Open Source Software Directory

More and more NGOs globally are discovering the power of using digital technologies to help them to amplify their message and their productivity. While limited budgets may constrain some NGOs from using subscription-based services, the good news is that there are a growing number of open source solutions available for use that may offer more affordable alternatives. The following table includes a selection of open source software that may be of use in your work. It is by no means comprehensive, but it is a good starting point. Also, keep in mind that while the code for open source software can be freely used and replicated, it is not necessarily free of charge to use. If you do not have your own server and the capacity to locally host any of these tools, then you may need to pay for hosting charges from the developer or third-party services. If you are new to open source, a useful document to learn more about what it means is the publication *Open Source and the Creative Commons: A Primer for Humanitarian Aid and International Development*, which was developed by Code Innovation. The article *How to Navigate Open Source Decisions Like a Techie* from ICTworks is also a useful resource.

The websites Open Source as an Alternative and Opensource.com both provide lists of open source alternatives to commercial software. Also, although not all of their examples are open source, the Kopernik Impact Technology Tracker and NOMAD Online Selection Tool are both useful resources to learn more about different software that may have application to your work in civil society.

Name	Type of Tool	Description	Website
FrontlineSMS	SMS messaging	The desktop version of FrontlineSMS is open source and allows users to send and receive SMS messages in bulk, can be used for blasting information and polling. Can be installed and run locally on any computer.	http://www.frontlinesms.com/technologies/download/
RapidPro	Feedback/ engagement	Interactive messaging system to communicate with individuals, including conducting surveys and creating campaigns.	https://community.rapidpro.io/
FreedomFone	IVR and SMS messaging	FreedomFone allows users to create and share interactive voice response and SMS messages with others.	http://www.freedomfone.org/
Open Data Kit (ODK)	Data collection	Tool for designing and collecting survey data via mobile phone in both online and offline modes.	https://opendatakit.org/

KoBoToolbox	Data collection	Another tool for designing and collecting survey data via mobile phone in both online and offline modes.	http://www.kobotoolbox.org/
Ushahidi	Data collection/ Mapping	Data collection tool allowing for easy visualization on maps.	https://www.ushahidi.com/
FixMyStreet	Mapping + advocacy tool	Enable citizen reporting of problems within a locality.	https://www.mysociety.org/better-cities/fixmystreet/
CiviCRM	CRM	Constituent relationship management software, including contact management, event management, contribution management, advocacy campaign tools, reports, and other features.	https://civicrm.org/
OpenOffice	Productivity suite	OpenOffice is the open source equivalent to Microsoft Office. It includes a word processor, spreadsheet, presentation program, database, graphics editor, and mathematical formula editor.	http://www.openoffice.org/
Sandstorm	Productivity suite	Open source equivalent to Google Apps. Includes 67 different apps, including tools for conducting surveys, word processing, chat, email	https://sandstorm.io/
GIMP	Image editor	Similar to Adobe Photoshop, can be used to create, edit and manipulate images.	https://www.gimp.org/
Audacity	Audio	With Audacity, you can create and edit audio tracks.	http://www.audacityteam.org/
VideoLAN Movie Creator	Video	Open source video editing and production software.	http://www.videolan.org/vlmc/
Scribus	Desktop publishing	Open source alternative to InDesign. Can be used to develop layouts for	https://www.scribus.net/

		printing, such as magazines and other publications.	
QGIS	GIS	Open source geographic information system that can be used to create, visualize, analyze and publish geospatial information.	http://www2.qgis.org/en/site/
Open edX	LMS	Learning management system for developing and deploying online courses. Need to have a server to install it or contract with a service provider to host for you.	https://open.edx.org/
Moodle	LMS	Learning management system for developing and deploying online courses. Need to have a server to install it or contract with a service provider to host for you.	https://moodle.org/
Canvas	LMS	Learning management system for developing and deploying online courses. Need to have a server to install it or contract with a service provider to host for you.	https://www.canvas.net/
Wire	Communications	Like Skype, but with end-to-end encryption and open source.	https://wire.com/
Rocket.Chat	Communications	Video conferencing, file sharing, and help desk chat that can be embedded into websites to chat with visitors in real-time.	https://rocket.chat/
MatterMost	Communications	Used for team communication, includes individual and group chat, file sharing	https://about.mattermost.com/
MConf	Webinar	Host live web conferences with participants from anywhere in the world.	http://mconf.org/

SavsoftQuiz	Quizzes	Web-based quiz platform that includes five question types: multiple choice (single and multiple answers), short answer, long answer, and match the column.	http://savsoftquiz.com/
Tor	Web browser	Web browser that allows for anonymous and more secure browsing, particularly defending users against surveillance of their browsing habits. Can also be used to circumvent local censorship of websites.	https://www.torproject.org/
Mailtrain	Newsletter	Application for managing and distributing email newsletters. Must be locally hosted on your own servers.	https://mailtrain.org/
OpenStreetMap	Map	Open license world map, which is available free online. Users can also contribute to and edit it.	https://www.openstreetmap.org
Mapbox	Map tools	Sophisticated suite of mapping tools, including visualizations. A simpler version called TileMill can also be used, although the code is no longer updated by Mapbox.	https://www.mapbox.com/ TileMill: https://tilemill-project.github.io/tilemill/
Moldova Open Data Portal	Open data	Just under 1,000 data sets from Moldova, many from government sources, that are openly available for use.	http://data.gov.md/
Open Data Index	Open data	List of government data sets for Moldova.	http://index.okfn.org/place/moldova/
World Bank data	Open data	Data openly available from the World Bank on Moldova.	http://data.worldbank.org/country/moldova
DataWrapper	Data visualization	Open source data visualization platform that can be used to easily develop charts	https://www.datawrapper.de/

		from existing data. Free for limited use on the web, or can be hosted on own server.	https://github.com/datawrapper
RAW	Data visualization	Another open source data visualization platform. It can be used directly on the web or hosted on your own server.	http://raw.densitydesign.org/
SmartElect	Election management	Although designed primarily for helping to manage national elections, SmartElect could also potentially be used by CSOs wanting to manage more complex "voting" on issues or projects.	http://smartelect.com/
mySociety's Parliamentary monitoring tools	Open governance	A suite of tools that facilitate transparency and open information on elected officials.	https://www.mysociety.org/democracy/
Alaveteli	Freedom of information request platform	Web platform to facilitate making freedom of information requests to local governments.	https://www.mysociety.org/freedom-of-information/alaveteli/