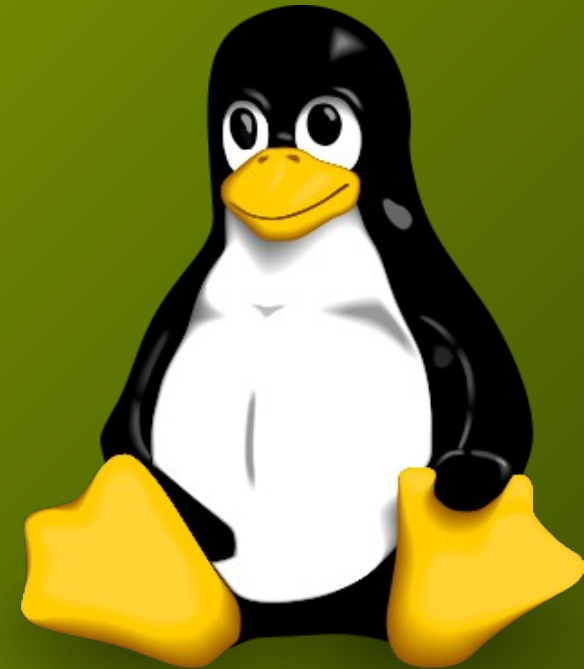


The Influence of Open Source Culture on Government



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Open Source Software

- “FOSS”
- Software made available via an open license

Both free as in **free speech** and free as in **free beer**.



Four Essential Freedoms (GNU Project)

- 0) The freedom to run the program as you wish, for any purpose.
- 1) The freedom to study how the program works, and change it so it does your computing as you wish.
- 2) The freedom to redistribute copies so you can help your neighbor.
- 3) The freedom to distribute copies of your modified versions to others.

Open Source Licenses

- GNU General Public License (GPL) - Copyleft
- MIT/BSD Licenses
- Many others...



*“Free software is a political movement;
open source is a development model.”*

— Richard Stallman



Open Source Licenses

/*

* -----

* "THE BEER-WARE LICENSE" (Revision 42):

* <phk@FreeBSD.ORG> wrote this file. As long as you retain this notice you

* can do whatever you want with this stuff. If we meet some day, and you think

* this stuff is worth it, you can buy me a beer in return. Poul-Henning Kamp

* -----

*/



Source: [1]

Open Source Software

- Proprietary software restricts your rights!
- Don't reinvent the wheel!
- Public audits (encryption software!)
- Prevents vendor lock-in



Open Source Culture

- You control the hardware you own
- Open data
- Community involvement and collaboration
- Transparency
- Involvement based on passion, interest, and/or academics, not monetary gain!



Adoption by Governments

A Minuscule Overview...

- 2004: Venezuela, mandating two-year transition
- 2005: France moving fully to Linux and OpenDocument
- 2005: Massachusetts formally adopts OpenDocument
- 2005: Peru voted to adopt FOSS across all gov
- 2006: Brazil gives tax breaks for cheap Linux PCs
- 2009: White House moved servers to Linux
- 2013: 80% of gov PCs run Linux in Munich, Germany
- 2015: India & Croatia announced policy of adoption

Adoption by Governments

Why FOSS?

- Standardization
- Cost savings
- Customization
- No *"security through obscurity"*
- Quality - *"given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow"*
- Prevents vendor lock-in
- No risk of vendor going out of business



Adoption by Governments Why Proprietary?

- Support contracts - No need for in-house expert
- De Facto Standard
- Compatibility – Hardware & Software
- Business deals – Advertising
- SaaS



Open Data in Government

- Freedom of Information Act – 1966
 - About 70 countries followed...
- California's “wiki bills”
- Canada's Policywiki
- Petitions websites – White House, UK, others
- Italy's Five Star Movement
 - Internet is a right; no insider politics; no lobby groups



Public Government Datasets



Don't let data just sit there!
Put it to use for the good of society.

Publishing snapshots of data is not enough! Live APIs.

<https://www.data.gov/applications>

Public Government Datasets



But wait! There's more!

It's not just the Feds. It's right here at home!

<http://www.phila.gov/data/>

<http://analytics.phila.gov/>

Sources

- 1)Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org/>)
- 2)The GNU Project (<https://www.gnu.org/>)
- 3)Data.gov (<https://www.data.gov/>)
- 4)Philly Gov (<http://www.phila.gov/>) - Analytics and Public Datasets
- 5)PCWorld (<http://www.pcworld.com/>) - “Why Linux Is More Secure Than Windows”
- 6)CIO (<http://www.cio.com/>) - “7 Reasons Not to Use Open Source Software”
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“What is open government?”

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