Policies for Open Government Initiatives

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India

Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

Department of Electronics and Information Technology

GoI's Objective

- Under the over-arching vision of Digital India, GoI aims to make all Government services digitally accessible to citizens
  - Services available online
  - Seamless integrated services
  - Ensure efficiency, transparency, reliability
  - Open and easy access to information

Steps Required

In order to achieve this objectives

- Need for IT infrastructure
- Need for standardization
  - Applications developed on Open Standards
  - Use of Open Source for reusability
  - Use of APIs for Interoperability of various departments for delivering service

Steps taken

- **Policies notified**
  - **"Policy on Open Standards for e-Governance" (Nov-2010)**
  - **"National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy" (NDSAP-2012)**
  - **"Policy on Adoption of Open Source Software for GoI" (Mar-2015)**
  - **"Policy on Open Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) for GoI" (May-2015)**
- **Framework notified**
  - **"Framework for Adoption of Open Source for GoI" (May-2015)**

Policy on Adoption of Open Source Software for Government of India

Policy Statement

"Government of India shall endeavour to adopt Open Source Software in all e-Governance systems implemented by various Government organizations, as a ***preferred option*** *in comparison to Closed Source Software (CSS). "*

Benefits to Departments

1. Freedom to use & reuse of ICT assets
2. Better interoperability as no vendor lock-ins
3. Reduce the Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) of projects
4. Strategic control in e-Governance applications and systems

Framework for Adoption of OSS in e-Governance Systems

Framework Objectives

Provide a set of procedures and recommendations for promoting, managing and adopting OSS as a preferred option in e-Governance Systems. The objectives of the framework are as below:

- To enhance the adoption of OSS through formal way
- To improve the ecosystem for OSS
- To improve citizens interface and better strategic control & ownership.
- To provide illustrative list of OSS & OSS Stacks

Recommendations from the OSS framework

- OSS should be considered as a preferred option
- e-Gov planners, architects and developers should use OSS extensively
- RFP documents should avoid using vendor specific product/brand names
- Encourage SMEs participation through appropriate mechanism

- Identification of OSS Stack using rating methodologies & reuse
- Multi-Level Support Services & Capacity building
- Unified software development with cross platform and device agnostic approach
- To bring guidelines for adoption of OSS, Enforcement of Open Standards Policy

- Consider OSS as preferred option in IT procurements
- Justification by Vendors for exclusion of OSS
- Hardware and peripherals procured should support Open Source device drivers

Policy on Open Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)

Policy Statement

*"Government of India shall adopt Open APIs to enable **quick** and **transparent integration** with other e-Governance applications and systems implemented by various Government Organizations, there by, providing access to data & services and **promoting citizen participation** for benefit of the community."*

Benefits to Departments

1. One-to-one integration between the consumer and the provider department not needed
2. Quick integration with other eGovernance systems
3. Safe and reliable sharing of information & data across various e-Gov applications and systems
4. Easy Manageability of services by the publisher department
5. Make departments future ready in terms of faster and easier data migration

Thank You