

Open Source "Top Ten" - Great Free or Cheap Software You Can Use for Work or Play

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Self-Introduction

- North Krimsly: PT Software Mgr for OSU OSL for two years.
- Also have a web design business, High Integrity Design LLC.
- Purpose of talk: show you cool free or open source stuff you can use to work or play with on your Mac.
- I'm a Mac user for last two years.
- Background on OSL

What is the OSL?

- Host open source projects on servers in our data center (provide storage space, backups etc.). Example> Linux bug lists, Apache web server code.
- Create or add to open source software> example: one-laptop-per-child project.
- Not funded by OSU; funded by private donations (Google, Real Networks). Your tax dollars are **not** at work...

What is open source software?

- Free as in giving the user freedom, not free as in zero-cost.
- "free as in speech, not free as in beer"
- Free from onerous licensing restrictions.
- May be downloaded, used, copied, studied, modified and redistributed without many restrictions.
- Not necessarily zero price (but almost always is).
- Often developed by a group of programmers in a public, collaborative manner.
- Examples> Firefox web browser, Apache web server, Linux
- You are already using it! Darwin (core of Mac OS X), borrows heavily from FreeBSD Linux-like OS. Apple continues to integrate new code from and contribute changes back to FreeBSD.

Why would people write this software for free?

- They believe software should be free
- They can't afford to buy what they want or there isn't anything available (ex: Kuali University accounting system).
- They want to get noticed and then get hired

Why use Open Source? And why NOT to use

- Nearly all of it is Free (as in zero-cost)
- Some programs works very well, even better than commercial (FreeBSD is good enough for Apple!)
- Quickbooks Mac debacle!
- Some have great features, can be easy to use
- Most do not have paid tech support – done through forums
- Some support forums have better tech support than commercial, but ranges a lot.
- Some have great documentation, and some have horrible.
- Some can be easy to install, some you have to install in pieces and build yourself.

Open Source (or freeware, or shareware) Top Stuff

- Some open source, some shareware, some freeware.
- Won't go into detail, just give a preview of a few of the best.
- There are thousands of open source programs.

NeoOffice – a replacement for Microsoft Office

(<http://www.neooffice.org/neojava/en/index.php>)

- Word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, drawing, database programs – replacement for Microsoft Office.
- Can import, edit exchange files with Microsoft Office
- Integrates with native OS X spell checker, address book, Mac fonts
- Why cool? Works well, uses Microsoft formats, integrates with OS X stuff

GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program)

(<http://www.gimp.org/>)

- Full-featured graphics drawing program like Photoshop
- Requires X11 window manager on OS X install disc
- Does not have native OS X look and feel
- Has extensions which can be added on- I think this is where the power is
- Why cool? Powerful graphics editing tool for working on photos, many features of Photoshop

Carbon Copy Cloner – backup software (shareware)

(<http://www.bombich.com/software/cccl.html>)

- Can run scheduled backups automatically
- Works on a wireless network, but slow
- Works on Tiger and Leopard
- Does complete backup of entire disc (not incremental)
- Why cool? Backup multiple machines with Tiger or Leopard versions of OS X to one hard drive, describes in plain English what the defined backup task will do.

Nvu – web development software

(<http://nvudev.com/index.php>)

- Has a lot of features for creating a web site
- Hasn't been updated since 2005, but still a good free tool
- Why cool? You can do WYSIWYG creation of a web site - it writes the HTML code for you

How to find and choose open source software

- Choose the ones that have books at Amazon
- Check the dates on software releases, has it been 3 years?
- If the version is less than 1.0, may not be mature yet
- Check the quality of the online docs
- Check the liveliness of the support community by looking at the support forums
- Look at the install instructions.
- Check if they have a professional-looking web site with links to documentation and an FAQ, downloads for each operating system (hey, I'm a web designer!).
- Open Source Mac site (<http://opensource-mac.org/>)
- Apple site (<http://www.apple.com/downloads/macosx/>), a great list of cool stuff
- Or, just install it.

Other good tools or sites:

- Inkscape : vector graphics drawing program (requires X11),
- Scribus : full-featured desktop publishing (complex to install, but full featured)
- Openclipart : free public domain clip art
- GnuCash : full-featured personal/small business accounting, complicated install but robust
- CashBox : personal accounting, not a 1.0 release yet.
- Audacity : pro-level sound recording
- <http://doodle.ch/main.html> : simple way to organize a meeting time

Now, on to free but not open source stuff:

Google Docs – complete web-based Microsoft Office replacement (free, but not open source)

(<http://docs.google.com>)

- Create, import and save-as Microsoft Office documents (or PDF)
- Documents available from anywhere over the web
- Others can make changes
- Can save documents to your own computer
- Kind of like .Mac?
- Might want to read Google privacy policy
- Some limits on storage (5,000 documents and 5,000 images). See <http://docs.google.com/support/bin/answer.py?answer=37603&topic=8613>
- Why cool? Docs available anywhere and set up so others can collaborate (edit) the docs

Google Calendar and Gmail – calendar(s) you can share or keep private, plus e-mail and chat

(www.google.com)

- Multiple calendars, public and private
- Can import from iCal or export to iCal, view from iCal
- 2.5 Gigabytes of disk space
- Can use your mail from Apple Mail, can still edit, read, create emails offline through IMAP mailbox system (has some drawbacks such as messages for each label...)
- Can have multiple "From" addresses—so you can have one for personal and one for business
- Great labeling and search features
- Why cool? Outstanding label and search features so you can find stuff easily; can use other email programs

Shameless Plug

- Looking for clients who want a web site!
- Starting price \$1500
- Contact me at krimlsly@comcast.net