

Open Source Job Hunters Toolkit

Eight Open Source Projects for Highly Effective Job Hunting

Unemployment is rising and competition for the few jobs that are available is becoming tougher than ever. With each open job requisition, hiring managers are receiving hundreds of resumes. How do you stand out of the crowd? What can you do to get noticed? How can you start an interesting conversation?

The key to successfully securing a job is to prove your expertise, while differentiating yourself from the crowd. It takes creativity and ingenuity – which are both possible using open source software. Open source can help you distinguish yourself without pulling on your purse strings, and more importantly, it can help show how tech-savvy and creative you are.

Build Your Credibility

The most important task of job hunting is building an impressive resume that clearly defines who you are, the expertise you bring to the table, your past successes, and the drive for a successful future.

Opengoo is an open source project that can help you write a top-notch resume and get it reviewed by friends and colleagues. Opengoo 1.2 beta is now available and provides you a very easy way to create and collaborate on your resume, allowing you to leverage the opinions of those you value. Opengoo not only allows you to share text documents, but also contacts and web links, which can help expand your job search.

Once your resume has been written, you can then use Scribus – a desktop publishing application – for flexible typesetting and layout. Using Scribus will allow you to deliver professional quality resumes and make a great first impression. And if you want to call attention to your design skills, you can use Scribus to create animated and interactive PDF presentations and forms and attach them to your resume.

Another way to prove your expertise to potential employers is to start a blog that showcases your proficiency in a given area. Including a link to the blog in your resume will give potential employers insight into your knowledge, and how well you express yourself. Textpattern is a free, flexible, elegant, easy-to-use content management system for all kinds of websites and blogs. It is a lightweight, easy application for both beginners and advanced users - it's not too much to use for a tiny one-page blog, while at the same time, a multidimensional content portal would run flawlessly in it.

Stand Out of the Crowd

With the technological advances of talent management within organizations across the country, often times job seekers feel like they are just a number in the system once they send their resume to a company. One way to make sure you don't become just another name on a list is to attach a photo with your resume. By submitting a photo, you have now become a person, who a hiring manager can picture on her team.

Gimp 2.6.4 is the perfect open source project to touch up that photo of yourself that you just love, but hate the color of your shirt or you decide you want to brighten your smile a bit.

And if you really want to stand out of the crowd, you can attach a mini-video of yourself on your blog or even your online resume, using Avidemux. Avidemux is a free video editor designed for simple cutting, filtering and encoding tasks, supporting MPEGs and AVI files. With it, you can capture and edit clips from your video camera, add titles, insert still images, create transitions between scenes, and output the result in a number of formats. Imagine being able to give potential hiring managers that great elevator pitch about yourself. By going that extra mile, how can you not prove yourself to be the right choice?

Looking for Available Jobs

One of the most important aspects to job hunting is taking advantage of your network. Instant Messenger technology is the perfect tool for keeping in touch with your contacts and getting information real-time from them. Pidgin 2.4.1 is an instant messenger (IM) application that covers multiple protocols. These protocols can be used simultaneously to provide communication across the different networks. Pidgin also had features such as: file transfer, away messages and typing notification. Pidgin will help you keep your finger on the pulse of hiring within your network.

And because you're not only working your channels, but have gone the extra mile in developing a top-notch resume, you should expect to receive plenty of emails from potential employers.

In order to manage those interview requests, you can use open source projects such as Mozilla Thunderbird 2.0. Mozilla Thunderbird (with support for POP and IMAP) is an email client much like Outlook. Additionally this project has a spam filter, protection from phishing, and you can also add extensions, such as Mozilla Lightning, which is calendar. The built-in RSS reader allows you to sign up for feeds from job sites and current news of your target industry. And

finally, the user-interface is completely customizable. Mozilla Thunderbird will help you manage all aspects of job hunting from finding open positions to managing your interviews.

Closing the Deal

Once you are in the interview process with an organization, you may be asked to do a presentation to prove your knowledge and skills. (And even if you're not, you might want to think about doing one). KPresenter 1.6.1 is the open source presentations part of the KOffice suite. This project is excellent for combining text and graphics into slides either for on-screen presentation or handouts. And if your potential employer has you on a interviewing with a globally dispersed team, you can use KPresenter to put your presentation on-line using the HTML slideshow functionality, allowing everyone to see your presentation easily.

Don't Forget to Relax

And at the end of the day, after much hard work looking for and preparing for interviews, you might want to sit back in your room and listen to the radio using Amarok. With Amarok, you can easily find new music, while enjoying the music you already love.

Using open source software, you can expand your software library to include a myriad of fun and alternative means to successful job hunting. The most important thing to keep in mind when installing open source software on your desktop is to balance functionality, cost, and security.

Appendix: The Open Source Job Hunters Toolkit

Description	Overview	Commercial Equivalents
Project Name: Opengoo www.opengoo.org		
OpenGoo is an Open Source Web Office. It is a complete solution for every organization to create, collaborate, share and publish all its internal and external documents.	Developed by the Opengoo community, Opengoo 1.2 available February 17, 2009.	Microsoft Office Home and Student



Project Name: Scribus www.scribus.net

Scribus is a desktop publishing application released under the GNU General Public License and is free to the public. Scribus is designed for flexible layout and typesetting. It can also create animated and interactive PDF presentations and forms.

Established in 2003 by the Scribus team, the latest version released in June, 2008.

Adobe Illustrator

Project Name: TextPattern www.textpattern.com

Textpattern is a web application designed to help overcome the constraints of plain text and the unpredictability of WYSIWYGs to publishing online, and to simplify the production of well-structured, standards-compliant web pages.

Established in 2005 with a small but dedicated team of contributors. No known reported vulnerabilities in current version 4.0.8.

Square Space

Project Name: Gimp www.gimp.org/

GIMP is the GNU Image Manipulation Program. It is a freely distributed piece of software for such tasks as photo retouching, image composition and image authoring. It works on many operating systems, in many languages.

Gimp was created in 1995. Maintained by dozens of people, Gimp 2.6.4 was released January 1, 2009.

Adobe Photoshop Elements

Project Name: Avidemux fixounet.free.fr/avidemux

Avidemux is a free open-source program designed for

Avidemux was originally released in 2004.

Final Cut Pro: \$

<p>multi-purpose video editing and processing, which can be used on almost all known operating systems and computer platforms.</p>	<p>Nice review of simple steps to do in Avidemux: http://www.mythtv.org/wiki/Avidemux</p>	
<p>Project Name: Pidgin www.pidgin.im</p>		
<p>Pidgin is a chat program which lets you log in to accounts on multiple chat networks simultaneously. Pidgin runs on Windows, Linux, and other UNIX operating systems. Pidgin supports many features of chat networks, such as file transfers, away messages, buddy icons, custom smilies, and typing notifications.</p>	<p>Originally released in 1999, Pidgin is under constant development by. And version 2.5.4 was released January, 2009. Releases are usually frequent and driven by user contributions, such as bug reports and patches.</p>	<p>AOL MSN Chat</p>
<p>Project Name: Mozilla Thunderbird www.mozilla.com/thunderbird/</p>		
<p>Mozilla Thunderbird is a free, open source, cross-platform e-mail and news client. The project strategy is modeled after Mozilla Firefox, a project aimed at creating a web browser. On December 7, 2004, version 1.0 was released, and received over 500,000 downloads in its first three days of release, and 1,000,000 in 10 days.</p>	<p>Developed by the Mozilla Foundation in July, 2003. Latest release is 2.0.</p>	<p>Microsoft Outlook</p>
<p>Project Name: KPresenter 1.6.3 www.koffice.org</p>		
<p>KPresenter is the open</p>	<p>Developed by the KPresenter team,</p>	<p>Microsoft Office</p>



<p>source presentations part of the KOffice suite. Excellent for combining text and graphics into slides either for on-screen presentation and handouts. With KPresenter you can even put your presentation on-line on the internet using the HTML slideshows functionality.</p>	<p>the latest release was in June 2007.</p>	<p>Home and Student: Apple iWork</p>
<p>Project Name: Amarok amarok.kde.org/</p>		
<p>Amarok is an open source music player with a great intuitive user-interface. Play lists are easily created through drag and drop. Amarok also lets you listen to internet radio (mp3 streaming). Amarok's core features such as the unique "context browser", integrated Wikipedia lookup and lyrics download help users to find new music, and to learn more about the music they have. Other features include automatic cover and lyrics download, dynamic playlists, visualizations and podcasting. Amarok will also synchronize your music to your iPod.</p>	<p>Initially released in 2003, Amarok 2.0.1.1 was released in January, 2009, and is supported by The Amarok Team, originally started by Mark Kretschmann.</p>	<p>Real Networks</p>