

TOSS Foundation CD content – <http://tossfoundation.org>

Free Open Source Software (FOSS) is designed to provide full functionality of similar proprietary applications. The for-pay programs range in cost from a few dollars to hundreds of dollars, while the Open Source ones are generally available for free. FOSS applications range from Microsoft Office equivalents (such as Open Office) to specific products such as Abiword, a word processor that reads and saves in many formats, including Microsoft's .doc format.

Many educational institutions and government entities have enacted and adopted rules and legislation mandating and encouraging the use of non-proprietary software. Some see it as a cost-cutting measure, but many experts agree that the quality and robustness of the Free and Open Source software is equal, and in some cases even superior, than that of the commercial equivalents. The choice is, why spend limited financial resources when you can get this software for free. In this CD you will find:

Firefox, a safer, more efficient browser with integrated pop-up blocker, tabbed browsing, live bookmarks, skinnable interfaces, open standards and extensions for added functionality. Bye IE!

Open Office, an office suite application, with word processor, spreadsheet, presentation program, vector graphics editor, and database components. It is intended to be a compatible, free alternative to Microsoft Office, and it supports the Open Document standard for data interchange and PDF. There are .pdf files with instructions on how to use these applications.

Abiword a small and fast word processor, with a very similar user interface to Microsoft Word to help make it easier for new users to migrate. AbiWord has several import/export filters including Rich Text Format, HTML, Open Document and LaTeX. The native file format uses XML.

Audacity an Open Source, cross platform digital audio editor. Among it's many features it includes recording and playing sounds, editing via Cut, Copy, Paste (with unlimited Undo), multi-track mixing, digital effects and effect plug-ins and noise removal. It is extremely popular in the podcasting world due to its wide availability, multi-platform support, and because it is free.

GIMP (gtk+) Free PhotoShop-equivalent software used to process digital graphics and photographs. Typical uses include creating graphics and logos, resizing and cropping photos, changing colors, combining images using a layer paradigm, removing unwanted image features, and converting between different image formats. GIMP includes advanced image editing, manipulation, and professional graphics creation. It requires X11 prior installation for Macs and gtk+ for PCs, both included.

Inkscape A free vector graphics editor (think Adobe Illustrator). Widely used for creating images such as icons, flags, maps, diagrams, etc. Its goal is to become a powerful graphic tool while being fully compliant with the XML, SVG and CSS standards.

Juice a cross-platform aggregator application that is used to download podcast media files, such as oggs and mp3s. These media files can be automatically copied to a digital audio player.

NVU is a WYSIWYG HTML editor, based on the Composer component of Mozilla Application Suite. It is intended to be an open source equivalent to proprietary software like Microsoft FrontPage and Macromedia Dreamweaver. It is designed to be easy for non-technical computer users. Knowledge of HTML or CSS is not required.

RSSowl is an “aggregator” or RSS reader application that collects data from RSS-compliant sites

SeaMonkey is an all-in-one internet application suite, with HTML composer capabilities, along with FTP, e-mail, newsgroup, IRC and standards-based web-browsing features.

Quick start:

Mac OS X: install X11 first, select it as a Startup item. Install other applications as needed.

PC (W2000+): Install gtk+ first – other applications after.

Open Source Web Sites:

<http://tinyurl.com/ybh883> Explanation of Open Source from the New Zealand OS Society.

<http://tinyurl.com/sllxe> Texas Open Source Software Foundation's Tools page – data galore.