

MULTIMEDIA TRAINING KIT

Trainers' notes: Introduction to Open Source

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Introduction	This unit introduces participants to the idea of open source software for use on servers, desktops and web sites.
Timing/duration	¾-1 hour.
Content outline and main topics covered	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Open Source and Civil Society – What is open source and why is it interesting to civil society. (10 minutes)2. Why Open Source? – Top reasons for choosing open source software. (10 minutes)3. Open Source Landscape – Introduction to the three main types of open source software (server, desktop, web applications). (10 minutes)4. Group Discussion – Participants discuss experience and opinions about open source. (15-30 minutes)
Target audience	Anyone interested in open source. Especially useful for participants taking workshops on specific open source topics.
Prerequisite skills/knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Basic computer and web skills· Interest in open source software
Unit objectives/expected outcomes	By the end of the unit participants should have a basic understanding of the values and potential benefits of open source software.
Pre-workshop activities	-
Notes on using exercises	There are no formal exercises included with this introductory unit. Begin the session by asking what participants have heard about open source and what they think the advantages of using it might be. Conclude with a general discussion, checking whether participants have questions which were not answered by the presentation.

Resources included with unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Trainers' notes · Handout · Slide presentation · Workshop evaluation form (for trainees) · Materials evaluation form (for trainers) · Copyright statement <p>Use the general Open Source glossary and list of additional resources with this unit.</p>
Additional trainer resources	-
Equipment needed	Flip chart and paper.
Comments	This unit can be presented as a standalone introduction, or combined with a variety of MMTK units such as "Using Older and Refurbished Computers", "OpenOffice.org Writer" or "Choosing Open Source Software".