

The Consultants Open Source and Free software listing.

This list of programs has been compiled by a group of IET professional consultants. It is a list of Open Source, Freeware, Shareware or low cost software that we have found useful in our business and daily lives. It covers a wide range of topics and includes software for Windows, Linux and Macintosh. It is far from comprehensive, and we hope that more contributions will be made so that the list can be improved. Also, additional comments about software already listed will help others to decide if it is what they are looking for.

The format of this list is solely the work of Chris Williams.

If you would like to contribute please email: opensource2@chrydesn.co.uk

Category	Name	Description	Link	Licence	Op system
Windows management					
	Spybot	Search and Destroy - keep your PC free of Trojans and Spyware	http://www.spybot.info/index2.html	F	W
	Autoruns.exe	Shows which programs startup automatically when your system boots. Recommend best not used by novices.	http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/bb963902.aspx		W
	PSI.exe	From Secunia Software - this scans installed s/w in a Windows machine and reports on vulnerabilities on installed s/w that Secunia thinks is not patched to date, or is otherwise opening your defence gates.	http://secunia.com/vulnerability_scanning/		W

Category	Name	Description	Link	Licence	Op system
	nlite	Aids making a new XP cd with service packs, drivers, etc. all included. Speeds up re-installs.	http://www.nliteos.com/		W(2000/XP/V)
	Ultimate Boot CD 4 Windows	Builds a boot cd with anti-malware tools. Enables a clean boot check. Stops malware that takes control at boot blocking anti-malware programs. + Huge number of other maintenance programs.	http://www.ubcd4win.com/	F	XP
	Advanced windows Care	Most importantly it detects attempts to change the registry. Speeds up your system, registry cleaner etc	http://www.iobit.com/advancedwindowscareper.html	F	W
Multi-media					
	XplorPlus XP	A fully featured image and file manager with image editing, file type conversion, image re-formatting, cropping and colour correction, html gallery generator and an ftp client.	http://xplorplus.com	S	W
	K3B	The CD/DVD creator for Linux - optimized for KDE	http://k3b.plainblack.com/	O	L
	Irfanview	The ultimate image viewer editor which handles virtually any media format there is. As such, although I have Gimp on my computer it never gets used, Irfanview does it all.	http://www.irfanview.com	F	W
	Inkscape	A vector drawing package which works natively with .SVG image files, but which has impressive file conversion facilities.	http://www.inkscape.org/	O	W/L/M

Category	Name	Description	Link	Licence	Op system
	GIMP	GIMP is the GNU Image Manipulation Program. It is a freely distributed piece of software for such tasks as photo retouching, image composition and image authoring	http://www.gimp.org/	O	W/L/M
	Audacity	A comprehensive sound editor system	http://audacity.sourceforge.net/	O	W/L/M
Editing					
	HTML Kit	HTML editor (non-WYSIWYG) which I use for my websites. v292 is free, the next version - HTML-Kit-Tools is currently beta and you need to pay to download if you want it, but v292 does all the stuff for me.	http://www.htmlkit.com	F	W
	Amaya	Amaya is a Web editor, i.e. a tool used to create and update documents directly on the Web. Browsing features are seamlessly integrated with the editing and remote access features in a uniform environment.	http://www.w3.org/Amaya/	O	W(2000/XP/V) / L / M
	Notepad++	Open Source Notepad replacement. Don't know why on earth people still use the old Notepad these days.	http://sourceforge.net/projects/notepad-plus/	O	W
	HEXED	A stand-alone hexadecimal file editor.	http://xplorplus.com	S	W
	TEXED	A stand-alone multiple document configurable text editor.	http://xplorplus.com	S	W
PDF management					
	PDFCreator	Generate PDF files quickly and easily	http://www.pdfforge.org/	O	W

Category	Name	Description	Link	Licence	Op system
	Foxit PDF reader	Compact and excellent alternative to Adobe's readers. Essentially freeware but they try and plug their at cost products by intrusive adverts (I am currently running an 'unofficial' version with the ads blanked out, but the next version should allow you to turn them off).	http://www.foxitsoftware.com	F with adverts	W/L
	Free PDF XP	PDF printer for Windows, works very well. Website is in German but the download includes an English manual.	http://shbox.de/	F	W
Linux: The operating system					
	Linux user group		http://lug.org.uk		L
	Ubuntu	Easiest Linux distribution to start with.	http://www.ubuntu.com/	O	L
	Linux network forum		http://www.linuxhomenetworking.com/forums		L
	Wine	Run many Windows programs in Linux	http://wiki.winehq.org	F	L
Design and engineering					
	Source Navigator	Document source code	http://sourcnav.berlios.de/	F	W/L
	Doxygen	Doxygen is a documentation system for C++, C, Java, Objective-C, Python, IDL (Corba and Microsoft flavors), Fortran, VHDL, PHP, C#, and to some extent D.	www.doxygen.org	O	W/L
	Eclipse	Java development and IDE tools	http://www.eclipse.org/	O	W/L/M

Category	Name	Description	Link	Licence	Op system
	FreeHDL	VHDL simulator	http://www.freehdl.seul.org/	O	L
	KiCAD	One of the two OpenSource PCB layout packages worth considering. The package has all of the schematic capture, pcb layout, rule checking and report generation capabilities of commercial packages. It also interfaces with a 3-D viewer. The KiCAD autorouter is reportedly a little weak, but as autorouted RF PCBs tend not to work well, it rarely gets used! Many KiCAD users apparently use Freerouter.	http://kicad.sourceforge.net	O	W/L/M
	GNU Octave	A high level language for engineering maths. It is broadly similar in function to MATLAB, and will run Matlab '.m' files.	http://www.gnu.org/software/octave/		
	Spectrum Lab	One other piece of non-OS, but still freely distributed, software which I find very useful is Spectrum Lab, a very flexible, configurable, audio spectrum analyser, which unfortunately only runs on Windows PCs. This was written for amateur radio use, but don't let that put anyone off. It's a very well developed tool.	http://www.qsl.net/dl4yhf/spectra1.html		W
	QCAD	.dxf drawing tool	http://www.qcad.org/	O / low cost	W/L/M

Category	Name	Description	Link	Licence	Op system
	gEDA	A full GPL'd suite and toolkit of Electronic Design Automation tools. Schematic capture, attribute management, bill of materials (BOM) generation, netlisting into over 20 netlist formats, analogue and digital simulation, and printed circuit board (PCB) layout.	http://www.geda.seul.org/	O	L
	QUCS	A still developing circuit analysis tool with good graphical entry, allowing SPICE-like analysis (using SPICE models), the analysis of linear n-ports, and digital simulation. It's particularly useful for RF/Microwave circuit design, and has good transmission-line models. It will also work with VHDL and Verilog files.	http://qucs.sourceforge.net/	F	W/L/M
Others					
	Filezilla	THE BEST ftp client software that we have ever used	http://sourceforge.net/projects/filezilla	O	W/L/M
	FTP Commander	An excellent and easy ftp client program. Quick and easy to use.	http://www.ftpcommander.com/free.htm	F	W(all)
	PUTTY	An SSL (Secure Telnet) client	http://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/	F	W/L
	Financial software		http://financialsoft.about.com		
	Appointment software		http://dsl.org/cookbook/cookbook_34.html#SEC466		

Category	Name	Description	Link	Licence	Op system
	Dia	Diagramming tool	http://live.gnome.org/Dia	O	W/L
	OpenOffice	Full office suite	http://www.openoffice.org/		W/L/M
	Project-open	A project planning tool with broadly similar functionality, but without file compatibility, to Microsoft Project.	http://www.project-open.com/index.html	O	W/L/M
	Karen's Replicator	I find Karen's Replicator fantastically useful as a back-up tool. Customisable and intuitive.	http://www.karenware.com/powertools/powertools.asp	F	W
	Pegasus Mail	Excellent email client	http://www.pmail.com	F	W/D
	Mailwasher	For easily deleting my small amount of spam.	http://www.firetrust.com		W/L
	Opera	Very good alternative to Explorer	http://www.opera.com		W/L/M
	Firefox	Firefox is an excellent web browser, and well supported. Freeware.	www.mozilla.com/firefox	F	W/L/M
	Firebug	Firebug integrates with Firefox to put a wealth of web development tools at your fingertips while you browse. You can edit, debug, and monitor CSS, HTML, and JavaScript live in any web page.	http://getfirebug.com	O	Add-on to Firefox
	HTML Validator	HTML Validator is a Mozilla extension that adds HTML validation inside Firefox and Mozilla. The number of errors of a HTML page is seen on the form of an icon in the status bar when browsing. The details of the errors are seen when looking the HTML source of the page.	http://users.skynet.be/mgueury/mozilla/index.html	F	Add-on to Firefox

Category	Name	Description	Link	Licence	Op system
	NoScript	A brilliant add-on for both OE and Firefox, enabling the suppression or rejection of all the unwanted stuff that appears on web pages; frequently updated and very effective.	http://noscript.net/	O	
	Aardvark	Another very useful browser ad-on is Aardvark, which with very few mouse clicks enables the isolation and manipulation of selected parts of a web page, very useful for getting a printout or file copy of a useful part of a page into a manageable format.	http://karmatics.com/aardvark/	F	
	Gravity	Excellent newsgroup reader, free		F	
	POPFile	Excelent automatic Email Classification. Sort emails into different groups, including SPAM.	http://getpopfile.org/	O	W/L/M
	Winzip	Windows file combiner and shrinker	http://www.winzip.com		
	Scribus	Open Source desktop publishing package which I use to produce our radio club newsletter	http://www.scribus.net/	O	W/L/M
	VNC (various flavours)	Remote desktop. A small server running on one machine can be viewed and controlled from a viewer on another. Cross platform, i.e. Widows viewer can control Linux machine.	http://www.realvnc.com/ and http://www.tightvnc.com/	O	W/L/M
	Xplorer2	Windows Explorer replacement with many extra features.	http://www.zabkat.com	T	W

Operating system initial.

W Windows.

L Linux.

M Macintosh.

D Dos.

Licence initial.

F Free.

O Open Source.

T Trial.

S Shareware.

Version	Change Author	Date	Comments
Version 1	C.Williams	1/10/9	Initial
Version2	C.Williams	15/1/09	Corrected typo's and several new entries.