

Open Source Software vs. Proprietary Counterparts

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This page was previously located under my Open Source in Education because it was originally created as part of that project. I have moved it here because this page contains many useful links for all those interested in using open source software!

Although the table below was created to show which open source software applications fill the same role as its proprietary counterpart, I would like to highlight alternatives to the most commonly used applications. I will start with OpenOffice. OO, short for OpenOffice, is a very powerful open source office suite that rivals Microsoft Office®. It can open and create MS Office files with exceptional compatibility allowing easy sharing of files. OO's Writer is compatible with MS Office's Word, OO's Impress is compatible with PowerPoint, OO's Calc is compatible with Excel, and OO's Base can be used as a replacement for Access. In addition to the normal office packages, OpenOffice comes with Draw, which is a vector drawing program, and it also comes with Math, which is a program for inserting equations and formulas into your documents. Read what Paul Nelson, from Riverdale Grade School in Portland, Oregon states on the topic of migration to Linux based desktop applications, "We offered very little training. I just showed students that they could save StarOffice files as .doc .rtf and .ppt files for use on Windows workstations. The kids picked up on it right away and enjoyed configuring their desktops and work environments." (<http://k12ltsp.org/casestudy.html>)

For those who teach desktop publishing/graphic design and web site design, there are excellent open source alternatives to the mainstream programs. Starting with desktop/publishing/graphic design, GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program) is a software program that has many of the same capabilities as Adobe Photoshop. GIMP can even open and save Photoshop (psd) files and use Photoshop plug-ins. Inkscape is a vector drawing program that is similar to Adobe Illustrator. Finally, for those who need a page layout program, there is Scribus. For website designers there is a program called Nvu. Nvu rivals both Microsoft FrontPage and Macromedia Dreamweaver.

The purpose of this website is to persuade the audience that the exclusive use of free open source software is a viable and high cost effective alternative to using Windows and Apple computers. However, I realize that few will probably be ready to make that switch in the near future. For these individuals/school districts you will be happy to know that many of the free open source software programs listed below run on well on Windows and an increasing number of free open source software is becoming available for MacOSX. In addition I have also listed some non open source free alternatives to mainstream software! [Open Source Alternatives to Proprietary Software](#)

*NOTE: This table is by no means a complete list of what is available out there. This is simply a list of open source software that I either currently use, have used, or that I have researched in cases where I could not try out the software myself. If you are looking for a particular software program that you do not see listed below then I would recommend visiting either SourceForge.net, FRESHMEAT.net, GNU Project, or doing a Google search like "open source alternative to X" where X is the name of the proprietary software program.

**Also, it is important to note that most distributions of Linux come prepackaged with everything you need. This includes programs such as office suites, media players, CD/DVD burning software, graphics programs, and much, much more!

Proprietary Software	Open Source Alternative	Operating Systems	Microsoft Windows
Mac OS X	Red Hat Linux		
	Fedora Linux		
	Centos (Red Hat Linux without Red Hat's logos and support.)		
	Ubuntu Linux		
	SUSE Linux Enterprise		
	openSUSE		
	Debian Linux		
	Mandriva Linux		
	Xandros		
	K12LTSP K12 Linux Terminal Server Project		
	VectorLinux		
	PC-BSD		
	There are too many others to list, go to Linux Online! for more distros!		
Office	OpenOffice (cross platform)	Office Productivity Software	Microsoft
	StarOffice - OpenOffice with Clipart & other stuff! Free for education.		
	KOffice - Linux	Macromedia Dreamweaver	
	HTML Editors	Digital Image / Photo Editing / Raster Image Editing Software	
	Microsoft FrontPage		
	KompoZer (cross platform)		
	Adobe Photoshop		
	GIMP (cross platform)		
	Vector Drawing Programs		

Adobe Illustrator
 Macromedia FreeHand
 CorelDraw
 Inkscape (cross platform) 2D CAD (Computer Aided Drawing) AutoCAD QCad (cross p
 3D CAD (3D Modeling) SolidWorks
 Pro/ENGINEER
 Autodesk Inventor Blender (cross platform)
 BRL-CAD 3D
 Povray 3D
 Tulip 3D Screen Recording
 (to capture what you are doing on your computer and save as a video file)
 CamStudio (for Windows only) Desktop Publishing Adobe Indesign
 QuarkExpress
 Microsoft Publisher Scribus Text Editors
 Notepad

 jEdit (cross platform)
 Notepad++ (for Windows only)
 Syn (for Windows only)
 Smultron (for Mac OS X only) Web Servers
 Microsoft IIS (Internet Information Services)
 Apache (cross platform) Web Browsers Microsoft Internet Explorer
 Safari

 Firefox (cross platform)
 Flock Email Software Microsoft Outlook
 Microsoft Entourage
 QuickMail Thunderbird (cross platform)
 Evolution
 Kmail FTP Clients (File Transfer Protocol) Ipswitch WS_FTP Pro
 Fetch Filezilla - FTP and SFTP (cross platform)
 Cyberduck - FTP and SFTP (for Mac OS X only)
 SFTP Programs (SSH Secure File Transfer) Filezilla - FTP and SFTP (cross platform)
 Cyberduck - FTP and SFTP (for Mac OS X only)
 WinSCP - SFTP and SCP client for Windows
 Fugu - SFTP client for Mac OS X
 SSH PuTTY - SFTP and Telnet client for Windows VNC Apple Remote Desktop (ARD)
 TightVNC - VNC server and client for Windows, Linux, and Unix
 Chicken of the VNC - VNC client for Mac OS X
 OSXvnc - VNC server for Mac OS X Hard Disk Utilities / Partitioning Tools
 Norton PartitionMagic GParted & GParted LiveCD -
 Anti-Virus Software McAfee
 Norton Anti-virus
 AVG
 ClamAV
 ClamWin - (for Windows only)
 ClamXav - (for Mac OS X only)
 Keyboarding/Typing Software
 Tux Typing 2
 Edutainment/Educational Software

 The KDE Edutainment Project
 FREEDUC - resource for FOSS educational software
 A List of Open Source Software for Education
 Gcompris - educational softare for kids ages 2 to 10
 Childsplay - various games for ages 1-9
 KStars - a simualted planetarium (astronomy)
 Kalzium - periodic table
 KWord Quiz - flash cards
 KTouch - teaches typing
 Tux Paint - vector and raster image editing program for young children
 KTurtle - Logo programming for young children Math Programs

 Geometer's Sketchpad or Cabri

GeoGebra - joins geometry, algebra and calculus

Dr. Geo - interactive geometry software

TuxMath - math game for kids Music Composition

Rosegarden - similar to Cubase

Noteedit

Solfege - ear training

Montessori Bells Sound Editing Programs

Sound Forge

Audacity (cross platform) Video Editing

iMovie

KINO

Brainstorming, Flowcharting, Planning

Inspiration

FreeMind

Kivio

View Your Mind

Compression Utilities

WinZip

7-Zip

Accounting / Personal Finance Quicken Grisbi

(cross platform)

Course Management Systems (CMS) and Virtual Learning Environments (VLE)

[Click here for a full list of non-open](#)

source CMS/VLEs

Blackboard

WebCT

Campus Pipeline

ClassCampus

CyberProf

eCollege

Virtuoso

TeleTOP cms

Virtual Campus

Sentient Discover

MindEdge CMS

MyEDUkit [Click here for a full list of Open Source CMS/VLEs](#)

Also click here

Moodle - used in 74 countries in 34 different languages!

MyClassroom - in use by several middle schools and high schools in the US and around the world!

interact

OpenCourse

Boddington

.LRN

LogiCampus

ATutor

Wordcircle CMS

Sakai

Manhattan

ILIAS

CourseWork - used by Stanford University

COSE (Creation of Study Environments)

Claroline - used in 62 countries and 28 languages!

WebWork

Eledge

ClassWeb 2.0

ePICE

Whiteboard Student Information Systems (SIS)

Powerschool

WebEIM

eSIS

SCHOOLMASTER

MMS Centre

Open Admin for Schools Emulators Virtual PC for Mac

QEMU

PearPC

Q - cocoa port of QEMU for Mac OS X

bochs

Virtualization

Virtual PC for Windows

VMware

VirtualBox (cross platform)

coLinux