

Appendix F

Additional FOSS EHR Information Resources

There are a number of resources for practice sites that are interested in learning about and staying up-to-date on the FOSS health I.T. related information. This section provides an annotated list of these resources.

LinuxMedNews (<http://www.linuxmednews.com>): This website provides an up-to-date and comprehensive listing of open source medical software news. It is maintained by Dr. Ignacio Valdes, a psychiatrist and strong advocate for the use of open source software in medicine. In the spirit of open source, anyone may post open source health I.T. related news items to this site.

The Open Source Health Care Alliance – OSHCA (<http://www.oshca.org/>): OSHCA is a nonprofit organization that provides a forum and mailing list for discussion and sharing of information about open source projects. OSHCA also hosts an annual conference for health I.T. professionals to gather and discuss FOSS health I.T. policies, projects, and technologies and to foster the growth of the field. The website includes a working list of the different FOSS health I.T. projects.

AMIA Open Source Work Group – AMIA OS-WG (<http://www.amia.org/mbrcenter/wg/os/>): The mission of the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) Open Source Work Group (OS-WG) is to bridge the gap between the open source health I.T. community and members of AMIA interested in the subject. The group provides information about current FOSS health I.T. projects during AMIA workgroup meetings, fosters the growth of the open source communities, and seeks out potential funding sources for open source projects. The current chair of the workgroup is Ignacio Valdes, also the editor of LinuxMedNews (a testament to the close-knit nature of the open source community). The AMIA OS-WG has published a set of Open Source EHR reviews (available at <http://ehr.gplmedicine.org>), authored by Fred Trotter, Dr. Valdes, and Dr. Matthew Roller. These reviews focus on many of the technical aspects of FOSS EHR projects, with particular attention paid to the ease of installation and the quality of coding practices. Finally, the OS-WG provides a discussion mailing list for current AMIA members.

IMIA Open Source Working Group – IMIA OSWG (<http://www.chirad.info/imiaoswg>): The International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) OS-WG is the international sister organization of the AMIA OS-WG. It, too, provides a forum for health I.T. experts to gather and discuss open source related issues.

HIMSS Open Source Technology Workgroup: This group indicates that they will be developing a toolkit for HIMSS members that address open source adoption in health I.T. The group has published an Open Source Software Fact Sheet (<http://www.himss.org/content/files/HIMSSOpenSource.pdf>).

GNU Project: This project, which is sponsored by the Free Software Foundation, provides a variety of free and open source software and (notably) publishes a list of various open-source licenses and their comparative features. The list is available at <http://www.gnu.org/licenses/license-list.html>.

Openhealth (<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/openhealth/>): A Yahoo! Group for the discussion of FOSS health I.T. related topics.