

Trinidad and Tobago Computer Society (TTCS)

The Trinidad and Tobago Computer Society (TTCS) is a computer user group based in Trinidad. Formed in 1997, we:

- are a forum where computers, related technologies and related social issues are discussed.
- keep current with the events in the local Information Technology (IT) and telecommunications industries.
- "network local computer users" so that they can share knowledge and improve upon their experiences with modern technology.

Membership in the Trinidad and Tobago Computer Society is free and open to anyone interested in computers, regardless of the level of their computer experience or the type of hardware or software they use.

Contact information:

Website: www.ttcsweb.org

Email: admin@ttcsweb.org

Blog: <http://www.ttcsweb.org/blog/>

Discussion mailing list:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ttcs>

Announce mailing list:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ttcs_announce

What is free / open-source software (FOSS)?

Free and Open Source Software is software for which the source code can be freely downloaded and altered to suit your needs.

There are many types of Open Source Software. The difference lies in the way altered versions of the software can be distributed, so, if you customise the software for your own needs and then decide to distribute it, you may be bound by specific terms.

You can do the following with open source software:

- Install the software on any number of machines in any environment (home or commercial) without paying licence fees.
- Obtain and modify the source code and distribute modified versions of the program together with the modified source code. Open source licences differ in how such source code can be distributed or licenced for others to make further modifications.

For more information, see:

The Open Source Definition:
<http://www.opensource.org/docs/definition.php>

The Free Software Definition:
<http://www.gnu.org/philosophy/free-sw.html>

FLOSS Concept Booklet
http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/FLOSS_Concept_Booklet.



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www.ttcsweb.org

Here are some examples of high quality, free/open source applications (FOSS). They are available for: Windows, Linux and even Mac OS X.

OpenOffice.org <http://openoffice.org>



OpenOffice.org is a complete office suite which includes: word processor, spreadsheet, presentation, drawing and database applications. It is compatible with Microsoft Office and contains extra functionality such as the ability to create PDF and SWF files. It also supports a wide range of document formats including the ISO standard Open Document Format (ODF).

Mozilla Firefox <http://getfirefox.com>



The Firefox web browser is considered to be a more secure browser which reduces the risk of your computer being affected by viruses and spyware. It renders web pages quickly and supports web standards. It has many useful features, for example: tabs and pop-up blocking. A wide range of extensions are available to enhance the capabilities of this browser.

Mozilla Thunderbird
<http://www.mozilla.com/thunderbird/>



The Mozilla Thunderbird email client is considered to be a more secure email client which reduces the risk of email viruses and other malware. Thunderbird also includes useful features such as built-in spam filtering.

VLC Media Player <http://videolan.org>

VLC is a media player which supports a wide range of video, audio and streaming formats. e.g. Ogg, DVD, VCD, AVI, ASF/WMV, MP4, MOV, XviD, MPEG-2, MP3, WAV, FLAC.



Audacity <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>

Audacity is an audio editor and recorder. You can use Audacity to: record live audio; convert tapes and records into digital recordings or CDs; edit Ogg Vorbis, MP3 and WAV sound files; cut, copy, splice and mix sounds together; create multi-track recordings; remove static, hiss, hum or other constant background noises; customise sounds with Equalization, FFT Filter and Bass Boost effects; record and edit 16-bit, 24-bit and 32-bit (floating point) samples, etc.



The GIMP <http://gimp.org>

The GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program) is an image editing program, similar in function to Adobe Photoshop. It supports a wide range of formats. The Windows version uses a plugin to support several Photoshop filters.



Inkscape <http://inkscape.org/>

Inkscape is a vector graphics editor with capabilities similar to programs such as Illustrator, Freehand and CorelDraw. It uses the W3C standard Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) as the default file format and is suitable for a wide range of applications.



Ubuntu Linux <http://ubuntu.com/>



Ubuntu is a freely available Linux-based operating system that is suitable for both desktop and server use. Versions are available for 32-bit and 64-bit PCs and Macs.

It can be installed alongside existing operating systems such as Windows or MacOS X or as the only operating system. Both community and professional support options are available for end-users.