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ROLL NO-141

SUBJECT-IT TOOLS

PRACTICAL 3: BASIC UNDERSTANDING ON FREE AND OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE

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1. Describe Open-Source Software with Example.

Open-source software (OSS) is a type of computer software in which source code is released under a license in which the copyright holder grants users the rights to use, study, change, and distribute the software to anyone and for any purpose. Open-source software may be developed in a collaborative public manner. Open-source software is a prominent example of open collaboration.

* Firefox—a Web browser that competes with Internet Explorer
* OpenOffice—a competitor to Microsoft Office
* Alfresco—collaboration software that competes with Microsoft SharePoint and EMC’s Documentum
* Zimbra—open-source e-mail software that competes with Outlook server
* MySQL, Ingres, and Enterprise DB—open-source database software packages that each go head-to-head with commercial products from Oracle, Microsoft, Sybase, and IBM
* Asterix—an open-source implementation for running a PBX corporate telephony system that competes with offerings from Nortel and Cisco, among others
* Free BSD and Sun’s Open Solaris—open-source versions of the Unix operating system

1. Describe Free Software with Example.

“Free software” means software that respects users' freedom and community. Roughly, it means that the users have the freedom to run, copy, distribute, study, change and improve the software. Thus, “free software” is a matter of liberty, not price.

* The Linux kernel, of course! The Linux kernel is protected by the GPL, and is used daily by millions of people throughout the world. As the kernel, it is one of the most important components of the GNU system ;
* Apache, the most widely used web server in the world. More than 56% of the web servers on this planet use Apache; far more than its fierce competitors, Microsoft and Netscape ;
* The Gimp is a powerful bitmap mode digital creation program. In spite of being relatively new, The Gimp has rapidly become serious competition for Photoshop ;
* PostgreSQL is an object-relational database. It is currently the most sophisticated free software database available.

1. Difference between Free and Open-Source Software.

[Open-source](https://opensource.org/osd) license criteria focus on the availability of the source code and the ability to modify and share it, while [free software](https://www.gnu.org/philosophy/free-sw.html) and [public domain](https://creativecommons.org/) focus on the user’s freedom to use the program, to modify it, and to share it. Freeware (examples are [Skype](https://www.skype.com/) and [Adobe Acrobat](http://acrobat.adobe.com/)), in its term, is mostly aiming commercial goals and potential monetization often used as a “freemium” product.

