

THE ARTCRAFT OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE SUITE

A practical guide to alternatives for Adobe Creative Cloud, Microsoft Office and other professional tools

13 applications • Features and download links • Migration guidance

1. Introduction

The ArtCraft Crafting Apps collection consists of thirteen free, open-source creative and productivity applications. The family covers photography, graphic design, publishing, video, audio, interface design, PDF management, office documents, spreadsheets, presentations and technical drafting. Its guiding proposition is local file control, familiar desktop workflows and an alternative to compulsory subscriptions.

Important: These applications are at different stages of development. Features below reflect published product descriptions, not independently verified equivalence with Adobe or Microsoft products. Standalone installer availability may vary.

Official directory: getartcraft.com/apps

2. All 13 applications at a glance

ArtCraft app	Closest alternative	Primary purpose
PhotoCraft	Adobe Photoshop	Raster photo editing, layers and masks
VectorCraft	Adobe Illustrator	Vector art, logos and SVG
FilmCraft	Adobe Premiere Pro	Video timelines and grading
LightCraft	Adobe Lightroom Classic	RAW processing and catalogues
PdfCraft	Adobe Acrobat Pro	PDF viewing and management
EffectCraft	Adobe After Effects	Motion graphics and compositing
DesignCraft	Adobe InDesign	Publishing and typesetting
FigCraft	Adobe XD / Figma	Interface design and prototypes
WordCraft	Microsoft Word	Word processing and documents
SoundCraft	Adobe Audition / Pro Tools	Audio recording and mixing
DeckCraft	Microsoft PowerPoint	Slide presentations
CADCraft	AutoCAD	2D drafting
GridCraft	Microsoft Excel	Spreadsheets and data

3. Detailed application directory

1. PhotoCraft

Commercial comparison: Adobe Photoshop

Purpose: Raster photo editing, layers and masks. Photo retouching and compositing.

Principal features: Layers and masks; adjustment layers; brushes and text; PSD/PSB; smart objects and filters; selection tools; RGB/CMYK/Lab and ICC colour management.

Migration consideration: Test complex PSDs, plugins and professional print workflows.

[Official PhotoCraft page and downloads](#) »

2. VectorCraft

Commercial comparison: Adobe Illustrator

Purpose: Vector art, logos and SVG. Identity design and illustration.

Principal features: Pen/path tools; Boolean operations; snapping; gradient meshes and blends; envelope distortion; image tracing; SVG/PDF interchange.

Migration consideration: Test advanced Illustrator projects and interoperability.

[Official VectorCraft page and downloads](#) »

3. FilmCraft

Commercial comparison: Adobe Premiere Pro

Purpose: Video timelines and grading. Film and digital video editing.

Principal features: Source/program monitors; multitrack timeline; three-point editing; codecs; colour wheels, LUTs and scopes; keyframes; audio mixing and exports.

Migration consideration: Check rendering performance, codecs and project interchange.

[Official FilmCraft page and downloads](#) »

4. LightCraft

Commercial comparison: Adobe Lightroom Classic

Purpose: RAW processing and catalogues. Photography management.

Principal features: Non-destructive RAW development; tone and colour controls; curves; selective masks; subject/sky selections; albums, ratings and catalogues.

Migration consideration: Verify RAW support for your camera and catalogue workflow.

[Official LightCraft page and downloads](#) »

5. PdfCraft

Commercial comparison: Adobe Acrobat Pro

Purpose: PDF viewing and management. Document review and packaging.

Principal features: PDF viewing/search; page rearrangement; insert/delete/rotate; merge/split; extraction; encrypted PDFs; comments and recovery.

Migration consideration: Advanced OCR, preflight, signatures and PDF content editing may differ.

[Official PdfCraft page and downloads](#) »

6. EffectCraft

Commercial comparison: Adobe After Effects

Purpose: Motion graphics and compositing. Animated graphics and VFX.

Principal features: Layered compositions; nested timelines; keyframes; graph editor; effects; 3D cameras and lights; expressions; video/image sequence export.

Migration consideration: Plugin-dependent VFX workflows may not translate.

[Official EffectCraft page and downloads](#) »

7. DesignCraft

Commercial comparison: Adobe InDesign

Purpose: Publishing and typesetting. Books and magazine production.

Principal features: Facing pages; parent pages; threaded text; paragraph/character styles; text wrap; hyphenation; baseline grids; PDF print export with bleed and crop marks.

Migration consideration: Validate complex publication formats, fonts and press-ready PDFs.

[Official DesignCraft page and downloads »](#)

8. FigCraft

Commercial comparison: Adobe XD / Figma

Purpose: Interface design and prototypes. Website and app design.

Principal features: Artboards; auto layout; reusable components, variables and styles; vector tools; interactive prototypes; developer handoff; collaborative sessions.

Migration consideration: Test team collaboration and design-system integrations.

[Official FigCraft page and downloads »](#)

9. WordCraft

Commercial comparison: Microsoft Word

Purpose: Word processing and documents. Reports, letters and manuscripts.

Principal features: Rich text; styles; tables; lists; track changes; references; mail merge; DOCX; ODT/RTF/HTML/Markdown; PDF exports.

Migration consideration: Check macros, complicated styles and collaborative review.

[Official WordCraft page and downloads »](#)

10. SoundCraft

Commercial comparison: Adobe Audition / Pro Tools

Purpose: Audio recording and mixing. Podcasts and sound post.

Principal features: Multitrack audio/MIDI; mixing console; buses and effects; EQ; automation; CLAP plugins; piano roll; surround and picture sync.

Migration consideration: Test hardware, plugins and session portability.

[Official SoundCraft page and downloads »](#)

11. DeckCraft

Commercial comparison: Microsoft PowerPoint

Purpose: Slide presentations. Training and presentation decks.

Principal features: Masters and themes; rich slides; transitions/animations; speaker notes; rehearsal; PPTX; PDF/images; automation interfaces.

Migration consideration: Round-trip test animated and complex PPTX decks.

[Official DeckCraft page and downloads »](#)

12. CADCraft

Commercial comparison: AutoCAD

Purpose: 2D drafting. Plans and technical documentation.

Principal features: Snapping; layers; dimensions; blocks; hatching; viewports; constraints; DXF/DWG interchange; PDF/SVG/PNG exports.

Migration consideration: Not a full replacement for advanced 3D or BIM systems.

[Official CADCraft page and downloads »](#)

13. GridCraft

Commercial comparison: Microsoft Excel

Purpose: Spreadsheets and data. Budgets and reporting.

Principal features: Formulas; dynamic arrays; PivotTables; charts; data validation; conditional formats; XLSX; command-line/JSON automation.

Migration consideration: Validate complex formulas and VBA/Power Query dependencies.

[Official GridCraft page and downloads](#) »

4. Coverage: Adobe Creative Cloud and Microsoft Office

Commercial suite	ArtCraft coverage	Notable gaps
Adobe Creative Cloud	PhotoCraft, VectorCraft, DesignCraft, LightCraft, FilmCraft, EffectCraft, PdfCraft, SoundCraft and FigCraft	Creative Cloud storage and libraries, specialist plug-ins, proprietary project formats and advanced collaboration.
Microsoft 365	WordCraft (Word), GridCraft (Excel), DeckCraft (PowerPoint); DesignCraft for Publisher-style layout	No direct alternatives to Outlook, Teams, Access, OneNote, OneDrive or SharePoint.

“Replacement” means similarity of intended use. It does not mean that every advanced feature, file format or collaborative service is supported.

5. Downloading and installing

Use the directory to open each application page, review its release status and access available installers. The ArtCraft Launcher aims to centralise installation and updates. Windows, macOS and Linux builds are advertised, although availability varies by app and release.

App directory: [Browse Crafting Apps](#)

Launcher: [ArtCraft Launcher on GitHub](#)

6. Example workflow: an illustrated book

- WordCraft — write and edit the manuscript.
- LightCraft + PhotoCraft — develop and prepare photographic and raster images.
- VectorCraft — create illustrations, icons and decorative graphics.
- DesignCraft — typeset pages, produce cover and export publication PDF.
- PdfCraft — review, organise and distribute the final PDF.

This workflow is illustrative. Test document interchange, typography, image quality, colour management and print output before using it commercially.

7. Benefits and practical limitations

Potential benefits: Free software; local file ownership; familiar controls; cross-platform development; inspectable open-source code; evolving automation capabilities.

Potential limitations: Early-stage development; incomplete specialist features; compatibility differences; stability issues; limited cloud collaboration; variable installer availability.

8. Migration checklist

- ☐ Install one or two apps for a small pilot project.
- ☐ Import copies of representative Adobe or Microsoft documents.
- ☐ Check fonts, formulas, images, effects, comments, layout and colour.
- ☐ Export files and reopen them in the original commercial software.
- ☐ Evaluate accuracy, stability, performance and collaboration needs.
- ☐ Retain existing commercial tools until your use cases are covered.

9. Further resources

- [Complete app directory](#)
- [Main ArtCraft website](#)
- [Tutorials](#)
- [Support and community](#)
- [Developer GitHub](#)
- [ArtCraft Launcher](#)

10. Conclusion

ArtCraft is an ambitious attempt to develop an open-source ecosystem for everyday creative and office work. PhotoCraft, VectorCraft and DesignCraft are especially relevant to design and publishing, while WordCraft, GridCraft and DeckCraft align with central Microsoft Office tasks.