

American Academy of Pediatrics

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Useful Personal Financial Management Web Sites and Software (Updated as of 9/9/2006)

Category	Web Address	Cost	Comment
Portals			
MSN Money	moneycentral.msn.com	Free	Popular, informative web site.
SmartMoney.com	www.smartmoney.com	Free & \$\$	News and articles on investing and personal finance, there are advanced and intuitive interactive charts, e.g. Map of the Market. Graphic intensive; may be slow to load.
Yahoo Finance	finance.yahoo.com	Free & \$	Serves as a benchmark for financial sites as it offers its content more cleanly and clearly than any competitor. Portal for popular magazines, e.g. Business Week, Forbes and personal finance websites.
Morningstar.com	www.morningstar.com	\$\$	For serious investors. Provides sound mutual fund advice. Use Fund Tool Box for the best funds listed by category, performance or popularity. You can also analyze your portfolio using the Instant X-Ray feature. Site is complicated for novice investor.
Motley Fool	www.fool.com	Free	Site aims to give novices a digestible, simple education in investing. Links to stock quotes and articles with picks are listed alongside a bevy of personal finance calculators, as well as mortgage, insurance and savings advice. Inline links are clever and not overwhelming. Requires sign-up to read specific articles leading to Motley Fool "spam".

Home Banking Software			
Quicken	www.quicken.com	\$	#1 Rated Personal Finance Manager by business magazines. Many different flavors, including Medical Expense Manager and Will Maker. Links with quicken.com for taxes and tax planning. Use one of 36 free tools such as the Inflation and Tax Effects on Investments tool or the Capital Gains Estimator to see how your taxes will change based on how long you hold an equity. Strong Quotes & Research information on equities displaying information graphically. Analysis like One-Click Scorecard and Stock Evaluator show you the potential of a stock with clear language and lots of charts and graphs.
MS Money	http://www.microsoft.com/money/	\$	Strong internet linkages. Unique quick load Set-Up. Select banks/financial institutions and automatically download all detail to Money software.
Retirement Planning			
AARP	www.aarp.com	Free	Go to AARP site and click on “Money and Work”. There are good general articles on comprehensive financial planning for retirement.
Yahoo Finance	http://finance.yahoo.com/retirement	Free	General information about retirement planning
Fidelity	www.fidelity.com	Free	Helpful tools to enable user to calculate financial need in retirement. Users with accounts at Fidelity can automatically load their financial information into the planning tool.
Vanguard	www.vanguard.com	Free	Helpful tools to enable user to calculate financial need in retirement. Users with accounts at Fidelity can automatically load their financial information into the planning tool.
Portfolio Trackers			
MSN	moneycentral.msn.com	Free	Create portfolios on the site or import them from your

Moneycentral			brokerage account. Display views that include today's trading and performance over various time periods. Compute true total returns that take dividend payments into account, annualizes returns and analyzes portfolios according to asset allocation and risk. Allocation includes broad categories like Domestic Equities as well as small-, mid-, or large-cap. The site "Stock Scouter" provides numerical scores that rate the quality of the stocks in a portfolio.
GainsKeeper	www.gainskeeper.com	\$- \$\$\$	Pricey site for professional investor with large portfolio of securities. Well organized with lots of educational materials. Individual tools may be available for free elsewhere.
Reuters Investor	www.reuters.com	Free	A competent free portfolio and watch-list tracker where you can easily put in your tickers, shares bought, prices and commissions and view your stocks in any of four different views: performance, valuation, fundamentals and today's action. Links to Reuters ample research and stock information
StockSelector.com	www.stockselector.com	Free	StockSelector.com's tracker is like most others, but it's a little easier to input your information and the site lets you input your tax bracket to see how capital gains taxes will impact your investments. You can view your portfolio 15 different ways, including analyst summary, technical summary, investor sentiment and financial ratios. There are also links to the names of the analysts who cover your stocks. Requires manual input of securities. Unique upgrades/downgrades screen. Special alerts on daily stock performance, insider trading, news summary about stocks in your portfolio.
Asset Allocation			
Risk Grades	www.riskgrades.com	Free	Understanding your risk tolerance and the riskiness of your investments is essential to proper asset allocation. RiskGrades offers free tools to determine both. The site looks at recent volatility and other measures to come up with risk rankings

			from 0 (for cash) to 10,000, mostly for penny stocks. Use this site to see how your portfolio would have fared through the dot-com bust or September 11. You can also grade your holdings--including options, funds, bonds and foreign shares--and analyze the results against a host of relevant benchmarks. Has very colorful "Risk Map of the Market"
SmartMoney.com	www.smartmoney.com	Free - \$	Slick tools for investors in a consumer-friendly interface. Among the most basic--and free--tools is the Asset Allocator. Based on factors like home ownership, tax situation and years to retirement, the interactive worksheet tells you how to balance your holdings among cash, bonds, small caps, large caps and international stocks. has a Retiree version of its allocation tool.
FinPortfolio	www.finportfolio.com	Free - \$	Free for one portfolio. Analyzes stocks or funds according to Modern Portfolio Theory, which focuses on asset allocation to maximize return for a given level of risk. An Optimization tool tells you how to adjust your holdings and the Implementation will give you specific buy-sell recommendations based upon your target risk/return profile. Clear, easy-to-use tool interface Good site demo on Home Page
Fidelity.com	www.fidelity.com	Free	Best value for Fidelity investors. Portfolio Review in the Retirement and Guidance channel analyzes goals and risk tolerance through a short Investor Profile Questionnaire. Questions include: How secure do you feel about your household financial situation and how would you respond if your investment lost value in one year. Based on your answers, the site recommends an ideal asset allocation. Then, it automatically "diagnoses" the monies in your Fidelity accounts in terms of allocation, concentration, stock and bond style.
Fund Selection			
Investopedia	www.investopedia.com	Free	Site packed with free, easy-to-read articles and tutorials for beginning investors including an 8 part tutorial that helps

			explain the basics and appeals of mutual funds. Able to research specific funds from the site.
Mutual Fund Cost Calculator	Mutual Fund Cost Calculator	Free	From the SEC. Compare fees and expenses of up to 3 mutual funds or ETF's.
SmartMoney.com	www.smartmoney.com	Free	our fund screener to search for no-load equity and hybrid funds whose five- and 10-year returns rank in the top 25% of their classifications. We also demanded expense ratios in the bottom 25% and Lipper Leader scores of 4 or 5 for tax efficiency (on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being the most efficient). In addition, we filtered out funds whose minimum IRA investment requirements are greater than \$3,000
FolioFn	www.foliofn.com	\$	Inventive alternative to a brokerage allows you to hold diversified portfolio of stocks directly. For a flat fee of \$30 a month you can create up to three Folios, which hold up to 50 stocks, reducing unwanted capital gains taxes that can result from frequent trades. Build your own folio or choose from over 100 pre-selected portfolios. Learn about the middle ground between owning individual stocks and mutual funds that cuts costs for small investors. Lacks research capability.
FundAlarm	www.fundalarm.com	Free	Free, non-commercial, clutter-free site addresses
Personal Fund.com	www.personalfund.com	\$\$\$	Mutual fund cost calculators from personal finance guru Andrew Tobias. The calculators allow you to zero in on fund taxes and fees, which can make a critical difference to the success of your investment. Offers fund alternatives with similar characteristics but lower costs.
Mutual Fund Investor's Center	www.mfea.com	Free	A trade association for the no-load mutual fund industry is the force behind this site. It offers lots of educational information, such as FAQs about inheriting IRAs. You'll also find articles, portfolio tools and first-rate specialized sections on such topics as Kids and College. The Asset Allocation and Tools and Calculators sections are also strong. Unique Asset Allocation

			Portfolios - Young Professionals, Peak Earners with Older Children, Working Family with Young Children, Empty Nesters, Retirement.
Brill.com	www.brill.com	Free	In addition to free information about mutual fund investing, individual mutual fund companies, and the industry, you can submit written questions to the site's experts and access archived questions and answers or join the site's online public forum.
Bonds			
Bondsonline	http://www.bondsonline.com/	Free	Comprehensive site devoted to fixed-income investing offers the ability to search and buy any kind of bond you want based on parameters such as maturity, coupon rate, credit quality, and issuer. It also allows you to check current prices and yields using the same criteria or by CUSIP. Non-intuitive navigation. Takes time to get familiar with the location of the features. Has Education Center and excellent set of tools to evaluate bond purchases and sales.
College Planning			
529 College Funds	Saving for College	Free	Excellent, comprehensive site for general information about tax-deferred savings (parents and grandparents) for college expenses.
College Board	www.collegeboard.com/parents/	Free	Excellent material for parents and students, including information on finding and applying for scholarships.
Vanguard, Fidelity, T.Rowe Price, etc.	www.vanguard.com www.fidelity.com www.troweprice.com	Free	Industry sites that have general information about financial planning and tools for college education financing, including specific information about 529 Plans and other offered by company.
ROTH IRA Planning and Conversion	www.calctools.com/rothconversion.htm www.msco-cpa.com/rothira.htm www.rothira.com/vangcalc.htm plus	Free	If you are considering converting existing 401(k) plans to IRA and subsequently to Roth IRA for tax purposes and estate planning, these calculators

Calculators	calculators at popular financial firm sites, e.g. Vanguard, Fidelity, etc.		may be of assistance to you. Note – factors to consider include calculation of the opportunity cost of failing to convert to Roth IRA, current tax implications and whether current taxes will be paid from IRA or other accounts, tax rate post-retirement vs. pre-retirement (Roth conversion is presumed to be advantageous if post-retirement tax rate is higher than pre-retirement, time to retirement, and timing/amount of post-retirement distribution from your IRA. Lump sum IRA distributions produce distribution tax consequences that are different from IRA withdrawal over time. Note – The calculators provide preliminary guidance only. Always discuss the conversion issue with your financial advisor before making a final decision.
Selecting a Financial Advisor			
National Assoc of Personal Financial Advisors	http://www.napfa.org/	Free	How to Choose a Financial Planner for long lists of tough questions you should ask a prospective planner. Helps investors choose fee-based advisers via “Find A Planner”. These financial consultants either charge flat hourly fees or are paid based on the assets under management. They only receive fees from you, the client, and never from mutual fund or insurance companies pushing products.