TECHGEAR
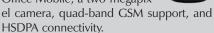
The new HTC Touch Dual (price to be announced) offers a touch-screen interface, Windows Mobile 6.1 Professional, Office Mobile, a two-megapixel camera, quad-band GSM support, and HSDPA connectivity.

WEBLINKS

DYLAN DRUMMOND, of Austin, focuses his practice on appellate, commercial litigation, and administrative law matters.

Wall Street Journal Law Blog
(http://blogs.wsj.com/law/)
This blog, edited by Dan Slater, is devoted to notable and intriguing legal stories of the day.

SCOTXBlog.com
Don Cruse's exhaustively updated and highly informative blog covers Texas Supreme Court practice and news, from analysis of opinions to discussions of the court's weekly orders and conferences.

TexasAppellateLawBlog.com
Todd Smith's indispensable blog covers all aspects of Texas appellate law.

MANI WALIA is a litigation associate in the Houston office of Baker Botts, L.L.P. Walia and Drummond publish the Clerkship Notification Blog **(http://lawschoolclerkship.blogspot.com)**.

AboveTheLaw.com
I check this site so often that I pass along David Lat's information to my friends right after he leaks it. I have proudly become the poor man's David Lat.

Denver Post Broncos Page
(DenverPost.com/broncos)
My family and I are *huge* Broncos fans, so I check this site about 10 times a day! (That number dips a little during the off-season.)

LawProse.org
In my opinion, this is the best resource for legal writing tips. The videos by federal judges about good legal writing are great.

Join the Free/Open Source Software Movement

BY JOEL S. ALLEYNE

When talking about free or open source software, I am often surprised at the number of people today who still say to me, "If it is free, it cannot be of any value." Or those who ask, "What exactly is open source software?" If you pardon the shameless use of the phrase, "Long live free software!" (or "Vive le logiciel libre!") ought to be the battle cry of the free software movement.

What is free software? The Free Software Foundation (**fsf.org**) maintains a definition:

> Free software is a matter of the users' freedom to run, copy, distribute, study, change, and improve the software. More precisely, it refers to four kinds of freedom, for the users of the software:
> - The freedom to run the program, for any purpose (freedom 0).
> - The freedom to study how the program works and adapt it to your needs (freedom 1). Access to the source code is a precondition for this.
> - The freedom to redistribute copies so you can help your neighbor (freedom 2).
> - The freedom to improve the program and release your improvements to the public so that the whole community benefits (freedom 3). Access to the source code is a precondition for this.

Open source software, on the other hand, is related but not synonymous. While there are several definitions on the web, the Open Source Initiative (**opensource.org**) describes open source as "a development method for software that harnesses the power of distributed peer review and transparency of process. The promise of open source is better quality, higher reliability, more flexibility, lower cost, and an end to predatory vendor lock-in." And it offers a detailed definition of its own that largely focuses on distribution terms for open source software.

Several innovative open source software projects provide options for commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) software products. These software systems often run on a variety of operating systems; some even run on Windows. Here is a list of my favorite projects (in no particular order):

- The Linux operating system — It powers hundreds of thousands of computers worldwide, from servers to desktop machines. If you are interested in running Linux on your desktop or laptop, I recommend you check out the Ubuntu distribution for ease of use. You will be amazed at the range of machines you can run this operating system on. But before you try to install this on a laptop, I suggest you check out compatibility at **linlap.com**. My son recently got Ubuntu running on an old IBM 240 laptop that had been sitting unused for years! (**www.linux.org**, **ubuntu.com**)

JOEL S. ALLEYNE, CMC, M.I.ST., is chair and CEO of Alleyne Inc. and chairman of Crucible International, Inc. A management consultant for the last 28 years, he is practitioner in residence with the Knowledge Media Design Institute at the University of Toronto and a faculty member and senior research associate with the Kaieteur Institute for Knowledge Management.