

# THE COMPUTER CORNER

## No. 293: Belarc Advisor

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This is perhaps the best system information software available for Windows. It has been around longer than any other of the six best (rated by Majorgeeks) and is said to be the one most often found in tech toolboxes. It is really clean, very complete, does no harm (all data is kept locally in your machine) and is rated 5 (geek-o-licious) by 592 votes on Majorgeeks. To find it easily, go to <https://www.majorgeeks.com/> and look at the information columns on the left side. The first is Files, the next is Spread the Word, and the third (the one of interest) is Majorgeeks Top Freeware Picks. Click that and scroll down to System Information. Belarc Advisor is the third of six shown.

Belarc Advisor is completely free of charge for personal use only. It quickly builds up a profile of your hardware and software, network inventory, antivirus status, security benchmarks and missing Microsoft hotfixes. Then it presents its findings in your Web browser. A nested report, it is easy enough to increase details by clicking appropriate places in the main report. They are mindful of your personal security and will never sell your personal information to third parties. They may ask for your email address to send the download, and your first name, last name and company if you have one.

So what can you expect in a report? Below is a partial list, with more detail available by expanding areas in the main report.

Operating System	Communications
Processor	Display
Drives	Multimedia
System model	Group policies
Main circuit board	Other devices
Memory modules	USB storage use last 30 days
Local Drive volumes	Hosted virtual devices
Network drives	Network map
Printers	Missing security updates
Users	Software licenses
Controllers	Software versions and usage
Bus adapters	Installed Microsoft hotfixes last 90 days
Virus Protection	

You can also use "save the page as" in your browser to make a permanent copy on your desktop or elsewhere. That is a good idea every six months or year or as often as you like to compare changes (including security improvements) that you have made over time in an effort to generally improve security.

All in all, this software is an extremely useful piece of “freeware”. You can use it to not only reveal things you did not know about your machine, but also to design new improvement strategies that will make your computer easier to use and safer. A good goal and at no charge. Thanks Belarc. And to you, Happy Computing!