



FOR INDIVIDUALS

This handout provides you with an overview of free and open source (FOSS) software useful for you – the individual. The software described here costs **nothing** and can be redistributed **freely**.

Firefox – <http://getfirefox.com/>

Firefox is the popular alternative to Internet Explorer and other browsers. As a browser, it demonstrates excellent compliance with web standards such as HTML and CSS. Firefox provides a quick, streamlined browsing experience and is readily extendible with hundreds of plugins. Firefox is available for Linux, Windows and Mac.

Thunderbird email client – <http://getthunderbird.com/>

Thunderbird is a popular alternative to other mail programs such as Outlook Express, Eudora etc. It is a mature product, and offers standard mail features such as categorising and prioritising mail, address book, junk mail filter, support for multiple identities and filters. Thunderbird is available for Linux, Windows and Mac.

LibreOffice – <http://www.libreoffice.org/>

LibreOffice is an alternative to the popular Microsoft Office suite, and includes tools such as a word processor, spreadsheet, presentation tool and database. LibreOffice interacts well with files generated from Microsoft programs – such as .doc, .xls, .ppt files, and can even open newer file formats (.docx, .xlsx) easily! LibreOffice is available for Linux, Windows and Macintosh platforms.

VLC (Video LAN Client) – <http://www.videolan.org/vlc/>

VLC is a media player, like Windows Media player, which can basically play any type of medium, video or music, out of the box without having to download further codecs. It can be customized with different look and feels and is available for Windows, Linux and Mac.

Pidgin – <http://www.pidgin.im>

Pidgin is a universal chat and instant messaging application that works with all popular instant messaging tools such as AIM, ICQ, Google Talk, and IRC. This means you only have to have one program for all your messages! Pidgin is available for Linux, Windows and Macintosh platforms.



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