

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

- 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 be 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/>
- [Sentry](#)
- <https://mist.io/>
- <https://h5p.com/>
- <https://www.invoiceninja.org/>
- <https://www.chatwoot.com/>
- <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](#)
 - <http://kolab.org/blog/grote/2014/03/26/how-kolab-using-open-standards-interoperability>
 - <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> Still in Beta, no pricing

Developer tools

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

- [GlitchTip](#)
- <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>
- <https://akoova.com/why-magento-go-failed/>

Excluded and why

- <http://otalk.org/> <https://www.openhub.net/p/otalk> <https://talky.io/>
 - 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

Related:

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OpenSaaS>
- <http://libreprojects.net/> A great list!
- [Hosting company](#)
- <http://suite.tiki.org/Tiki+Suite+SaaS>
- http://www.osbf.eu/global/news_and_events/detailed_view/datum/2011/08/09/open-source-governance

-index/

- <http://williamjudd.com/2011/01/28/the-threat-of-saas-to-open-source/>
- <http://www.datamation.com/osrc/article.php/3914336/50-Open-Source-Apps-You-Can-Use-in-the-Cloud.htm>
- <http://www.datamation.com/open-source/60-open-source-apps-you-can-use-in-the-cloud-1.html>
- <http://forum.civCRM.org/index.php?topic=3603.0>
- <http://opensource.com/business/13/8/four-steps-cloud-providers>
- <https://opensource.com/article/18/5/open-source-saas-y-world>
- <https://opensource.com/article/18/5/open-source-saas-y-world-part-2>

alias

- FOSS SaaS
- SaaS FLOSS
- OpenSaaS