POLICY CONCERNING THE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE

Montréal

WORD FROM THE MAYOR AND THE OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF THE SMART CITY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATION

Already known for its effervescence in the field of digital technologies, Montréal stands out as a world leader among the top smart and digital cities. In order to promote collaboration and sharing, the city encourages the use and development of open-source solutions, a reliable and low-cost alternative for public organizations.

Through its Policy concerning the use and development of open source software and hardware, Montréal strives not only to continuously perfect its technological solutions, but also to honor its commitment to government transparency. The Policy aims to make its services and platforms open, transparent and easily accessible to citizens. The city has undertaken to systematically consider the solutions proposed by the open-source information technology sector for its software and hardware development.

For several years now, the city has been using open source software for its operations. The Policy takes Montréal one step further by providing the framework for the application of solid, well-established processes in ensuring the conformity, transparency and quality of its technological choices. By promoting solutions that may be reusable by other public administrations and by the information technology industry, Montréal affirms its interest in the common good and in mutualizing solutions.

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Introduction

This document entails the official policy of Ville de Montréal with respect to the use and development of open source software and hardware.

Ville de Montréal (the city) is committed to perfecting its IT services, in order to make them open, transparent and more accessible to citizens. The city has implemented solid, well-established processes whereby it ensures the conformity and transparency of its choices with respect to technology.

Objectives

The objectives of this policy are as follows:

- Provide guidance for the selection and use of open source software and hardware;

- Allow city personnel and suppliers to participate in the development of open source software and hardware;

- Contribute to increasing the quality and safety of the solutions provided;

- Promote the reuse of technological solutions developed by or for the city, and more specifically streamline sharing with other public administrations.

- Stimulate innovation and market competitiveness;

- Provide modern solutions adapted to citizens;

- Contribute to the common good.

The organizational scope of the policy

This policy applies to all of the city's administrative units, including boroughs. The city recommends that its paramunicipal organizations and reporting entities also adopt this policy.

Definitions

Open Licence: Contract whereby the holder of the rights to the open source software or hardware authorizes a third party to perform certain actions in relation to that software or hardware.

Open source hardware: Plan or design of physical artifacts (machines, devices, or all other tangible items) made public in order to allow the general public to manufacture, modify, distribute and use those artifacts.

Open source publication: The initial efforts and steps required in order to make a software or hardware project available to the general public.

Open source software: A program or software library for which a code or other resource is provided to the general public for their use or modification, without payment.

Orientations

1. The city aims to make educated, pertinent and justified choices and to provide modern, useful and valuable services to its citizens.

2. The city acknowledges that open source software and hardware:

   a.   entail proven benefits, namely with respect to quality, safety of information, variety of functionalities and the pooling of solutions;

   b.   contribute to the interoperability, reusability and interchangeability of solutions;

   c.   contribute to data resilience;

   d.   contribute to eliminating vendor lock-in;

   e.   constitute an industry of their own and must be assessed on merit, like every other industry.

3. The city acknowledges that, as a public administration body, it must promote free competition in terms of software and hardware purchases.

Guiding principles

Principle 1

The city commits to systematically considering the solutions put forth by the open source industry for all replacement and development of software and hardware in an effort to remain transparent and to contribute to the common good and to the mutualization of solutions.

Principle 2

The city commits to basing its decision to use an open source software on its ability to meet the business needs, and the technological and safety criteria, as well as on the requirements specific to the open source industry.

Principle 3

The city commits to favoring cooperation with other public administrations by using open sources licenses for the development of software and material solutions. It further commits to promoting the reuse of these solutions in the public sector.

Principle 4

The city commits to ensuring that all codes or technological material developed by or for the city are under open licenses and published when the community considers fit.

Principle 5

The city commits to contributing to the open source software and material development communities that it uses, where it is pertinent to do so.

Criteria for the analysis of open source solutions

Considering the particularities of the open source industry, the analysis leading to the selection of an open source software or hardware requires specific, commonly used criteria. These assess aspects such as: the organizations that use them, their maturity on the market, the organizations that support them, the support available, their licenses and the level of security they offer.

Exceptions for the publication of open source code and materials

Certain exceptions regarding the publication of software code or hardware plans may apply, namely in order to protect privacy, civil liberties or the application of laws.

Licenses

The list of open source licenses used by the city is integrated in the internal contribution guidelines.

Framework

1. Guidelines will be developed and kept up to date in order to provide the framework for contributions to an existing open source project;
2. Guidelines will be developed and kept up to date in order to provide the framework for the publication of city projects in the form of open source projects.

Accountability and transparency

The city commits to publishing in a public electronic forge:

1. open source software and hardware projects carried out by the city;
2. guidelines in support of this policy;
3. analysis criteria for open source solutions;
4. revisions made to these publications.

Responsibility of application

The director of the city's Service des TI is in charge of the application of this policy.

Dates of application and realization

This policy becomes applicable upon its adoption.