [gimp.org/](http://gimp.org/)  
Operating system: **All**  
Easy-to-use alternative to Adobe Photoshop.

## Programming

- ▣ **Scratch:** [scratch.mit.edu/](http://scratch.mit.edu/)  
Operating system: **Web-based**  
Learn the principles of programming, interactive stories and games.
- ▣ **Python:** [fxhome.com/express](http://fxhome.com/express)  
Operating system: **All**  
Great software to learn how to code.

## Video editing

- ▣ **Avidemux:** [fixounet.free.fr/avidemux](http://fixounet.free.fr/avidemux)  
Operating system: **Windows and Linux**  
Simple to use and good for quick edits and cuts.
- ▣ **ShotCut:** [shotcut.org/](http://shotcut.org/)  
Operating system: **Windows and macOS**  
Works with many image formats and has good audio features.
- ▣ **iMovie:** [apple.com/uk/imovie/](http://apple.com/uk/imovie/)  
Operating system: **macOS and iOS**  
Easy-to-use editing software that supports 4K video resolution.
- ▣ **VSDC:** [videosoftdev.com/](http://videosoftdev.com/)  
Operating system: **Window**  
Video editing software that supports the most popular audio and video formats and codecs.
- ▣ **Kdenlive:** [kdenlive.org/en/download](http://kdenlive.org/en/download)  
Operating system: **All**  
Basic, simple-to-use video editor with audio editing, special effects and fast rendering.
- ▣ **Lightworks:** [lwks.com/](http://lwks.com/)  
Operating system: **All**  
Video editor with effects and colour corrector.
- ▣ **OpenShot:** [openshot.org/](http://openshot.org/)  
Operating system: **all**  
Video editing software that includes animation tools, such as use of keyframes.
- ▣ **DaVinci Resolve:** [blackmagicdesign.com/products/davinciresolve/](http://blackmagicdesign.com/products/davinciresolve/)  
Operating system: **All**  
Advanced editing software with multicam editing and colour corrector. Can include Fusion, which can be used for VFX.

