List of Useful Open Source Tools

Dear friends/Fellow Professionals

- *I am sharing this list based on my limited experience, on "as I know it" basis. I do not assume any responsibility of any of these tools working the way they are supposed to, or otherwise.*
- *Try them at your own risk. It will be a good idea to get help from your networking/tech support team to check if these tools are safe for installing in your device/office network. The automation tools should be handled with extreme care (and under professional supervision!).*
- *Some of these tools also have mobile apps with limited functionality.*
- *Some tools are mentioned without description as I have not used them much.*
- *Please feel free to share this list with others.*
- *Please share your experience and list of tools.*
- *Please let me know if a hyperlink is broken (so that I can fix it) or a better link (or download site) is available.*

Thank you & Good luck!

– Mak Pandit, mak@technowrites.com

Editing Tools

Tools Name/ Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
Google Docs http://www.google.co.in/docs/about/	Google Docs offers many online tools for preparing documents and downloading them in MS Office format. Online collaboration for authoring the documents is also supported.
Open Office https://www.openoffice.org/	Download the complete suite and use it.
Libre Office https://www.libreoffice.org/	Download the complete suite and use it.
Page https://www.apple.com/in/pages/	Easy to share documents across all devices if you use the same Apple ID for all of them.

Tools Name/ Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
Numbers https://www.apple.com/in/numbers/	Easy to share documents across all devices if you use the same Apple ID for all of them.
Keynote https://www.apple.com/in/keynote/	Easy to share documents across all devices if you use the same Apple ID for all of them.
Voice Typing Use dictation in MacBook	Available free in MacBook. Also supported in iPhone and iPad.
Dragon Naturally Speaking https://www.dragonnaturallyspeaking.com.au	Commercial tool. Has very high accuracy once you train in it, learn the tricks yourself. Needs 2-3 days to practice, learn and create your profile. Can produce good text even from your recorded voice file.
Neo Office http://www.neooffice.org/neojava/en/index.php	Office suite for Mac based on OpenOffice and LibreOffice.

Drawing Tools

Most of these tools create drawings in their own format, but they can export drawings in many popular formats like .png, .gif, .pdf, and so on.

Tools Name/ Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
Pencil Project https://pencil.evolus.vn/Downloads.html	For drawing flowcharts, wireframes, and other type of drawings. Includes a library of shapes to use.

Tools Name/ Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
Paint.Net https://www.getpaint.net/	Photo editing tool with extremely handy set of features. I call it as 30% of photoshop for free.
Dia - Diagramming Tool http://dia-installer.de/	For drawings flowcharts, circuit diagrams, and other drawing types.
OpenOffice Draw https://www.openoffice.org/product/draw.html	Extremely powerful drawing tool with library of shares for creating various types of drawings.
LibreOffice Drawing Tool https://www.libreoffice.org/discover/draw/	Extremely powerful drawing tool with library of shares for creating various types of drawings. Very useful for editing PDF files (even edit text inside), password protect, change page arrangement, sequence and so on. For doing this there many paid tools that cost US$30 or more.
Infographics https://www.canva.com/en_in/create/infographics/	Create your own illustrated infographics that communicate data along in a good pictorial presentation.
FreeMind https://sourceforge.net/projects/freemind/	For drawings flowcharts, mind maps, and other drawing types.
Cmaptools https://cmap.ihmc.us/cmaptools/	-

Automation Tools

Tools Name/ Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
Tiny Task https://www.tinytask.net/	Automates repetitive tasks by recording positions and sequence of clicks. It is a blind tool that do not understand what it clicks. Once click sequences are recorded, you can repeat them any number of times. Clicks recorded cannot be edited.
Typer Task https://portableapps.com/apps/utilities/typertask-portable	Automates repetitive tasks by running scripts. The scripts can be written using the application names and by passing on simple parameters like sequence and time lags. It can also be used as a Text Expander. So, create short text keys for text blocks. Just type the key and the text block appears. This feature can be used for re-using blocks on text in documents, emails and so on. Works also in Gmail WebApp. You can edit the script anytime.
Automator https://support.apple.com/en-in/guide/automator/welcome/mac	Creates scripts using various tools installed on MacBook. A bit of programming knowledge can help. Has built-in editor for making changes to scripts recorded. Extremely powerful, handle with care.
Auto Hotkey https://www.autohotkey.com/	-
Pulover's Macro Creator https://www.macrocreator.com/	Free macro creator. Use to record, edit and re-use macro scripts that work across applications. A bit of programming knowledge can help. Has built-in editor for making changes to scripts recorded. Extremely powerful, handle with care.
Window Macro Recorder https://www.winautomation.com/download/	-

Screen Capturing Tools

Tools Name Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
FireFox Plugin https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/	Plugins available for taking screenshots of pages opened in FireFox browser. Plugin available even for a scrolling capture.
Jing https://www.techsmith.com/jing-tool.html	It is like 20% of SnagIt for free. Very handy and useful. Can even annotate captured screens and export them in graphic formats. Can record screen and create video (up to 5 minutes) in .swf format. Can capture voice through mic while recording. This is my tool of choice for my regular screen capturing.
CamStudio https://camstudio.org/	It records all screen and audio activity on your window computer and create industry-standard AVI video files

Research & Referencing Tools

Tools Name/ Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
Citelighter https://download.cnet.com/Citelighter/3000-11745_4-75629695.html	-
Zotero - Research & Citations https://www.zotero.org/	One of the most popular tools amongst researchers for keeping track of papers and citations.

Language & Editing Tools

Tools Name/ Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
Dictionary.com https://www.dictionary.com/	Website for getting meaning of words and their usage.
Artha Portable https://portableapps.com/apps/education/artha-portable	Free thesaurus that you can download and use. "Artha" in Sanskrit means "Meaning."
Viper http://www.scanmyessay.com	The best plagiarism checking tool available online. Even gives percentage score. Below 6% is safe. Premium version offers very good features.
Merriam Webster https://www.merriam-webster.com/	Website for getting meaning of words and their usage. Follows American English.
Grammarly https://www.grammarly.com	Tool for reviewing documents. Premium version has very good features. As good as, and sometimes, better than a human reviewer. Once installed, works across applications. You should be online to use it. It even Includes a plagiarism checker.
Neil's Toolbox http://www.scanmyessay.com	Website giving a useful set of tools. Includes reference generator, lazy researcher, and plagiarism checker (works with Google).
Wordweb https://wordweb.info/	Free thesaurus that you can download and use. It has a very good website. Premium (Pro) version offers very good features.

PDF Manipulation Tools

Tools Name Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
PDFTK Builder https://pdftk-builder.en.uptodown.com/windows	Manipulate PDF files. Split, Merge, Rotate, Password Protect PDF files.
Sumatra PDF https://www.sumatrapdfreader.org/free-pdf-reader.html	PDF Reader that can insert comments in PDF.
LibreOffice Drawing Tool https://www.libreoffice.org/discover/draw/	Extremely powerful drawing tool with library of shares for creating various types of drawings. Very useful for editing PDF files (even edit text inside), password protect, change page arrangement, sequence and so on. For doing this there many paid tools that cost US$30 or more.

Email Tools

Tools Name/ Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
Gmail https://www.gmail.com/	Now allows typing in Indian languages. Has introduced "delay send"
Proton Mail https://protonmail.com/	Highly secured email where message can be destroyed after reading, forwarding of message can be disabled. Developed by world's best scientists.
Hootsuite https://www.hootsuite.com/	For handling social media from one place.

Wiki Tools

Tools Name/ Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
Media Wiki https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Download	Used for creating Wikipedia. A special stack is available on Bitnami that can also be installed on hard-disk or pen drive.
Confluence https://www.atlassian.com/software/confluence	Premium version has excellent features. Most popular paid Wiki.
Book Stack https://www.bookstackapp.com/	A simple, self-hosted, easy-to-use platform for organising and storing information. Includes sample space with bookshelves and books that you can look at and play around with.

Notes Tools

Tools Name/ Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
Notes Included as a part of MacOS	Extremely compact and versatile note-taking application. Also works on iPad and iPhone. If you use the same apple ID the notes are automatically synchronised.
One Note https://www.onenote.com/download	Microsoft's free notes-taking applications. Really cool! You can host your notes using your free Microsoft account for as long as you want and share the notes across various devices.

Tools Name/ Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
Evernote https://evernote.com/	The most advanced notes-taking application. Really supercool! Free as well as premium account available. You can store your documents (docs, audio, video, images) also by embedding them in notes. Install the app on various devices and store your data on various devices working on different operating systems. Paid version is reasonable priced (around Rs. 1200/- per year) and has terrific features like email id, clipper, and much more. Try it and you will love it. You can also share notes and notebooks with other Evernote users/non-users.
Keep https://keep.google.com/	A note taking application that is free to use with your Google account. Across devices, and so on. I haven't used it much as I have been using Evernote for a long time.
Dropbox Paper https://www.dropbox.com/paper	Introduced by Dropbox recently. Multi-authoring is supported

Storage Tools

Tools Name/ Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
GoogleDrive https://www.google.com/drive/download/	Use free along with your Gmail. Lots of space to upload files. Easy file sharing with invited list worldwide. Includes apps for installation across devices thus helping to synchronize documents. More space can be added for a reasonable price. Free storage up to 15 GB (includes Gmail and Google Photo files).
DropBox - 2GB https://www.dropbox.com/	One of the most popular storage app. Very user friendly. Can create a virtual folder on your machine from which files are automatically synchronised. Available across apps and operating system. Only limitation is storage size. You can buy more space.

Tools Name/ Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
Mega - 50 GB https://mega.nz/	Increasing in popularity as it gives 50 GB space and files can be encrypted before storing them.
Hightail (formerly YouSendIt) https://www.hightail.com/	Hightail, formerly YouSendIt, is a cloud service that lets users send, receive, digitally sign, and synchronize files. Earlier it was used to upload files and share a link of that location through email. The uploaded files would be automatically deleted after predetermined time. Now it has developed into full-fledged service for collaboration on multimedia files. You can now share files thorough links using Google Docs and perhaps do not need this.
OneDrive https://onedrive.live.com/about/en-us/	Microsoft's shared spaces for sharing files, presentations, and so on. Seamless integration with Office 365 is the biggest asset. Extremely easy to use with many apps designed for various devices and OS. and website.

Icon, Picture, & Graphics Tools

Tools Name/ Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
Unsplash https://unsplash.com/	A truly free stock of photos that you can simply download and use. You can also submit your photos here.
Creative Commons https://creativecommons.org/	Creative Commons is an American non-profit organization. It helps you to legally share your knowledge and creativity to build a more equitable, accessible, and innovative world. It provides free, easy-to-use copyright licenses to make a simple and standardized way to give the public permission to share and use your creative work
Gantt Project https://www.ganttproject.biz/	Free project scheduling and management app.
Every Stock Photo http://www.everystockphoto.com/	It is a website for free photos. Photos displayed comes from many sources. Some of them are license-

Tools Name/ Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
	specific. You can view a photo's license by clicking on the license icon.
Project Libre https://www.projectlibre.com/	It is a cloud-based free project scheduling and management tool like Google Docs.
Wiki Media Common https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page	A collection of more than 50 million freely usable images, sounds, other media files to which anyone can contribute.
Icon Collection https://www.flaticon.com/packs	Download icons or icon packs for free. Almost 2 million icons for free personal and commercial use. Needs you to subscribe. Offers a premium account as well.

Sound Effects

Tools Name/ Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
Audio Micro https://www.audiomicro.com/free-sound-effects	Downloads royalty stock music for any project from free sound effect. Needs you to subscribe. Offers a premium account as well.

Free Images

Tools Name/ Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
Canva https://www.canva.com/	Drag-and-drop features and layouts to design, share and print business cards, logos, presentations, and many more.

Free images https://www.freeimages.com/	Explore over millions of royalty free image to download and use for anything.
Gratisography https://gratisography.com/	Download free high-resolution pictures, comprised of the world's best, most creative images.
Pixabay www.pixabay.com	International website for sharing photos, illustrations, vector graphics, and film footage under a proprietary license.
Pexels https://www.pexels.com/	Search through thousands of royalty free images. You can use all images on Pexels for free, even for commercial use.
Picjumbo https://picjumbo.com/	Download 100% royalty free stock images with no watermarks.

Quotes

Tools Name/ Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
A-Z Quotes https://www.azquotes.com/	Discover inspirational and famous quotes. Share and collect the rare quotes to create a unique picture.
Brainy Quotes https://www.brainyquote.com/	Get the best-inspirational, motivational, brainy, and international-author's power-of-words to create a best quote.
QuoteHD http://www.quotehd.com/	Discover HD images of famous author's quotes.

Coordination & Productivity Tools

Tools Name Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
Trello https://trello.com/	-
Slack https://slack.com/intl/en-in/	-
Skype https://www.skype.com/en	Free online chatting and calling. Screensharing also possible on call. Allows you to call landline numbers also (paid service). Now integrated with Microsoft Accounts where it is called Skype for business.
Google Hangout https://tools.google.com/dlpage/hangoutplugin	For chatting or doing video calls. Use with your Gmail account. Mobile apps available.
WebEx https://www.webex.co.in/	Popular online meeting and conferencing tool. Mobile apps available. You can join for free if a paid user is hosting it. Can record sessions.
GoToMeeting https://www.gotomeeting.com/en-in	Popular online meeting site. Also allows you to give training and webinars. You can join for free if a paid user is hosting it. Can record sessions. Popularly called GTM.
Zoom https://zoom.us/	Popular online meeting site. Also allows you to give training and webinars. One to one meeting is hosted for free. You can join for free if a paid user is hosting it. Can record sessions. More reasonably priced than WebEx and GoToMeeting.
Doodle https://doodle.com/	Useful for determining time of meetings across geographic locations, based on the time-zones and local time. Avoids a lot of confusion about exact meeting date and time.

Other Tools

Tools Name/ Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
Balabolka https://balabolka.en.softonic.com/	Can read the text as audio. Free application. Can also generate mp3 audio files from the text.
ReadText Service available in MacBook (macOS)	Read text (audio) from your files (notes, documents, and so on). Eliminates your burden to read with eyes. It is a free service packaged as a part of MacBook.
IFTTT https://ifttt.com/	If This Then THAT - is the free way to get all your apps and devices talking to each other. You can create a chain of events to make one thing happen somewhere, based on something else happening somewhere else.
CCleaner https://www.ccleaner.com/	A handy utility for managing your Windows machine. Has useful set of tools for cleaning the disk, uninstalling applications, and much more. Paid version available with many more features.
GoodReads https://www.goodreads.com/	Social cataloguing website that allows individuals to freely search its database of books, annotations, and reviews. Users can sign up and register books to generate library catalogues and reading lists.
WordPress https://wordpress.com/	For creating and hosting your blogs. It has many powerful templates to choose.
Pinterest https://www.pinterest.com/	Software system designed to enable discovery of information on the World Wide Web using images, infographics and, on a smaller scale, GIFs and videos.
Blogger https://www.blogger.com/	For creating and hosting your blogs. Has many powerful templates to choose. Free with your Gmail id. Has tools for monetising your blog.
Freemake https://www.freemake.com/	Download Freemake video converter software for free Video Converter, Video Downloader, Audio Converter and Free Music Player.

Audio Editing Tools

Tools Name/ Website Link/ Supported OS	Description
Audacity https://www.audacityteam.org/	Open-source digital audio editor and recording application software.
Traverso DAW https://traverso-daw.org/products/	Cross-platform multitrack audio recording and audio editing suite with support for CD mastering and non-linear processing.
Mixxx https://www.mixxx.org/	Open-source multitrack audio recording and audio editing tool. It can be controlled with MIDI and HID controllers and timecode vinyl records in addition to computer keyboards and mice.

Websites offering free tools

Tools Name/ Website Link	Description
PortableApps.com https://portableapps.com/	Commonly used Windows applications that have been specially packaged for portability.
WinPenPack http://www.winpenpack.com/en/index.php	Open-source software application suite for Windows. It is a collection of open source applications that have been modified to be executed directly from a USB flash drive
Softonic https://en.softonic.com/	Store to discover the best applications for your device, offering you reviews, news, articles, and free downloads.
Alternate Tools https://www.alternate-tools.com/pages/c_main.php?lang=ENG	This site contains several alternative tools for windows platforms as freeware or open source.
File hippo https://filehippo.com/	It is one of the popular software downloading website that offers computer software.