

# MULTIMEDIA TRAINING KIT

## *Additional Resources: Open Source*

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See the ItrainOnline section on open source for an updated list of resources:  
<http://www.itrainonline.org/itrainonline/english/opensource.shtml>

### **Articles on open source for civil society and development organizations**

#### **Open Source in Africa: Towards informed decision-making**

Martin Bruggink, International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD)

<http://www.ftpiicd.org/files/research/briefs/Brief7.pdf>

Last accessed: Nov 29 2003

"This Brief summarises research carried out in Tanzania, Uganda and Burkina Faso and other countries, asking where, how, and why open source software is being used in Africa. Researcher Martin Bruggink highlights the opportunities as well as the risks facing IT managers in African institutions who are thinking of making the switch to open source."

#### **Open Source and the voluntary sector**

Openflows, Networks Ltd.

<http://www.openflows.org/article.pl?sid=03/05/29/1349220>

Last accessed: Nov 29 2003

Topics covered in this report include Advantages of Open Source Software, Case Studies of NGOs Using OSS, Open Source Packages and Support Using Open Source Software. While the report has a Canadian focus it will also be useful to readers in other countries.

#### **Realizing the promise of open source in the non-profit sector**

Jonathan Peizer, Open Society Institute

<http://www.uploads.nten.org/gems/RealizingthePromiseofOpenSou.pdf>

Last accessed: Nov 29 2003

In this report, Jonathan Peizer of the Open Society Institute argues that while open source technology is a viable option for NGOs, it is not a "magic bullet", and needs to be approached in a more strategic and realistic context by civil society actors.

#### **How open source can open doors for nonprofits**

Jamie McClelland and Reuben Silvers

<http://www.techsoup.org/howto/articlepage.cfm?ArticleId=426>

This article by Jamie McClelland and Reuben Silvers argues that the natural connection between nonprofits and the open source software movement has not yet been fully realized, and that "by developing this connection nonprofits will not only benefit from the advantages of open source software but will be able to uniquely contribute to the development of new and richer open source patterns to the benefit of both nonprofits and the greater open source software movement."

#### **Open source is on the map**

Dan McQuillan

<http://www.lasa.org.uk/cgi-bin/publisher/display.cgi?1427-10103-12611+computanews>

Last accessed: Nov 29 2003

Open source software is making inroads into the voluntary sector. Dan McQuillan of Lasa's Information Systems Team and the Multikulti project highlights the potential, the pitfalls and gives some proposals for the future.

## **Licence fees and GDP per capita: The case for open source in developing countries**

Rishab Aiyer Ghosh

[http://firstmonday.org/issues/issue8\\_12/ghosh/index.html](http://firstmonday.org/issues/issue8_12/ghosh/index.html)

Last accessed: Dec 2 2003

There is a strong case for free software (also known as open source or libre software) being deployed widely in developing countries. As argued in this note, the open source development community provides an environment of intensive interactive skills development at little explicit cost, which is particularly useful for local development of skills, especially in economically disadvantaged regions. Further, this note argues that the controversy over total costs of ownership (TCO) of free vs. proprietary software is not applicable to developing countries and other regions with low labour costs, where the TCO advantage lies with open source, and the share of license fees in TCO is much higher than in high labour cost countries. The note concludes with a table comparing license fees for proprietary software against GDP per capita for 176 countries.

## **General articles and resources on open source**

### **How to evaluate open source software / free software (OSS/FS) programs**

David A. Wheeler

[http://www.dwheeler.com/oss\\_fs\\_eval.html](http://www.dwheeler.com/oss_fs_eval.html)

Last accessed: Nov 25 2003

Describes a general process for evaluating programs, with specific information on how to evaluate open source programs.

### **Why open source software / free software (OSS/FS)? Look at the numbers!**

David A. Wheeler

[http://www.dwheeler.com/oss\\_fs\\_why.html](http://www.dwheeler.com/oss_fs_why.html)

Last accessed: Nov 25 2003

Provides quantitative data to prove that, in many cases, using open source software / free software is a reasonable or even superior approach to using their proprietary competition according to various measures. This paper's goal is to show that you should consider using OSS/FS when acquiring software.

### **The IDA open source migration guidelines**

European Commission: Interchange of Data between Administrations

<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1618.pdf>

Last accessed: Nov 25 2003

Detailed guidelines to help administrators decide whether a migration to open source should be undertaken and to describe in broad technical terms how such a migration could be carried out.

### **Windows/Linux comparison chart**

Red Hat India

<http://www.in.redhat.com/AppComparisonList.php3>

Last accessed: Nov 25 2003

List of Linux applications in comparison to their Windows equivalents.

### **CoSN/Gartner TCO Tool & Case Studies**

[http://classroomtco.cosn.org/gartner\\_intro.html](http://classroomtco.cosn.org/gartner_intro.html)

Last accessed: Dec 25 2003

Online tools for calculating total cost of ownership in the school environment.

## **Examples of NGOs using open source**

### **Greenpeace Southeast Asia Moves to Free Software**

Fred Noronha, Linux Journal

<http://www.linuxjournal.com/article.php?sid=6598>

Last accessed: Nov 27 2003

"Globally, Greenpeace runs an estimated 90+% of their servers on GNU/Linux. But so far, Manila is the only Greenpeace office to fully deploy GNU/Linux on the majority of desktops. Other smaller GP offices are planning to migrate in the coming months."

### **Jhai Foundation**

Jhai Foundation

[http://www.jhai.org/jhai\\_remotelT.html](http://www.jhai.org/jhai_remotelT.html)

Last accessed: Nov 27 2003

The Jhai Foundation is localizing the Linux-based KDE Graphical Desktop and productivity resources, allowing for communications, word processing, and simple spreadsheets, all in the Lao language.

### **Human rights groups using Martus**

Martus.org

[http://www.martus.org/resources/case\\_studies.shtml](http://www.martus.org/resources/case_studies.shtml)

Last accessed: Nov 27 2003

Martus is a software tool that allows users to document incidents of human rights abuse by creating bulletins and uploading them to servers located around the world. This article includes NGO case studies from Sri Lanka, Philippines, Guatemala, and Russia.

## **Where to look for open source software**

### **FSF/UNESCO Free Software Directory**

Free Software Foundation (FSF) and United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

<http://www.gnu.org/directory/>

Last accessed: Nov 25 2003

**Huge list of categorized free software for Linux and other free operating systems.**

### **OSdir.com**

O'Reilly

<http://osdir.com/>

Last accessed: Nov 25 2003

Directory of stable open source applications for various platforms and functions.

### **Freshmeat**

Open Source Development Network, Inc.

<http://freshmeat.net/>

Last accessed: Nov 25 2003

Lists thousands of open source software projects covering a full range of functions, environments and stages of maturity.

### **SourceForge**

Open Source Development Network, Inc.

<http://sourceforge.net/>

Last accessed: Nov 25 2003

Hosts thousands of open source software projects covering a full range of functions, environments and stages of maturity.

### **David A. Wheeler's Generally Recognized as Mature (GRAM) OSS/FS programs**

David A. Wheeler

<http://www.dwheeler.com/gram.html>

Last accessed: Nov 25 2003

A categorized short list of the most well established open source applications. Scroll down to "4. GRAM List".

**HotScripts.com**

iNET Interactive

<http://www.hotscripts.com/>

Last accessed: Nov 25 2003

Detailed and well organized database of web applications and server-side scripts for all server environments. Licenses vary from free to expensive.

**opensourceCMS**

<http://www.opensourcecms.com/>

Last accessed: Nov 25 2003

This site lets you try out various content management systems (CMS) without having to install them on your local machine first. It also has guidelines to assist in the selection of CMSs for various purposes.

**Open source packages of software for Windows****GNUWin II**

GNU Generation and the GNUWin Team

<http://gnuwin.epfl.ch/en/index.html>

Last accessed: Nov 25 2003

GNUWin II is a compilation of open source software for Windows which includes software, articles and online help.

**The OpenCD**

<http://theopencd.sunsite.dk>

Last accessed: Nov 25 2003

15 open source programs for Windows. The programs are divided into six categories: of fice, Internet, multimedia, utilities, games, and education.