

Public administrations and FOSS - not always an happy relationship

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Who am I

- Retired software engineer
- 35 years of experience, 25 with the European Commission
- Varied experience in the areas of project management, team management, research, infrastructure, user support and training, software development and eGovernment policy
- Today: adviser to OpenForum Europe

OpenForum Europe:

- Explaining the merits of openness to IT policy makers at the EU level
- Openness principles
 - User centricity
 - Competition
 - Flexibility
 - Sustainability
 - Community

Public procurement

- For the supply of goods and services
- Functional requirement
- The use of standards and technical specifications
- The “or equivalent” clause
- Lock-in

Public administrations and FOSS

- Most public administrations use FOSS
- Using FOSS does not imply public procurement – but decision to use FOSS must be justified
- Public procurement needed for FOSS related services
- The problem of “non-specific”, “wide area” framework contracts

Open standards

- European Interoperability Framework (EIF)
- Definition (EIF version 1):
 - Development/maintenance open to all stakeholders
 - The specification is available for everybody
 - IPRs irrevocable available on a royalty-free basis
- EIF version 1 vs. EIF version 2
- The FRAND problem
- Open standards \neq Open source

Interoperability standards

- Standards development: voluntary, mostly led by industry
- ISO/ITU – ESO's – National standardization institutes vs. IETF, Oasis, W3C
- Governments cannot be forced to implement all standards industry has developed
- Interoperability standards (and the “or equivalent clause”)
- The importance of architectures
- Selection of interoperability standards: [CAMSS](#)

Custom software

- Public administrations should own the software especially developed for them
- Sharing, re-use and collaborate
- The European Public License
- Building communities

Custom software

Should all software developed by/for public administrations be made available under a FOSS license?

- Paid for by public money
- Used for the implementation of legislation/policy
- Legislation on access to documents
- Public Sector Information: the PSI directive

Public administrations and FOSS communities

- Choose contractors that are active in the relevant FOSS communities
- Give staff members the right to participate in FOSS communities
- Provide feedback

Some pointers

- [OpenForum Europe](#)
- Similar presentation at [FOSDEM 2016](#)
- The [ISA²](#) programme
- [eGovernment](#) at the European Commission