

## Open Source Software

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Software can be very expensive. Even with education discounts, it is not uncommon to see someone pay several hundred dollars for an education license to a program like Microsoft Office.

Open source software ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open\\_source\\_software](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_source_software)) alternatives have been written for just about every piece of licensed software in existence. The vast majority of open source software is free to use and distribute.

Before spending money on software, consider using an open source alternative.



An easy way to find open source alternatives is through the website <http://www.osalt.com/>.

A very useful list of free open source education software can be found at <http://www.theopendisc.com/education/>. Copies of the Open Education Disc are available in packets of up to 30 copies.

Free open source operating system alternatives are also available. One of the most popular is Ubuntu (<http://www.ubuntu.com/>) a Linux operating system promoted as one of the easiest Linux operating systems to use.



### Commercial Program: Suggested Free Open Source Alternative (URL)

Microsoft Office 2010: Open Office 3.0 (<http://www.osalt.com/openoffice>)

Photoshop: Gimp (<http://www.osalt.com/gimp>)

Visio: Dia (<http://www.osalt.com/dia>)

Dreamweaver: KompoZer (<http://www.osalt.com/kompozer>)

Microsoft Publisher: Scribus (<http://www.osalt.com/scribus>)

Norton Ghost: Clonezilla (<http://www.osalt.com/clonezilla>)

Adobe Acrobat: PDF Creator (<http://www.osalt.com/pdfcreator>)

Windows Movie Maker: Avidemux (<http://www.osalt.com/avidemux>)

Norton Antivirus: ClamWin (<http://www.osalt.com/clamwin>)

Windows Media Player: VLC (<http://www.osalt.com/vlc>)

Nero Burning Rom: InfraRecorder (<http://www.osalt.com/infrarecorder>)

AutoCAD: Archimedes (<http://www.osalt.com/archimedes>)