



## **Intellyweb review @ tu cows.com**

*If your application receives a three-, four-, or five-cow rating, congratulations! As you'll see by reading the Ratings Guide, this is no small feat. You are in the company of some of the best programmers in the world. We receive hundreds of requests each week for inclusion in the Tucows library. The fact that you scored in the three-cow range or higher has earned you a spot on our site. This is a sign that your product is among the best of its kind.*

### **Installation: 2**

**Installation:** This is the mechanism or trigger than installs your application. As a minimum requirement for this category, we request a Start Menu Program Group installed to achieve any points.

1. 1 point = The Start Menu Program Group contains an executable shortcut icon to the application.
2. 2 points = The Start Menu Program Group includes an executable icon, and help and documentation shortcuts.
3. 3 points = Multimedia installations: these are modified installations that include some form of multimedia presentation or enhancement. To receive this point, you must meet the 1-point and 2-point criterion.

### **Program interface: 2**

**Program interface:** This is the Reviewer's overall opinion of the interface. We rate on this item according to resizing issues, icon packs for certain OS's, design flaws, expandable toolbars, viewing options and accessibility of the features. (3 points possible)

### **File size: 2**

**File size:** We actively compare applications against present reviews, past reviews, experience with applications, related applications and file sizes of your competitors in relation to quality and popularity. For example, you don't need to code under 3 megabytes to achieve the highest point total for this criterion. If a competitor is offering the same exact features as your application and it's half the size, regardless of file size, scoring will reflect the direct comparison. (3 points possible)

## **Unique features: 2**

**Unique features:** If your program does what it says it does, simple functions aren't considered unique features. A perfect example of a unique feature would be an FTP application incorporating an HTML editor within the application to better aid the user. Being able to connect through FTP is not considered a unique feature. (3 points possible)

## **Usability: 2**

**Usability:** Is the application easy to use? How accessible are the features? (3 points possible)

## **Direct comparison: 2**

**Direct Comparison:** One point is awarded automatically if your application is deemed the only program in its class. This is rated against present reviews, past reviews, experience with applications and applications in a related section. (3 points possible)

## **Functionality: 2**

**Functionality:** This is the Reviewer's overall opinion of the functionality of your application. We rate on all features of your application in terms of functionality, speed and resources. (3 points possible)

## **Author home page: 3**

**Author home page:** Your application and site go hand in hand. With that in mind, your home page reflects on the application you mean to promote. The first two points focus mainly on what you offer to the end user. The third point is where we actually rate your home page.

1. 1 point = The site contains contact information and brief program information.
2. 2 points = The site contains contact information, brief program information, and online help and documentation.
3. 3 points = Here's where navigation, design, information and broken links come into play. All of these affect the rating of your home page for a third point. **Please note:** You can only achieve this point if your application has already met the 1-point and 2-point criteria for this criterion

## **Tips on startup: 0**

**Tips on startup:** By default, if the reviewer determines that your application has no need for tips, one point will be awarded automatically.

1. 0 points = No tips are embedded
2. 1 point = Tips are employed
3. 2 points = Content of the tips is related to the application and useful to the user

## **Keyboard shortcuts: 1**

**Keyboard shortcuts:** Does the program have extensive keyboard shortcuts? This option helps advanced and old-school users. Yes, we have mice, but the majority of users – just like all coders – still primarily use the keyboard.(1 point)

## **Step-by-step configuration wizards: 1**

**Step-by-step configuration wizards:** Does this program have step-by-step configuration wizards for novice and advanced users, immediately following installation, to further assist in customizing the application? This item has nothing to do with your installation or any included "next" buttons. An example would be a fax application that sets up your fax modem with customizable options. By default, if the reviewer determines that your application has no need for step-by-step configuration wizards, one point will be awarded automatically. (1 point)

## **Customer support: 1**

**Customer support:** This is online or offline support, provided by the author free of charge; you will receive zero points for charging users for support. We suggest using the "About" window or help and documentation to clearly display your contact information within the application.

1. 1 point = E-mail or form e-mail only, and it is not displayed clearly within the application
2. 3 points = E-mail or form e-mail only, and it is clearly displayed within the application
3. 5 points = Telephone, fax, forum, live chat or some other form of technical support embedded within the program

**Please note:** To receive forum points, you must provide adequate information therein. The forum should be a valuable, helpful resource for users, rather than a contrived space designed to score the extra point for this Rating criterion. To receive a 5-point total for this criterion, you must already meet the 3-point criterion.

## Documentation and help: 7

**Documentation and help:** This criterion is divided into three separate categories; there are seven possible points available for the entire criterion.

1. **Basic help and documentation:** This criterion is rated on presentation, offline documentation or online documentation, and what you offer. Although accessibility doesn't affect this score, it does play a major part in the help and documentation content criterion.
  - a. 1 point = Provides some form of help and documentation, either locally or online, but it is not embedded within the application
  - b. 2 points = Direct help and documentation links or shortcuts are embedded in the application either online or locally
2. **Tutorials:** Step-by-step style help and documentation that aid the rapid learning of the program's basic operation. Content wise, "How to use" information doesn't constitute a tutorial; this information is considered basic help and you should refer to the category above.
  - a. 1 point = Tutorials are provided locally or online; we encourage tutorials that are local and linked within the application.
  - b. 2 points = Flash-style or some form of professional visual intensive tutorial that aids in rapid learning of the program's basic operation.
3. **Content:** Can I learn about your application with the help provided? Your help and documentation, by no means, needs to be extensive; it just needs to be useful and descriptive. We look at items such as embedded help, context-sensitive help, tips, readmes and tutorials. You can achieve maximum points for this criterion if you simply tell the user what your program is all about, what it does, and how to use it. This criterion is also rated on accessibility. If a user is offline, how accessible is the help and documentation? Providing help locally is always a bonus. Note that it is essential for your documentation to contain proper grammar, spelling and writing style. There should be no broken links, and the layout should be intelligent and attractive. This is also a great place to store and display contact information. (3 points possible)

## Microsoft certification: 0

**Microsoft Certification:** This must be proven in the software submission. While we are not affiliated with Microsoft, these points are made available due to the extensive testing that a program must endure to meet Microsoft's certification requirements.

## Multimedia demonstrations: 1

**Multimedia demonstrations:** These are multimedia files that provide a demonstration of your product running. An example would be a video game trailer that shows off gameplay or the game engine

## **Uninstall process: 2**

**Uninstall process:** There are three possible points for this criterion divided into 2 separate categories.

1. **Uninstall mechanism:** Leaving traces behind on the users' machine has nothing to do with registry keys. This item refers to items left behind in the installation directory. If you are attempting to not cause a loss of data of saved information, provide a clear note or custom uninstall for the user. If you don't employ an uninstall mechanism, you receive 0 points. (traces = 1 point, complete = 2 points)
  
2. **Repair mechanism:** Does this application employ a repair feature in either the install or uninstall? A repair feature can be employed through MSI installers and InstallShield. From a user's standpoint, especially a dial-up user, downloading and re-installing would be the least appealing option if the program is presenting errors. A repair feature is helpful to both users and reviewers. (1 point)

**Overall value: 3**

**Overall value:** With respect to price, the reviewer asks themselves one question: would I buy this application?  
(3 points)



**Reviewer's recommendation: 3**

**Reviewer's recommendation:** Would the reviewer recommend this application? (3 points)

**Reviewer's overall impression: 3**

**Reviewer's overall impression:** By this point in the review, we've looked at everything in your application. With that in mind, the reviewer assigns up to five points based on his or her overall experience. (5 points)

**Total: 39**

The Tucows Rating Scale		
27 to 33 points	=	
34 to 37 points	=	
38 or more points	=	