

# A Survey of FOSS Tools for Business Results

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# A Survey of FOSS Tools for Business Results

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Finding FOSS Tools
- 3 Evaluating FOSS Tools
- 4 A Brief Look at the Best
- 5 Conclusion

# Directories of FOSS Tools

Variou directories can be used to browse for FOSS (Free and Open Source Software) tools.

- Wikipedia

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_free\\_and\\_open\\_source\\_software\\_packages](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_free_and_open_source_software_packages)

- Free Software Directory (Free Software Foundation (FSF) and UNESCO) <http://directory.fsf.org/>
- Linux App Finder <http://linuxappfinder.com/>
- Linux Applications <http://www.linux.org/apps/>

## Search Major Repositories

Most FOSS is collected in the major repository called SourceForge. Searching the repositories is a good way to find applications. However, beware that many projects are dead. Here are three of the major FOSS repositories:

- SourceForge <http://sf.net/> (includes 230,000 software projects!)
- Ubuntu's LaunchPad <http://launchpad.net> (nearly 14,943 projects)
- Debian's Alioth <http://alioth.debian.org/> (860 projects)
- A lot of FOSS is housed at its own site (e.g., the Linux kernel is housed at <http://www.kernel.org>)

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# Find Review Articles

If you can find a review article summarizing the “best in breed” FOSS for a category or sub-category of tools (at least according to one author), then it is possible to short-circuit the search process.

Best ways to find review articles

- Google & Wikipedia searches on the category or a list of known FOSS options
- Linux Journal <http://www.LinuxJournal.com/>
- Linux Pro Magazine  
<http://www.LinuxProMagazine.com>
- eWeek <http://www.eWeek.com>
- Association of Computing Machinery  
<http://www.acm.org> runs a digital library at  
<http://portal.acm.org/dl.cfm>

# Evaluating FOSS Tools

- If there is a review article, that can be “nearly” authoritative
- Check if the forums, IRC (Internet Relay Chat), mailing lists, and bug reporting archives are active. If there are, that’s promising.
- Then look at the standard software evaluation issues: features, requirements, training, maintenance, and judging the tradeoffs
- If the decision is important enough, thoroughly evaluating the options with laboratory testing can help ensure which tool will best meet your needs.

# Security Applications

FOSS offers some great security applications and we've used some of these extensively:

- Firewalls (iptables)
- VPNs (Virtual Private Networks) like IPsec and OpenVPN
- Security Scanning: Snort, OpenVAS (formerly Nessus)
- Secure Shell (ssh)
- Network Monitoring: Nagios, Munin



# E-Mail

- Mail Server Software: Postfix, Exim, Sendmail
- Anti-Virus: ClamAV
- Anti-Spam: Spamassassin
- Web-mail: Squirrelmail
- Mailing List Management: mailman, phplist

# Hardware Redundant Clusters

- Virtualization: Zen, Kvm
- RAID 1 over tcp/ip (DRBD)
- High-Availability (heartbeat)
- Database Clusters (MySQL & PostgreSQL/Slony)
- Cluster filesystems: AFS, GFS, OCFS2, Lustre, Gluster

# Business Applications

- Customer Relationship Management (CRM): SugarCRM, CiviCRM, Centric CRM, vTiger, EzyBiz, etc.
- Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP): Apache Open for Business Project, Tiny ERP, Openbravo, WebERP, GNU-Enterprise, Compiere, ADempiere, Neogia, ERP5, Kontor, etc.
- Data Warehousing, Business Intelligence (BI): Jasper Reports, Pentaho, etc.

# Conclusion

- FOSS includes hundreds of thousands of applications.
- Some are best in breed.
- Some are dead or immature.
- Finding a good survey to help determine what will meet your business needs is the best way to short circuit the research process
- LinuxForce has more than 15 years experience finding, evaluating, deploying and managing FOSS solutions to meet business requirements

# Thank You

Thank You!

Any Questions?

<http://www.CJFearnley.com/survey.foss.2009.pdf>