

Free Lunch: *Short-cuts For Simplifying Your Family History Computing Needs*

Over the years, technology has strongly influenced how one conducts their temple & family history endeavors from paper and pencil to the typewriter and now with computer hardware and companion software applications along with world-wide Internet connectivity. In the business world, time is money. In handling a large array of technology issues in temple & family history, your time can equally be as important. Especially in times of leisure availability which are so precious in our complicated world.

Yes, a **Free Lunch** is still possible with computer technology. Have any of you experienced a priceless Zoom videoconferencing sessions with family for genealogical research? Free is good, and the collection of Google apps can be a great way to organize and track your family history information. In Project 7: Technology, check out **Goal 3: Google Apps** at <https://www.thefhguide.com/project-7-tech03.html> to learn how to use the following free programs: **Google Docs, Google Drive, Google Sheets, Google Slides, and Gmail**. Handy articles, tutorials, and videos are included to make the learning come alive. (See all tips at <https://www.thefhguide.com/tip-of-the-day.html>).



Google Workspace (formerly known as **Google Apps** and later **G Suite**) is a collection of [cloud computing](#), [productivity](#) and [collaboration](#) tools, [software](#) and products developed and marketed by [Google](#). It was first launched in 2006 as Google Apps for Your Domain and rebranded as G Suite in 2016. Google Workspace consists of [Gmail](#), [Contacts](#), [Calendar](#), [Meet](#) and [Chat](#) for communication; [Currents](#) for employee engagement; [Drive](#) for storage; and the [Google Docs suite](#) for content creation. An Admin Panel is provided for managing users and services. Depending on edition Google Workspace may also include the digital [interactive whiteboard Jamboard](#) and an option to purchase such add-ons as the telephony service [Voice](#). The education edition adds a learning platform [Google Classroom](#) and today has the name **Workspace for Education**.

While most of these services are individually available at no cost to consumers who use their free Google (Gmail) accounts, Google Workspace adds enterprise features such as custom email addresses at a [domain](#) (e.g. @yourcompany.com), an option for unlimited Drive storage, additional administrative tools and advanced settings, as well as 24/7 phone and email support.

Being based in Google's data centers, data and information are saved directly and then synchronized to other data centers for backup purposes. Unlike the free, consumer-facing services, Google Workspace users do not see [advertisements](#) while using the services, and information and data in Google Workspace accounts do not get used for advertisement purposes. Furthermore, Google Workspace administrators can fine-tune security and [privacy settings](#).

In June 2021, Google announced that Workspace would be available "for everyone" with a [Google Account](#), giving consumers access to the upgraded Gmail experience previously only available to paying subscribers.

Closing Comments: technology is here to stay with family history pursuits

Google apps are not the only free services on the Internet that can enhance your genealogical pursuits. My number one and two free technology options are the **FamilySearch.org** and **The Family History Guide** websites. Can you share your favorites with us? If you need some inspiration? Fortunately, there

are many free family tree apps available at [21 Genealogy and Family Tree Apps for Research On-the-Go](https://www.familytreemagazine.com) at <https://www.familytreemagazine.com> › Resources › Apps. For example, the four giant genealogy websites—Ancestry, FamilySearch, Findmypast, and MyHeritage—are all easy to use on-the-go. These genealogy apps are free, and can be ... Need more inspiration? Check out this website: **10 Free Genealogy Apps to Help You with Your Research** at <https://familyhistorydaily.com/free-genealogy-resources/free-genealogy-apps/>.

Good luck in finding your free lunch in today's world where almost nothing is free anymore which helps make family history pursuits ever more impressive?!

