MAKING LIFE MORE FUN

Free Software That's Both Useful And Fun

(NAPSA)—Who said you can't get something for nothing? If you're the kind of person who enjoys a good freebie, there's a new software package available from Microsoft Corp. that's worth a look. The Smart Client Application Selection includes 11 software programs from Microsoft and other software makers, including PayPal, an eBay company; Sandlot Games; 3M; NetZero; and others. And it's all free.

The package offers a range of software from games to photo organization to financial services. It seems like there's something for just about everyone. Highlights include the following:

• Dragon Maze and Super Slyder, from Sandlot Games. In Dragon Maze, a hungry dragon hunts down his dinner through richly designed temple mazes. In Super Slyder, a jumpy superhero attempts to make his way through the game, testing users' puzzle skills to keep Slyder alive. Both games are compatible with the Windows XP Media Center Edition 2005, enabling you to enjoy the games from the comfort of the living room couch.

• NetZero's Photosite Album-Builder. This cool program allows you to set up a free personal photo site and photoblog for sharing digital pictures with friends, family and anyone else.

• PayPal's Payment Request

> A free download offers a range of software from games to photo organization to financial services. Ⓟ

Wizard. This is a useful tool for small-business owners, or anyone interested in sending and receiving payments online. It lets you quickly add PayPal Buy Now Buttons to your own e-mail messages and request credit card payments from your potential buyers. No Web site is required.

• Post-it Software Notes. This is a handy add-on that creates digital Post-it notes on your computer. Just like a paper Post-it note, the digital version is a great way to create a quick reminder, capture an idea or save important phone numbers.

• The WalMart Music Downloads store, which lets you browse, try and download music at just 88 cents per song.

The software is available for free download (connect-time charges may apply) at http://www.windows marketplace.com/freesmartclients. Alternatively, freebie-seekers can order a CD online and pay only shipping and handling. Although some of the programs will work on older versions of Windows, Microsoft recommends running the programs on Windows XP or Windows XP Media Center Edition 2005 for the best results.