The Open Source Media Toolbelt

An overview and review of the open source media-software market
Licenses?

- Commercial use?
- Modifiability?
- Distribution?
- Warranty/Liability?
- Source disclosure?
- Stating changes?

See tldrlegal.com for explanations!
- Graphics
  - 3D
  - Vector Graphics
  - Photography
  - Digital Painting

- Video
  - Cutting
  - Compositing
  - Animation
  - Live

- Audio
  - DAW
  - Sound Generators

- Text
  - Screenwriting
  - Publishing
Graphics
3D - Blender

3D creation Suite

- Modelling
- Rigging
- Animation
- Simulation
- Rendering
- Compositing

GPLv3 (GPLv2, Apache 2.0, …)

Closed Source alternatives:

- Autodesk Maya
- Cinema 4D
- Zbrush
- After Effects
3D - Blender

3D creation Suite

Review:
A unicorn. Somewhat hard to learn, but a very comprehensive package with a large community and very active development.

No alternatives needed!

GPLv3 (GPLv2, Apache 2.0, …)

Closed Source alternatives:
- Autodesk Maya
- Cinema 4D
- Zbrush
- After Effects
Vectorgraphics - Inkscape

Use cases:
- Designing logos
- Creating web/app mockups

Review:
Usable, but unintuitive Interface.
Crashes sometimes.

GPLv2

Closed Source alternatives:
- Adobe Illustrator
- Affinity Designer
- Corel DRAW Graphics Suite
Photography - Gimp

Use cases:
- Photo retouche
- 2D raster-graphics

Review:
Stable, with a large quantity of tutorials. Development is active.

GPLv3

Closed Source alternatives:
- Adobe Photoshop
- Paint.NET
- Affinity Photo
- Corel Paint Shop Pro
Photography - Darktable

Use cases:
• RAW development
• Image processing

Review:
Very nice structure and UI.
Sadly no Windows build (yet).

GPLv3

Closed Source alternatives:
• Adobe Lightroom
• Affinity Photo
• DxO Optics Pro
Photography - RawTherapee

Use cases:
- RAW development
- Image processing

Review:
Works, but is less intuitive and seemed to create ‘funky’ colors.

GPLv3

Closed Source alternatives:
- Adobe Lightroom
- Affinity Photo
- DxO Optics Pro
Photography - Hugin

Use cases:

• Creating panoramas
• Creating HDRIs

Review:

Has some stitching problems, but works well in general.

Closed Source alternatives:

• Adobe Photoshop
• Microsoft ICE

GPLv2
Photography – Luminance HDR

Use cases:
• Creating High Dynamic Range Images

Review:
Interface is cryptic and usage is trial and error. Does what it should.

GPL

Closed Source alternatives:
• Adobe Photoshop/Lightroom
• Corel PaintShop Pro
Graphics – Image/GraphicsMagick

Use case:

• Do anything with graphics on the commandline
• Convert/Resize batches of images

Review:

Works great, but I have to google the commands every time…
Digital Painting - MyPaint

Use case:
- Scribbling/Sketching
- Digital Drawingboard

Review:
Some of the brushes feel very nice, but I would not use it for painting.

GPLv2 / ISC
Closed Source alternatives:
- Autodesk SketchBook
Digital Painting - Krita

Use case:
• Creating Conceptart
• Drawing Textures

Review:
Optically very nice software, but always had performance issues. (With my hardware!)

GPL

Closed Source alternatives:
• Adobe Photoshop
• Corel Painter
• Art Rage
• Mischief
Video
Cutting - Shotcut

Use cases:

• Creating a short demo of your awesome software

Review:

Nice and simple UI. Does what it should, but some filters are named weirdly.

GPLv3

Closed Source alternatives:

• Adobe Premiere Pro
• Lightworks
Video - FFMpeg

Use cases:

• Manipulating Video from the commandline

• Watermark in the center of the screen:

  `ffmpeg -i input.mp4 -i logo.png -filter_complex "overlay=\((main_w-overlay_w)/2:\(main_h-overlay_h)/2\)" -codec:a copy output.mp4`

GPLv2
Cutting – Honorable Mentions

- PiTiVi
- Cinerella
- OpenShot
- KDenlive
Compositing - Natron

Use cases:
- Creating VFX for movies

Review:
Intimidating Interface;
Professional-grade software

GPLv2

Closed Source alternatives:
- Adobe After Effects
- Apple Motion
Animation - OpenToonz

Use cases:
- Animating the next ASDF movie
- Spicing up your website

Review:
It has been used in almost all Studio Ghibli movies.

Modified BSD and others

Closed Source alternatives:
- Adobe Animate
- Toon Boom Harmony
Animation - Synfig

Use cases:
• Animating the next ASDF movie
• Spicing up your website

Review:
Looks promising

GPLv2

Closed Source alternatives:
• Adobe Animate
• Toon Boom Harmony
Live – Open Broadcaster Software

Use cases:
• Recording your screen
• Streaming your programming live to twitch

Review:
Works reliably.

GPLv2

Closed Source alternatives:
• XSplit Broadcaster
• Fraps
• Gameshow
• Camtasia Studio
Audio
DAW - LMMS

Use cases:
• Make music
• Make … interesting sounds

Review:
Virtual Instruments and Effects are already bundled! Nice to play with.

GPLv2

Closed Source alternatives:
• Fruity Loops
• Ableton Live
DAW - Ardour

Use cases:
• Record your new album
• Create the soundtrack for your next movie

Review:
A nice DAW, though a bit less intuitive than commercial software.

GPLv2

Closed Source alternatives:
• Apple Logic Pro
• Cakewalk Sonar
• Steinberg Cubase
DAW - Audacity

Use cases:

- Quick recordings

Review:

Repulsive UI, but works if you need small projects done quickly.
Honorable Mentions

- KXStudio
  - A Linux distribution with preinstalled Audio software.
- Sfxr
  - Chiptune sound generator
- JACK and the whole Linux-Audio-Landscape
Layout - LaTeX

Use cases:

- Writing your next term paper
- Make presentations
- Make Graphics

LPPL and TUG
Layout - Scribus

Use cases:
• Publish your own magazine or manual

Review:
Incredibly finicky, but the only available open source option.

GPLv2, MIT and BSD

Closed Source alternatives:
• Adobe InDesign
• Microsoft Office Publisher
• Apple iWork - Pages
Writing - Trelby

Use cases:
• Write the next big drama

GPL

Closed Source alternatives:
• Celtx
• Adobe Story
Conclusion
Conclusion – A review of the Open Source Media Toolbelt

- There is a program for almost anything
- Functionality often is on par or exceeds closed source programs through extendibility
- CLIs are available
- Most OSMT software is cross-platform
- Many programs interconnect

- UI and learning curve are the biggest obstacles for open source software
- The larger the community the better
Demo Time 😊

Feel free to eat pizza or leave

- Thank you for your attendance