FLOSS SaaS

Let's make a list of ideal SaaS offerings which can be compelling alternatives to Google Apps/Docs, Microsoft Office 365, Zoho, Basecamp, etc.

- Criteria to be on this list
  - Essential
  - Nice to have
- The A-list
- Almost there
- Developer tools
- The ex-list
- Excluded and why

Criteria to be on this list

Essential

- To offer application support
  - Not shared hosting or just firing up a VM with the app
  - They'll ideally fix reported bugs, but at the very least verify them and track for resolution
- They handle upgrades
- Possible to migrate to the FLOSS version
  - SaaS version must available for download (so you can move your data if needed)
  - Upfront explanations on how to do this, and any costs involved.
- Uses an OSI license. It's OK to have additional non-FLOSS editions or services but they are not the target of this list
- Pay with a credit card or PayPal
- They are contributors to the FLOSS project
  - So by purchasing their services, you are indirectly helping the project

Nice to have

- A free trial version (ex.: 30 days)
- Multiple vendors (so you could move from one to another)
- Public and predictable pricing (ex.: Monthly fee per user, when applicable)
- An apparent business model so we can be reassured that it is a sustainable model (Freemium is OK)
- An open development process (public source repository, open contribution policy, etc.)
- Browser-based for quick access (if apps need to be installed, they should be cross platform)

The A-list

If a provider is almost there, please add on this list with a note of what they can improve.

- WordPress
- ONLYOFFICE (formerly TeamLab)
• Acquia Gardens (Drupal)
• SugarCRM
• Piwik
• Plausible Analytics
• phpList
• Kaltura
• Wikia A heavily modified version of MediaWiki
• XWiki
• vtiger on demand
• Zimbra (Many providers)
• Zarafa (Many providers)
• Alfresco
• ownCloud
• NextCloud
• VanillaForums.com and VanillaForums.org
• Scrapy [http://scrapinghub.com/opensource/]
• Xibo
• SourceFabric offers Superdesk, Newscoop, Booktype, Airtime, Live Blog, and Citizen Desk.
• Pressbooks
• Mautic Marketing Automation
• GitLab (but not the Enterprise Edition)
• [https://bitwarden.com/](https://bitwarden.com/)
• Sentry
• [https://mist.io/](https://mist.io/)
• [https://h5p.com/](https://h5p.com/)
• [https://www.invoiceninja.org/](https://www.invoiceninja.org/)
• [https://www.chatwoot.com/](https://www.chatwoot.com/)
• [https://www.mailmanlists.net/en/pricing](https://www.mailmanlists.net/en/pricing)

Almost there

• BigBlueButton (can't register & pay online)
• Docverter "We're not quite ready for people to sign up yet."
• Kolab
  • With Class A terms of service
  • [https://kolab.org/blog/greve/2013/08/09/mykolab.com-building-open-source-cloud-service-was-missing](https://kolab.org/blog/greve/2013/08/09/mykolab.com-building-open-source-cloud-service-was-missing)
  • Concern: A subscription is necessary to get updates
• [https://penpot.app/#project](https://penpot.app/#project) Still in Beta, no pricing

Developer tools

Not same class of web apps as above, but nonetheless very interesting

• GlitchTip
• [https://sourcehut.org/pricing/](https://sourcehut.org/pricing/)
The ex-list

- Socialtext
  - Unfortunately, the Open Source release of Socialtext is no longer supported.
- MindTouch
  - Now SaaS only
- TWiki
  - Can't register via credit card
- StatusNet
  - [http://status.net/2012/12/18/upcoming-changes-in-the-status-net-service](http://status.net/2012/12/18/upcoming-changes-in-the-status-net-service)

Excluded and why

  - Concern: The only pieces we are not open-sourcing are the UI, glue code, and operationalized infrastructure—but that's it!
    - These are very important parts, and I don't think this is the best approach.
- Odoo (formerly known as OpenERP)
  - Concern explained here:
    - [http://wikisuite.org/WikiSuite-vs-Odoo#About_upgrades_data_confidentiality_and_a_fundamental_difference_of_philosophy](http://wikisuite.org/WikiSuite-vs-Odoo#About_upgrades_data_confidentiality_and_a_fundamental_difference_of_philosophy)

Related:

- [http://libreprojects.net/](http://libreprojects.net/) A great list!
- Hosting company
- [http://suite.tiki.org/Tiki+Suite+SaaS](http://suite.tiki.org/Tiki+Suite+SaaS)
- [https://opensource.com/article/18/5/open-source-saas-y-world](https://opensource.com/article/18/5/open-source-saas-y-world)

alias

- FOSS SaaS
- SaaS FLOSS
- OpenSaaS