

LINUX WORLD NEWS

LEARN GRAPHIC DESIGN WITH OSS

Even as Linux gains momentum among desktop users, professional designers continue to use expensive proprietary

software. Viable open source applications such as GIMP, Inkscape, or Scribus are not usually considered serious alternatives. One of the reasons for this might be that standard textbooks and materials used in the education of graphic designers depend on proprietary software.

So, why not take one of those nicely designed textbooks and rewrite it, substituting open source software examples? The FLOSS manuals project did just this with Michael Mandiberg and xtime burrough's Bauhaus-inspired *Digital Foundations: Intro to Media Design with the Adobe Creative Suite*. About 20 people, including the book's original authors, gathered for a "book sprint" in

New York City February 6-8, 2009.

The participants worked collaboratively to substitute Inkscape, GIMP, Firefox, Scribus, and KompoZer examples for those from Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, and Dreamweaver. Rory Solomon, Becky Heritage, and Mel Chua completely rewrote the Flash chapters, substituting Processing examples for the original Flash ones.

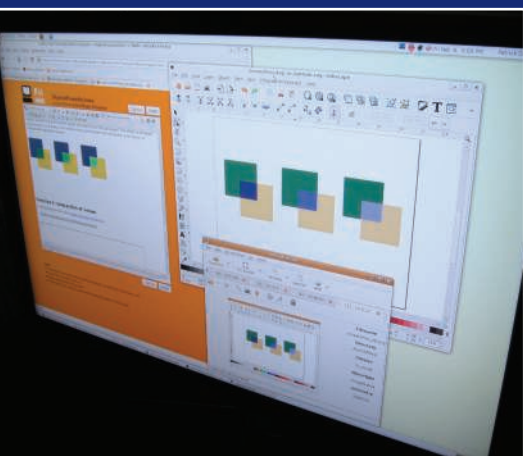
The "FLOSSified" book is available online in PDF and HTML formats or can be bought as a print-on-demand hard copy.

<http://en.flossmanuals.net/>

[DigitalFoundations/](http://en.flossmanuals.net/bin/view/DigitalFoundations/)

<http://en.flossmanuals.net/bin/view/Blog/FLOSSifyOneDone>

<http://digital-foundations.net/>



DEAR CANDIDATE, SUPPORT OSS!

Free software entered the election battlegrounds of the autonomous Italian island of Sardinia February 15-16, 2009. A petition started by Associazione Apritisoftware! called for candidates of the Sardinian regional council and its president to support free software and digital liberty in Sardinia. The petition was part of the "Caro Candidato" ("Dear Candidate") campaign initiated by the Associazione per il Software Libero (Free Software Association). The national organization encourages the public administration to use free software, adopt open formats, release software produced by or for the public administration and publicly funded research under open source licenses, use free software in educational services, oppose software patents, and outlaw the practices of "Trusted Computing," which limit the freedom of citizens.



Eleven of the Sardinian candidates signed the petition and three of them were elected. All three, namely Luciano Uras (Rifondazione Comunista), Marco Meloni (Partida Democratico), and Adriano Salis (Italia dei Valori), represent

left-wing parties. In the 2008 national election, 101 candidates joined the Associazione per il Software Libero's campaign: 14 of the candidates were elected, 2,148 voters showed their interest by signing a petition, and 151,042 people visited the campaign's website. The Association created a permanent platform to be used in all future elections in Italy (European, national, and local). The platform establishes cooperation with anyone who agrees with its objectives, from local groups to organizations active in other European countries.

<http://elezioni.softwarelibero.it/visualizza/partiti> (Italian)

<http://carocandidato.org/> (Italian)

<http://www.apritisoftware.it> (Italian)

http://softwarelibero.it/abbiamo_vinto_it (Italian)

CATALONIA BACK IN MICROSOFT'S ARMS?

When the Catalan minister of education, Ernest Maragall, announced in May 2008 that a hundred schools in this Spanish autonomous region would migrate to the government-sponsored Linkat GNU/Linux, Linkat developer Jordi Massaguer was sure that within two years all remaining Catalan schools would follow. But in February 2009, the Catalan president, José Montilla, and Microsoft's CEO Steve Ballmer signed a collaboration contract to promote digital content use in the region's classrooms. Microsoft agreed to supply touchscreen PCs and content that, according to Microsoft, can be used in a platform-independent fashion. Linux developers working within the Catalan government said they weren't involved in the decision and weren't informed about an official change of strategy.

http://www.linux-magazine.com/online/news/strike_against_free_software/microsoft_enters_catalonian_schools/