

Open Source for America

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WHO WE ARE

- A coalition organized to serve as a centralized advocate, to encourage broader U.S. Federal Government support of and participation in open source technologies.



ORGANIZATIONAL FACTS

- Founded in July 2009
- More than 1200 members admitted in first month
- Volunteer-run
- Diverse cross-section of
 - Technology industry leaders
 - Associations
 - Non-governmental organizations
 - Communities
 - Academic/research institutions



FOUNDING MEMBERS



MISSION

- Educate federal decision-makers about the advantages of using free and open source software
- Encourage federal agencies to give equal priority to procuring free and open source software
- Advocate effectively for the open source software community, private industry, academia, and other non-profits to the federal government



ACTIVITIES

- Develop effective messaging strategy
- Cultivate relationships with policy experts and organizations
- Organize events



WHAT IS OPEN SOURCE?

- A collaborative software development method
 - Harnesses the power of peer review
 - Relies on process transparency
 - Develops freely accessible code
- Fundamental philosophy:
 - Innovation is best achieved through collaboration and collective problem solving



ARTICULATING OSS BENEFITS

- Choice
- Cost
- Reliability
- Security
- Deployment

U.S. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- 2004: OMB Memorandum M-04-16
- 2009: DOD Memorandum “Clarifying Guidance Regarding Open Source Software”
- Present: OSS used in nearly every federal agency

FAQ:[http://cio-nii.defense.gov/sites/oss/Open_Source_Software_\(OSS\)_FAQ.htm](http://cio-nii.defense.gov/sites/oss/Open_Source_Software_(OSS)_FAQ.htm)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

- Challenge
 - One in five lab tests are unneeded duplicates
 - Cost: \$80/repeat test
- Results
 - Pneumonia hospitalizations halved
 - Cut costs by \$40M/year
 - 6,000 lives saved

For more information visit: www.worldvista.org

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

- Challenge
 - Modernizing air traffic software system
- Result
 - 88% cost cut per computer unit replacement
 - 50% cost cut in overall IT
 - 30% increase in operational efficiency
 - 10x increase in processing capacity
 - Saved over \$15 million!

For more information:

http://searchsoa.techtarget.com/news/article/0,289142,sid26_gci1512564,00.html



CURRENT EFFORTS

- Issue a federal government-wide “Open Source Memo”
- Publish a common process for federal open source projects
- Educate program managers on intellectual property stewardship



CALL TO ACTION



- Become a member of Open Source for America
- Join a working group in your area of interest: Healthcare, Education, Geospatial, and more
- Engage government technology leaders in discussions about the advantages of open source software

www.opensourceforamerica.org/



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