



Open Source Software Recommendations

Open source software: software offered by a company that is typically free to use, free to modify, and often times, free to redistribute. It is released under a number of recognized standard license agreements.

Many open source companies have a business model where they give away their software, and then follow up by selling services. So, in terms of cost, open source does not always = free, because one invests time in working with the software, and sometimes must pay for help and support.

To read more about open source software, visit www.opensource.org and www.sourceforge.net

Open Source Product Ideas

All products below made this list because we have personally used them in our home or business, or have implemented them for clients.

If you need:	We would suggest:	Comments:
Office Productivity (like MS Office, Excel, Word, etc)	Open Office – www.openoffice.org	Great suite of office productivity tools. Two shortcomings: - If you regularly create your own VBA coding in Excel and Access, you won't get that same advanced flexibility in Open Office - If you are a heavy Access user, this is probably not the right solution for you Otherwise, very functional, excellent package
Advanced Graphics Editor (like Photoshop)	GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program) – www.gimp.org	Fantastic product – our logos and all graphics on our websites are all done in GIMP. One shortcoming: - If you regularly produce graphics for large format offset printing that require CMYK colorspace, this product will fall short for you. CMYK colorspace integration is supposed to come with the next release of GIMP later this year, so check back then
Website Content Management System	Joomla – www.joomla.org Our sample site – www.ctkchurch.org	Absolutely the best CMS concept we have found. Open source platform with a ton of free 3 rd party extensions. Includes user security and a variety of tools and options native.
Website Content – Audio/Video/ Podcast	Podcast Generator - http://podcastgen.sourceforge.net/	Great set of .php scripts to allow generation of an audio/video system, includes download, streaming and podcast feed generation. PLEASE NOTE: podcast generator has a size limit on the “front end” upload. If you receive upload errors, please see our “Podcast Generator Size Work Around” note at the end of this document
Audio Editing	Audacity – http://audacity.sourceforge.net	Great, albeit simple audio editing program



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My Open Hands, LLC
www.myopenhands.com
(440) 628-5302
info@myopenhands.com

Video Editing	Movica - http://vani.bhargav.googlepages.com/movica	Very simple and easy to work with video editing
CD Audio "ripper"	CDex - http://cdexos.sourceforge.net/	Very easy to work with, can deal with a variety of audio inputs from CD and create .WAV or .MP3 files
DVD Video "ripper"	DVDx - http://www.labdv.com/dvdx/	Simple DVD ripper that can grab video and audio from DVD formats. The basic version only works with non-copyrighted DVDs. You will have to pay for a VIP account to get the ultra version, which can rip copyrighted DVDs (this should only be done if you have a legal right to copy or rip the content).
Streaming Audio/Video Creation	RealProducer Basic - http://forms.real.com/rnforms/products/tools/producerbasic/index.html	Easy tool to create .ra and .rv files to stream on your website
Website – Basic HTML editor	Nvu – www.nvu.com	For people that want to create easy, simple html websites in a graphically friendly interface (similar to PowerPoint), this is a great tool. If you use .php scripting or other database driven techniques, this tool is not going to work for you.
Email Manager – like Outlook	Mozilla Thunderbird - http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/thunderbird/	Good tool, after using for about 4 months, I switched back to Outlook because I use the Task/Note integration in Outlook extensively, and Thunderbird really doesn't have that functionality. As an email/address book tool, it is fantastic, and much better than Outlook Express
Web Browser – like Internet Explorer	Mozilla Firefox - http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/	Nice browser, good features, and a number of open source sites have cool browser plug-ins for Firefox. More and more people are using Firefox, so highly recommended to test any websites you design in both IE and Firefox



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OTHER NOTES

Podcast Generators Size Upload Limitation Work Around

Problem: when using Podcast Generator, you might receive a “file too large” error when using the “upload podcast” function. They will tell you on the website that you must change your php server configuration to make the function work. For many people that host their sites on commercial web hosting servers, that is simply not an option. Here is a work around process to still publish large files with Podcast Generator:

1. Create your .mp3, .mpg, etc files
2. Instead of using the upload, use an FTP tool to send your file to the same directory that you store all your podcasts
3. Now, go into the “Admin” panel on your Podcast Generator site. Choose to “edit/delete podcasts”
4. You will have a blank podcast in the list. This will be the file you just added. Choose to “edit” the blank podcast.
5. You now can add the title, descriptions and all the other necessary iTunes tags, and save the Podcast.
6. Your new, larger file will now be published and available to subscribers.