Adobe Reader DC – A Bridge Too Far

Adobe, like so many companies these days, is trying to "help" us a little too much, most likely in an attempt to get into our back pockets, by replacing the venerable Adobe Reader XI with one called Adobe Reader DC.

What's the difference? DC stands for digital collections, and the most important differences are that it adds a more active component to the computer (meaning one that is starting when the computer starts and runs in the background all the time, thereby impacting computer performance), and it is uploading all Adobe Reader (pdf) files it can find on our computers to the cloud, supposedly to make them more available to us across all our devices.

Like many people, I don't need or want either of those things, so I am going to avoid upgrading to Adobe Reader DC, and uninstall it if it does manage to get installed and replace it with something else. How can I do that?

1. If Adobe Reader XI is still installed on my computer, and Adobe is just constantly bugging me about updating, I can shut off the auto updater by clicking on the Edit menu and "Preferences" at the bottom of the menu, then click on "updater" at the bottom of that categories list, and change the setting to "Do not download or install updates automatically" before clicking OK.

2. If Adobe Reader DC did get installed, replacing Adobe Reader XI, it can be uninstalled from the computer's list of programs (within Control Panel in Windows 7, for example). After uninstalling Adobe Reader DC, it may be difficult to find Adobe Reader XI to download and install on the internet any more, but there are a few good free alternatives, including Sumatra PDF, Foxit Reader, and Niro PDF Reader. Reviews for each of these can be found on websites like PCWorld.com. Skip on the "Pro" versions of any utilities like these, even if they come with a free trial.