

Open Source Programs

By Lisa Boyd (<http://www.zeteosolutions.com>)

[mlzambos] First some basic instructions. If you need to change the refresh rate then type /refresh # where the # is seconds between each refresh do not go below 3. The Default is 5 seconds which is a good rate. If you are on FireFox the chat will be in reverse. You need to switch over to IE to have the new items at the bottom and the older at the top. Anyone need me to wait while you change over to IE?

If you need to see more lines then type /show ### with the number of line you want to see.

When we get to the Q&A section please type "?", if you have a question and then I will call on you to ask your question so that it won't get lost in the mix of things. This will be done through the on board Private Messaging System.

I will be archiving this chat at the end for everyone to see also.

Thank you for coming this morning to our Discussion on Open Source Programs. Lisa Boyd is the owner of Zeteo Solutions, (www.zeteo.com) She is our resident expert on anything that has to do with Open Source Programs. She works with coaches that need technical help with their businesses.

[LisaBoyd] <http://www.zeteosolutions.com> (but don't peek)

[mlzambos] She is also a volunteer at many VA organizations and her knowledge in open source programs is what sets her apart from the rest of the industry.

[mlzambos] Lisa they are all yours.

[LisaBoyd] Thanks Michelle. Welcome everyone. I'm going to give you a brief overview of what open source software is and then we'll get to the good stuff. Free and Open Source Software have different licenses in place than commercial software. Free Software and Open Source Software differ in their licensing as well. Open Source Software is licensed so the source can be read, redistributed and modified. People can improve it, adapt it, and fix bugs which gives us better software quicker. Software under a Free Software license may be free for you to download, use and redistribute, but the source code may not be available for modification.] Free and Open Source software is different than freeware (zero price) and shareware. The software that I share with you today may either be free or it may be open source. I use the terms software and programs to describe scripts that run on web servers as well as programs that run on your computer. There's a wide variety of open source software available and many quality programs. So, you may be thinking -- great. I don't know what source code is or looks like much less want to mess with it.



[LisaBoyd] The great thing is that you don't have to! But going with open source solutions has many wonderful benefits. You save money! There are high quality software programs out there available at no cost to you that work just as well as (sometimes better than) software you pay hundreds of dollars to use. You also do not have to pay for upgrades or updates. You save time! Some of the programs I will share with you will save you time as well – increasing your productivity, making tasks easier, and giving you opportunities to grow your business or take a nap. Freedom! On the Internet, there are many open source solutions. If you begin working in one solution and it doesn't quite meet your need, you have so many more options than you would with a commercial solution. You are free to make changes to the source code yourself, or if you aren't a techie / programmer type of person, you can hire someone to make changes for you. Commercial solutions are typically closed-source which means only a very few elite programmers can make any changes. That ends my speech on what open source software is -- are there any questions on what I've shared so far?

[Pam(delan)] so I can take an open source program and have it tailored to exactly my needs and preferences? Meaning I only need one program instead of sometimes 3?

[LisaBoyd] Open source programs that run on web servers are generally written in a special language. PHP, Perl, Ruby, and others. As long as you find a techie that can speak the language, then you can have the program customized. There are several open source programs that work on your computer as well -- some written in Java or JavaScript or other languages. I have a very long, long list of programs that are open source. They are in a PDF. Here's a link to download that PDF.

<http://www.opensourcemaven.com/wp-content/uploads/2006/05/opensourceoftware.pdf>

Don't get overwhelmed by all the info in there

[crystal] is the list comprehensive, so it's the only list we need? or is it the best of...

[LisaBoyd] Nope, this list isn't comprehensive. It's a list mainly of software that I know of or have used and recommend. I have notes in there on each link, and there are more programs I'm finding everyday that I need to add to the PDF.

[Sally] thanks for the list

[crystal] how do you know if a program you come across is Open Source or just free?



[LisaBoyd] open source maven is a blog I started to add new programs as I come across them. Most programs have information about their licensing on their websites. They may say they have a GNU Public license or something like that. That is one type of open source licensing. Basically developers have a range of options they can choose from to license their program As long as these developers state you must distribute the source code with the program, then it's open source. This keeps someone from taking their code and making it proprietary software and charging for it.

[Pam(delan)] Is GNU the best place to find open source programs? or the only place

[LisaBoyd] No. GNU is only one type of licensing.

[LisaBoyd] <http://opensource.org/advocacy/>

[Pam(delan)] ty

[LisaBoyd] That website can explain more about the licensing and supporting open source software. You can find open source software in a wide variety of places. Most open source developers host their programs on Sourceforge (sourceforge.net)

One of the biggest OS programs is OpenOffice.org. This is a suite of software that compares with Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access. OpenOffice can open and save to any of the Microsoft formats. And I've found OpenOffice can save as PDFs as well.

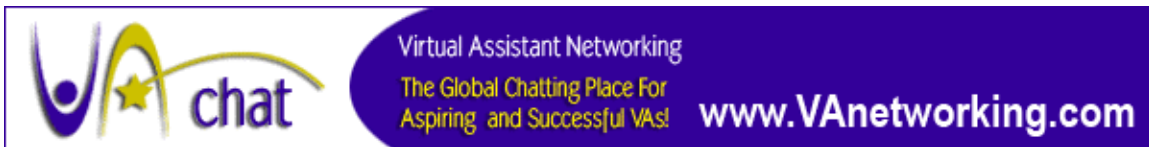
[mlzambos] Are there any questions for Lisa?

[Laurie] I've been using Hitman Pro since you're last presentation Lisa and I LOVE IT!!!

[mlzambos] I love hitman also.

[Jeannine] What is hitman?

[LisaBoyd] Some of the OS software you may have heard of: WordPress, Joomla, osCommerce, ZenCart.



[crystal] so, Lisa, with Open Office, is it a good alternative to Microsoft Office, can you work with clients and pass documents back and forth when one has one and one has the other

[LisaBoyd] Yes Crystal. OpenOffice works a little differently than MO, but it's really easy to pick up. You can send files back and forth to clients, just make sure you save in the DOC format (or appropriate Microsoft format).

[LisaBoyd] Hitman Pro automatically installs several different spyware and adware programs.

[LisaBoyd] It runs all these programs automatically and removes spyware and adware programs from your computer. The first time you run it though -- it will take a long time.

[JudyL] Do you find Open Source to be more advanced than some of the Office Wanabes? and How do we know the difference from these experimenters. Are they Beta? I've had one that they eventually want to be paid for that imitated office very poorly. It made me want to rob a bank to get money to pay for Office!

[LisaBoyd] Some OS programs are very advanced and well supported like OpenOffice.

[JudyL] What will be the FrontPage open source?

[crystal] I have the microsoft 2007 beta, but it's supposed to run out at the end of the year so I'll be looking for something else

[LisaBoyd] Others are just one developer here or there trying to share something they've written and it may not be as good.

[crystal] NVU, Judy

[LisaBoyd] NVU is a great WYSIWYG web page editor.



[JudyL] Thanks!

[LisaBoyd] And when you find a good template (like at oswd.org Open source web design), NVU can be a powerful tool.

[LisaBoyd] Judy, is there a specific program you were thinking about?

[JudyL] I'm worried about the changes coming regarding FP and I can't keep up

[LisaBoyd] I was thinking about the other question you asked

[JudyL] I cannot remember the name of the awful OFFICE thing I had. Someone else downloaded it and it was never right. NOT MY COMPUTER, TG

[LisaBoyd] The way some developers make money off open source software is to charge for installation or support. But most of the time you can find answers yourself, or if you're not that techie, get with me and I'll try to point you in the right direction

[JudyL] I guess I have associated OS with experiments and shied away from them

[LisaBoyd] I can understand your hesitation because some open source programs are like that. There are also some really good programs out there though.

[LisaBoyd] Crystal: you had a question?

[crystal] I don't want to hog all the questions, i do have another one but if someone wants to go first... then shoot

[LisaBoyd] Crystal, Jeannine, JudyL let 'em rip

[crystal] I'd like to replace Top Producer with an Open Source if one is available. TP is a database sort of, contact management, sort of



[JudyL] Someone I work with used the term OS and connected this with the point there was no documentation (manual) for running it. Was he using the term too loosely?

[crystal] is there something available?

[LisaBoyd] Top Producer is widely used for Real Estate agents - correct?

[crystal] yes

[crystal] way too expensive

[LisaBoyd] I don't know about specific features for it but you could look at the customer relationship managers.

[LisaBoyd] If you go to <http://www.opensourcecms.com/> -- this is an awesome place to check out demos of open source projects before installing them on your servers.

[LisaBoyd] SugarCRM comes to mind. It has an open source part and a commercial part with "extra" features.

[LisaBoyd] Judy: I would say he was using the term very loosely or didn't know what he was talking about.

[crystal] I just found that, thank you

[LisaBoyd] Many open source programs have good documentation, but some may be written a little technical.

[crystal] judy, he may not have understood the difference, either, guys like to act like they know if you don't

[LisaBoyd] Some developers don't know how to write "user friendly" documentation



[Pam(delan)] Jeannine? You have a question?

[Jeannine] Lisa did you mention the link to your blog?

[JudyL] SugarCRM sounds sexist. Go get the coffee, hon

[Jeannine] or where we can go and find os programs?

[LisaBoyd] Some of the bigger open source projects (WordPress, Joomla, etc.) have whole communities surrounding them for support.

[LisaBoyd] <http://www.opensourcemaven.com> is the blog I started.

[LisaBoyd] <http://www.opensourcemaven.com/wp-content/uploads/2006/05/opensourcesoftware.pdf>

[Jeannine] ty

[johnh] make sure you get help if you decide to go the sugarcrm route

[LisaBoyd] That link is to the PDF I share programs I use/have used.

[LisaBoyd] Some of these open source projects you may need some help installing -- but after it's installed, then they are easy to use.

[crystal] why, john?

[JudyL] who, john?

[johnh] the install is tricky on dreamhost ... especially if you want to use the email imap part



[crystal] you sound like you have experience

[Pam(delan)] are there anymore questions for Lisa?

[johnh] I use SugarCRM for my contact management

[crystal] do you like it?

[LisaBoyd] Just to mention some programs that may be of interest, Trillian is great for controlling all of your IM accounts in one place.

[LisaBoyd] Judy: go ahead.

[JudyL] Do we have to compare by trial and error? Do you rate the os resources on your blog? Hi, Jaime

[crystal] trial by fire, judy

[LisaBoyd] I don't have a rating system on my blog, but you can figure out which ones I like by what I write

[JudyL] I love Trillian, didn't know I was using OS

[LisaBoyd] A lot of it depends on what you want to do. So if you came to me and said you wanted a blog, but you're not interested in forums, chat, or anything else. I would suggest WordPress.

[JudyL] Word press seems over my head.

[JudyL] Maybe this winter --

[crystal] eat an elephant one bite at a time, judy



[johnh] this is that whole ... if you don't know how to do something ... get some help thing!

[crystal] (floyd wickman)

[LisaBoyd] Thunderbird is an excellent email client for example, but if you use the calendar in Outlook a lot -- then you do not want to use Thunderbird.

[Pam(delan)] Thank you so much Lisa for taking the time to talk to us today

[Jaime] Lisa, since I missed most of this I apologize if it has already been covered...any recommendations for an open source antivirus program?

[LisaBoyd] np Pam

[crystal] I like outlook's calendar but I wish it wasn't attached to the email, I'd like it separate

[LisaBoyd] Jaime: AVG is what I use. Let me get the link.

[Jeannine] I use AVG also

[johnh] what do you use for your calendar Lisa?

[crystal] avg is excellent antivirus

[crystal] I've been using it for 5 or so years with no problems

[LisaBoyd] <http://www.grisoft.com>

[Jaime] thank you



[JudyL] THANK YOU, so much Lisa, You've opened new doors -- now I will need to get help. The soap opera will be who?

[LisaBoyd] I've been trying out Sunbird (Mozilla's calendar -- they do Thunderbird email and Firefox).

[LisaBoyd] It's a great basic calendar, but I have some special printing options that I like that Sunbird can't do -- but then again, I have probs getting Outlook to do it too

[JudyL] How do you make clients do that?

[crystal] stupid microsoft office 2007 has taken up all the memory on my computer, I need to install more

[crystal] I don't print, i just want reminders because I forget a lot

[LisaBoyd] You're welcome Judy

[Angela] Lisa - are there any compatibility problems between Open Office and Microsoft Office?

[JudyL] I use the reminders too and wear out the SNOOZE, crystal

[LisaBoyd] Angela: not that I'm aware of. There are a lot of developers that work to make sure OO is better than Microsoft

[Pam(delan)] that's a good question Angela, my kids NEED word for school, the teachers insist on it, but if I could find something totally compatible we're laughing

[LisaBoyd] There may be with some more advanced Microsoft features - but definitely for the basics OO is awesome



[Jaime] Is OS compatible with all versions of MS?

[LisaBoyd] I believe OpenOffice can open all Microsoft docs no matter what the version.

[Jaime] awesome

[Pam(delan)] I have one last question

[LisaBoyd] I have both loaded on my computer also without any probs

[LisaBoyd] sure Pam

[Pam(delan)] Lisa what is your favorite open source program, the ultimate favorite I mean

[LisaBoyd] Firefox if you're going to make me choose

[crystal] is firefox and modzilla the same company, I hear both interchangeably and I get confused

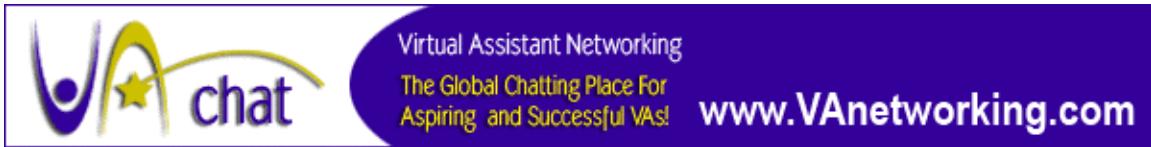
[LisaBoyd] There are some awesome extensions for FF too - like the Scrapbook -- It lets you capture web pages on your computer -- awesome for research jobs

[LisaBoyd] Mozilla is like the parent to Firefox

[JudyL] Is IE7 a dirty word?

[LisaBoyd] to me

[JudyL] I'm trying it, have been leary of FF and not comfortable with Netscape. I can't deal with too many different things, did you guess.



[LisaBoyd] You can email me at lisab@zeteosolutions.com

[Pam(delan)] ie7 is DEFINITELY a dirty word to me and I'm not sure how to get it off my puter waaaaa

[crystal] now the \$64 question, how can I use open source to get me some clients!

[crystal] judy my son has FF on his computer, it's great

[JudyL] You can save 'em some software money.

[crystal] I have no more room, thank you MS '07

[JudyL] Pam, what is the prob. for you?

[Laurie] I resisted FF too - but I really do like it

[LisaBoyd] You can use open source solutions to save your clients money.

[Pam(delan)] It shuts down for no reason every once in a while

[LisaBoyd] You can save your software money using open source and invest it in marketing

[Pam(delan)] and I think it's causing issues with my Front Page 2000

[crystal] what money?

[crystal] my budget is zero

[LisaBoyd] LOL Crystal, ok then -- get you some professional looking open source web design templates and setup a cool website



[JudyL] I'm so sorry! I did get rid of my google bar as it was redundant. I have FP 2003

[crystal] my website is an open source template

[LisaBoyd] Use Thunderbird so you don't send viruses to everyone in your address book

[crystal] I'm the queen of free

[crystal] if it's free, it's for me

[LisaBoyd] You're well on your way Crystal

[JudyL] Lisa, can you write a calendar for THunderbird?

[Jeannine] Do ya'll like frontpage?

[Pam(delan)] I never use the dang google bar, I got directly to the google site so I don't see the use of it, I resist change that's mainly why ie7 drives me batty

[JudyL] Un-install it.

[crystal] I love my google toolbar, I don't have it at work, we're not allowed to download anything, and I missit

[LisaBoyd] Judy, Sunbird is the Mozilla calendar program. It's just not embedded in Thunderbird like Outlook is.

[crystal] I hate typing in the site

[Pam(delan)] I'm getting used to FP but I find I'm getting lazy and not bothering with html or css much anymore, letting FP do it all for me



[JudyL] Jeannine, I do, that's what drives them nuts about me.

[JudyL] The lack of demand for html and css does bother me some now too because css can be used in other programs too.

[LisaBoyd] FP is a tool like any other program -- if you know how to use it well, it's ok.

[crystal] I switch back and forth between the HTML editor and the WYSIWYG editor in frontpage all the time, how can you not?

[LisaBoyd] I tend to code html and css by hand although I've got Dreamweaver.

[Pam(delan)] I do too, but not as much anymore

[crystal] I need an X-HTML editor

[Jeannine] I have it but someone told me its better to use Nvu instead because FP puts junk code in your site

[JudyL] me too. that's the only exposure to html I get. Just enough to make me dangerous

[crystal] frontpage messed up my XHTML and it can't validate

[Pam(delan)] yes it does

[JudyL] Where does one find NVU?

[crystal] google it

[LisaBoyd] NVU is better than FP as far as adding code to your site.



[JudyL] Do you publish using ftp?

[JudyL] I have fp extensions on all of my domains

[Pam(delan)] umm Lisa doesn't HTML_Kit handle xhtml?

[LisaBoyd] nvu.com

[Jeannine] who me?

[crystal] no, I published directly to the folder in my networking places

[LisaBoyd] Yes, HTML Kit is awesome

[LisaBoyd] I use Filezilla to FTP files to my web host.

[crystal] oh, thank you thank you thank you, I'll check that out

[Pam(delan)] you can get html-kit at chamis.com

[LisaBoyd] Crystal, do you have HTML Kit?

[Pam(delan)] I just downloaded it to my laptop again

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