Notable Software Applications for OS/2 Warp

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OS/2 Warp, launched by IBM in 1994, is a powerful 32-bit operating system renowned for its stability, multi-tasking capabilities, and compatibility. Featuring the intuitive Workplace Shell graphical interface, it seamlessly integrated DOS and Windows applications, offering superior reliability compared to early Windows versions. Tailored for business and power users, OS/2 Warp excelled in managing demanding workloads, supporting a wide array of professional software.

Today, OS/2 Warp remains relevant through ArcaOS, a modernized version licensed by Arca Noae under the codename Blue Lion. ArcaOS provides ongoing support with updated drivers and system enhancements, ensuring continued functionality for dedicated users on newer baremetal hardware.

1 Video

Name	Description	Link
MainActor/2	A modular multimedia processing package from MainConcept, designed for loading, editing, playing, and converting major animation formats (e.g., AVI, MOV, FLC) and common image types; supports timeline-based editing, effects, and batch processing, optimized for OS/2's 32-bit architecture and Workplace Shell integration.	ecsoft2.org/ mainactor2
Video Editor (IBM BonusPak)	A basic video editing tool included in the OS/2 Warp BonusPak, allowing users to trim, splice, and add simple effects to AVI and other supported video formats, leveraging OS/2's multimedia extensions for smooth playback and editing on period hardware.	ecsoft2.org/ os2-essentials
Software Motion Video	Built-in multimedia subsystem for capturing, playing, and basic editing of motion video clips, supporting formats like AVI and MPEG via software decoding; optimized for OS/2's preemptive multitasking to handle video without system interruptions.	ecsoft2.org/ os2-essentials

2 Graphic Design

Name	Description	Link
Photo>Graphics by TrueSpectra	A multi-threaded, object-oriented graphics editor supporting bitmap editing, vector drawing, text manipulation, and filters; designed for professional workflows with drag-and-drop integration into the Workplace Shell.	ecsoft2.org/ embellish
Embellish/2	A powerful raster image editor, a Photoshop alternative for OS/2, featuring advanced tools for photo retouching, layer-based compositing, color correction, brushes, and special effects; supports high-resolution images and multiple file formats with OS/2's native drivers.	ecsoft2.org/ embellish
CorelDRAW for OS/2	Professional vector graphics suite for illustration, layout, and design; featured scalable graphics, color management, and export options for print and web, leveraging OS/2's 32-bit architecture.	ecsoft2.org/ coreldraw-os2
ColorWorks	Raster-based image editor focused on photo retouching and color correction; included tools for layers, brushes, and effects, suitable for digital artists within OS/2's stable environment.	ecsoft2.org/ colorworks
Micrografx Designer	Vector and raster hybrid for technical illustrations and diagrams; supported precision drawing, 3D extrusion, and file import/export, integrated with OS/2's font and printer drivers.	ecsoft2.org/ micrografx-designer

3 Desktop Publishing

Name	Description	Link
DeScribe!	Advanced layout software for creating brochures, newsletters, and books; offered frame-based design, style sheets, and PostScript output, excelling in typographic control and multi-page document management.	ecsoft2.org/ describe-os2
PageMaker for OS/2	Adobe's professional DTP tool for magazine and book publishing; included master pages, scripting, and PDF export, utilizing OS/2's long filename support and multitasking.	ecsoft2.org/ aldus-pagemaker
Scribus (later ports compatible with Warp)	Open-source page layout application supporting CMYK, ICC profiles, and PDF generation; early builds ran on OS/2 for professional typesetting and pre-press workflows.	ecsoft2.org/ scribus

4 Office Work

Name	Description	Link
StarOffice 5.1	A comprehensive office suite, later evolving into OpenOffice, offering word processing (StarWriter), spreadsheets (StarCalc), presentations (StarImpress), database management (StarBase), and drawing tools (StarDraw); optimized for OS/2 with robust file compatibility, multi-language support, and integration with the Workplace Shell.	ecsoft2.org/ sun-staroffice
IBM Works	Integrated productivity suite bundled with OS/2 Warp, including word processor, spreadsheet, database, and presentation tools; lightweight, native to OS/2, with drag-and-drop support and basic collaboration features.	ecsoft2.org/ os2-essentials
Lotus SmartSuite	Comprehensive office package with 1-2-3 (spreadsheet), Word Pro (word processor), Freelance Graphics (presentations), Approach (database), and Organizer; optimized for OS/2's multithreading, competing with Microsoft Office and integrated with Lotus Notes.	ecsoft2.org/ lotus-smartsuite
Ami Pro	Word processor with advanced formatting, outlining, and equation editing; known for speed and stability under OS/2, handling large documents efficiently.	ecsoft2.org/ ami-pro-os2

5 Music Production

Name	Description	Link
DMP in a Box	Tracker-style software for composing and playing module music formats like MOD, S3M, and XM; included a sequencer, sample editor, and plugin support for Netscape, ideal for chiptune and electronic production.	ecsoft2.org/ mikmod-mikmodpm
Mup (Music Publishing)	Notation software for engraving sheet music and scores; supported MIDI input/output and PostScript printing, allowing composers to create professional arrangements with OS/2's reliable audio drivers.	ecsoft2.org/ mup-musical-publisher
MooSick	Open-source digital audio workstation with built-in database, effects processing (e.g., reverb, pitch shift), and streaming support; handled WAV, MP3, and MIDI for recording, mixing, and live performance setups.	ecsoft2.org/ mikmod-mikmodpm

6 Internet

Name	Description	Link
FileZilla	A cross-platform FTP/SFTP client for secure file transfers; version 3.0.4 ported to OS/2 provides a graphical interface for uploading/downloading files, site management, and drag-and-drop support, integrating with OS/2's TCP/IP stack.	https://www.os2site.com
BitchX IRC	A graphical IRC client supporting multiple servers, channels, and private messaging; optimized for OS/2's Presentation Manager, it includes DCC chat/file transfer, customizable themes, and logging features.	ecsoft2.org/pm-bitchx
Firefox (Warpzilla)	The OS/2 port of Mozilla Firefox web browser, with versions up to 45.9esr supporting HTML5, JavaScript, and tabs; requires RPM/YUM and kLIBC runtime, enabling secure browsing, extensions, and PDF viewing on Warp 4.52.	ecsoft2.org/firefox
SeaMonkey	An all-in-one internet suite including a web browser, email client, newsgroups, HTML editor, and IRC chat; OS/2 port up to 2.42.9esr offers tabbed browsing, RSS feeds, and multi-account email support.	ecsoft2.org/seamonkey
IBM Web Explorer	Native OS/2 web browser included in Warp Connect, supporting basic HTML, frames, and Java applets; provides seamless integration with the Workplace Shell for bookmark management and URL objects.	ecsoft2.org/ibm-os2-webexplorer
Netscape Navigator	Ported browser for OS/2 Warp 4, featuring advanced rendering for tables, images, and JavaScript; includes integrated email and newsgroup readers, supporting secure SSL connections and plugins.	ecsoft2.org/netscape-communicator
EmTec FTP Client	A powerful graphical FTP tool from the EmTec Network Suite, offering multi-threaded transfers, recursive directory handling, and scheduler; designed for OS/2's multithreading and Workplace Shell integration.	ecsoft2.org/ftp-server
Ultimedia Mail/2 Lite	Built-in email client from the OS/2 Internet Connection, handling POP3/IMAP protocols with attachments and address books; supports multimedia messages and filters, optimized for Warp's multitasking.	ecsoft2.org/
NewsReader/2	NNTP-based newsgroup reader for accessing Usenet discussions; features threaded views, search, and offline reading, bundled with Warp's TCP/IP kit.	ecsoft2.org/pronews2