



Inside

- Impressive Yet Free
- Successful OpenOffice Implementation
- Proud Moment for Malaysian
- OSS Adoption Workshop
- New Milestones
- OSS Technology Updates
- Latest Adoption Trend
- International Visitation
- Formation of OIPDC
- OSCC Products Updates
- World Government OSS

OSCC Newsletter covers the latest issues and updates related to Open Source Software in Malaysia. OSCC Newsletters are developed by Open Source Competency Centre, MAMPU. MAMPU, is the central agency responsible for leading change and modernisation in the public service. MAMPU's Open Source Competency Centre is first and single point of reference for support and guidance in the implementation of Open Source Software in the Public Sector. For more information visit <http://www.oscc.org.my> or contact@oscc.org.my

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Impressive Yet Free

Putrajaya 1st April 2009. The recently released OpenOffice.org 3.0.1 does not only boast a user-friendly interface but a slew of additional features that promise to make working with documents a breeze.



The Government has started using OpenOffice.org 3.0.1 in a massive deployment exercise. Recently, about 500 headmasters and principals of all schools in Terengganu received OpenOffice.org 3.0.1 CDs from the State Education Department for implementation at the schools.

MAMPU has also deployed OpenOffice.org 3.01 on all its PCs and notebooks in the organisation.



**Awareness Program Proof Of Concept (POC) Open Source Software (OSS)
Sekolah KPM Negeri Terengganu**

According to the benchmark report produced by R&D department of MAMPU's OSCC, this version has many extra features and benefits compared to previous version.

Upcoming Training

April 16th 2009

Using MyNetWatch

April 27th - 30th, 2009

Linux Network Administration

To register, please visit:

<http://www.oscc.org.my/content/view/9/15/>

Other Highlights

OSSRA

Open Source Software Reference Architecture is available for download from OSCC Portal.

For more information, please visit <http://www.oscc.org.my/content/view/201/243/>

WAG

Web Application Guidelines is available for download from OSCC Portal.

For more information, please visit <http://www.oscc.org.my/content/view/202/246/>

Some of the additional great features of OpenOffice.org 3.0.1 include:

1. The Multi-page view in OpenOffice.org Writer allows simultaneous previewing and editing.
2. The popular PDF export utility is now built in with the option to secure the PDF export with a password and to restrict the permissions of the reader.
3. It has greater interoperability for it can read/open 15% more file formats (at 62 types) than OpenOffice.org 2.4.2, including the MS Office 2007 file format.
4. 20% lower memory consumption compared to OpenOffice.org 2.4.2.
5. 12% faster cold starts-up than OpenOffice.org 2.4.2.
6. "On-the-fly" modification of languages on the paragraph level.
7. Better identification of annotators in a document by assigning different colours to the individual annotator.
8. Ability to import and work with the open standard SVG (Scalable Vector Graphics) format; used in many graphical suites and in the Internet.
9. OpenOffice.org 3.0.1 Impress now has native table support without relying on OpenOffice.org Calc's embedded spreadsheet.
10. Larger sheet size support; 1024 columns for Calc and 300cmx300cm paper sizes for Draw.
11. Extensions can now be updated in OpenOffice.org 3.0.1

The number of Public Sector Agencies deploying OpenOffice.org has increased significantly by 734.3% from just 32 in January 2008 to 267 in March 2009. Total known OpenOffice.org installed seats as at April 2009 is 18,712.

The following diagram shows the increase in OpenOffice.org Adoption amongst Public Sector Agencies from January 2008 to March 2009.

Resources

OSS Implementation Guidelines

OSS Implementation Guidelines is available for download from OSCC portal.

<http://www.oscc.org.my/content/view/25/208/>

OSCC Mailing list

To subscribe to our mailing lists please visit

<http://lists.oscc.org.my/mailman/listinfo>

e-Marketplace

Government agencies can now post service requests and find service providers with the new e-Marketplace.

<http://knowledge.oscc.org.my/e-marketplace>

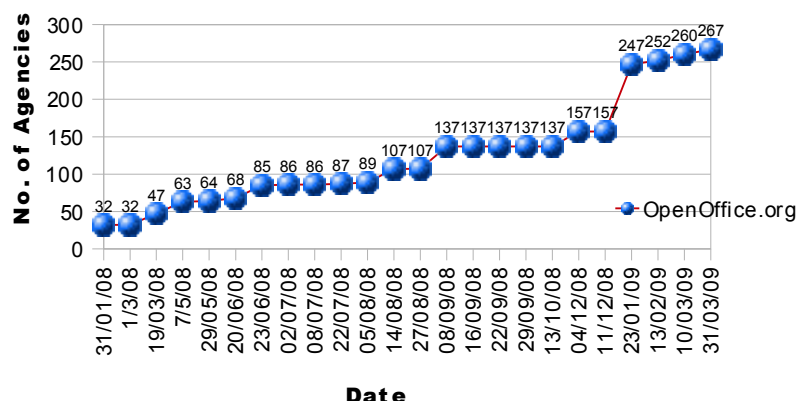
Knowledge Bank

Open Source Competency Centre, MAMPU's Knowledge Bank is a public Community of Practice area for Open Source Software Implementors.

For further information and to be part of the community, please visit

<http://knowledge.oscc.org.my>

No. of Agencies Reporting Usage of OpenOffice.org



Source: MAMPU's OSCC OSS Adoption Database adapted from JPA list of Public Sector Agencies.

With the powerful yet easy-to use features in OpenOffice.org 3.0.1, more Public Sector Agencies are expected to migrate to OpenOffice.org by the end of Phase II of the Malaysian Government OSS Master Plan.

OpenOffice.org 3.0.1 can be downloaded from:

1. <http://mirror.oscc.org.my/openoffice/stable/3.0.1/> or
2. <http://www.openoffice.org>

Successful OpenOffice.org Migrations

1. Social Welfare Department of Malaysia

With the assistance from MAMPU's OSCC, Social Welfare Department of Malaysia (Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat Malaysia) has migrated to OpenOffice.org. Implementation has already been kicked off to increase additional 1,300 new PCs pre-installed with OpenOffice.org.

MAMPU's OSCC had proposed the "Train The Trainers" (TTT) program to the Department of Social Welfare. The bespoke TTT program is specially arranged for the "Master Trainers" from State branches and the master trainers will then arrange for training programmes at their respective districts.

2. Perak State Secretariat Office

Perak State Secretariat Office has recently issued a policy on OpenOffice.org for its first group of 550 users at "Bangunan Perak Darul Ridzuan".

OpenOffice.org trainings for these users have been completed, from which approximately 90 out of the 550 OpenOffice.org users are from Perak Office of State Treasury (Pejabat Kewangan Negeri Perak).

Policy will be issued by end of 2009 for second group of 1,500 users from:

1. Perak Land and Mines Department
2. Department of Irrigation and Drainage, Perak
3. Perak Agriculture Department
4. Perak Town and Rural Planning Department
5. "Majlis Agama Islam Negeri Perak" (MAIPK)

Training for the second group has also started for these agencies.

Proud Moment For Malaysia

The Malaysian team did the country proud when three out of four contestants from Malaysia emerged as champions for categories 2,3 and 4 of the international-level Open Document Format Olympiad 2009 held at Hyberabad, India from 17 – 21 February 2009.

The winners for categories 2,3 and 4 are Mohd Adam Afif bin Azizan of SKBandar Baru Seri Petaling 2, Pang Yi Hui of SMK Sultan Sulaiman, and Siti Nadia binti Radhuan of Kolej Matrikulasi Pahang(KMP) respectively. The contestant from Malaysia for category 1 received consolation prize in the competition. The competition was attended by students from primary and secondary schools from India, Indonesia and Malaysia.

This international participation is a collaborative effort by Ministry of Education (MOE) of Malaysia, MAMPU, Sun Microsystems and Redhat.

All these four contestants were the winners of the national-level ODF Olympiad Award held during MyGOSSCON 2008 in November 2008.



Winners of the ODF Olympiad 2009 at Hyberabad, India 17– 21 February 2009

Open Source Software Adoption Workshop

In 2009, a more proactive and focused approach is being adopted to continuously support government agencies in their OSS implementation. MAMPU's OSCC has laid down a plan to conduct eighteen (18) OSS Adoption Workshops for the year 2009.

The workshops are particularly designed for and targetted at Public Sector agencies who have not implemented OSS based on MAMPU's records. The objective is to achieve 100% Public Sector Agencies adopting OSS, which is one of the targets of the Malaysian Public Sector OSS Master Plan Program Phase II.

The first OSS Adoption Workshop has been successfully conducted at OSCC on 17th March 2009, and was attended by 22 Government Officers from 16 Public Sector Agencies. Prior to the OSS Adoption Workshop, MAMPU's OSCC conducted a massive survey on all the agencies who have yet to implement OSS. Unknowingly, many Public Sector Agencies have already adopted OSS.

It was "too good to be true" for MAMPU when 15 out of 16 participating Public Sector Agencies in the first OSS Adoption Workshop declared to have implemented OSS. Before the workshop, their OSS Implementation were unknown to MAMPU as these agencies were self-reliant in their OSS implementation.

The first workshop has acquainted these Public Sector Agencies with one of OSCC products, MyMeeting, the powerful yet free online Meeting Management and Decision Making Application Suite. The second workshop is scheduled to be held at the same venue on 13th April 2009.

Public Sector agencies who have not used OSS are now welcomed to register for the third OSS Adoption workshop which is scheduled to be held on 5th May 2009. To register, please contact marketing@oscc.org.my or call 03-83191200.



Madam Tan King Ing (MAMPU Deputy Director, Encik Omar Bin Yaakop, MAMPU Principal Assistant Director, OSCC Staff and delegates from Public Sector Agencies after the first OSS Adoption Workshop on 17th March 2009

Great Milestones

1. TaskManager goes live at Chief Secretary To The Government of Malaysia's Office

MAMPU's OSCC has set another significant milestone in System Development with the launch of "TaskManager" System. TaskManager is an online task monitoring system particularly developed for The Chief Secretary to the Government of Malaysia, Y. Bhg Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan to monitor and track all the tasks under his purview. One of the primary objectives is to monitor the status of all the assigned tasks managed in an easy-to use Calendaring System.

Some of the cool features of TaskManager include:

- Searching of tasks using keyword
- Option to display either weekly or monthly tasks in a simple yet elegant calendar.
- Tasks can be filtered into three groups, namely "Previous task", "Upcoming deadlines" and "Outstanding task"

It was developed based on Plone, the powerful and flexible Open Source Content Management System. Plone is also used in OSCC Knowledge Bank and Intranet system. The first TaskManager system was completed on 11th March 2009 and was implemented on 13th March 2009. Enhancements to TaskManager is actively underway and is scheduled to be completed in May 2009.

2. Learning Management System (LMS) Kick-off

MAMPU will be kicking off the enhanced version of the MOE's Learning Management System (LMS) in May 2009 in order to achieve wider OSS adoption and implementation. The ultimate aim is to roll out this enhanced LMS to at least 50 schools nationwide.

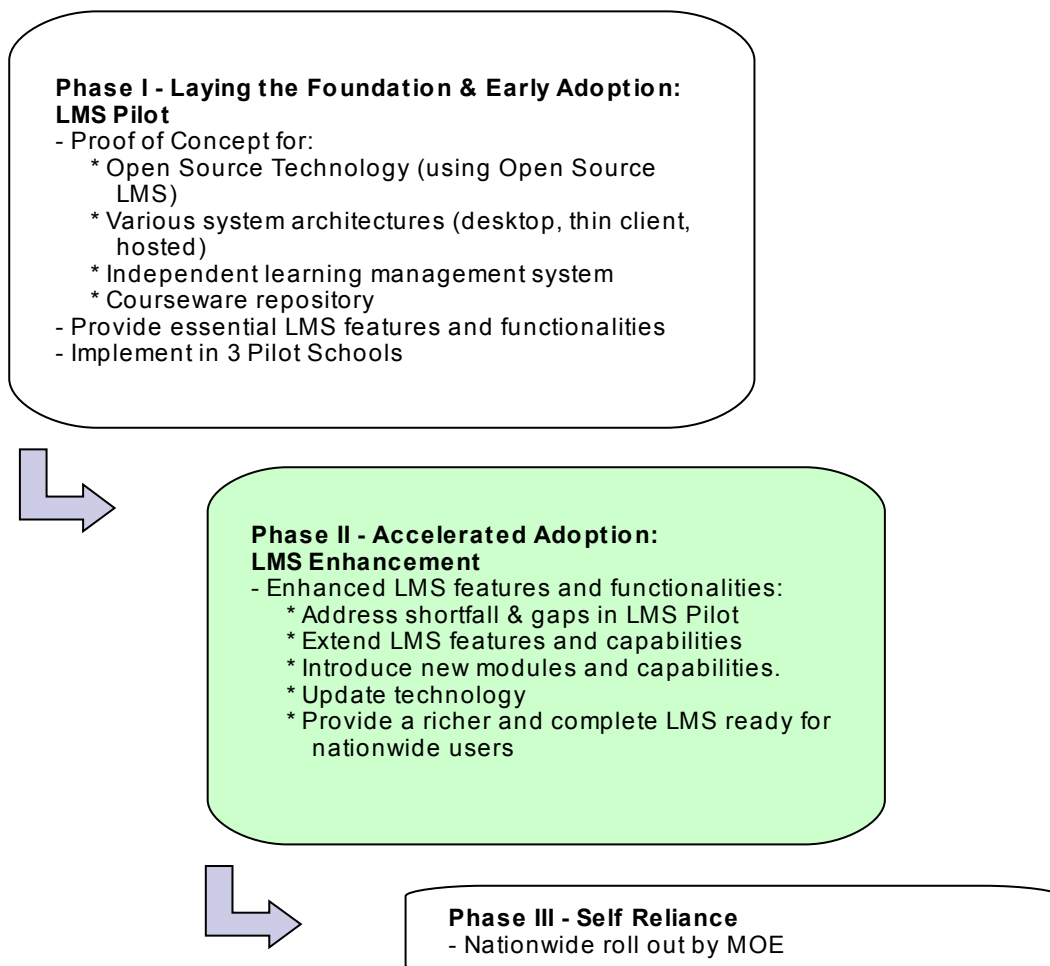
LMS is a web based Sharable Content Object Reference Model (SCORM) compliant education application developed to facilitate the teaching and learning experience in schools. The first LMS was developed back in 2004 during Phase I of the Malaysian Public Sector OSS Master Plan. Some of the benefits of the LMS include online learning and assessment, centralised data repository which allows ease of control and distribution of courseware and information, collaborative learning, training resource management, and fast report generation. It goes far beyond conventional training records management and reporting.

This enhancement is built upon the success of the MOE LMS Pilot Project during Phase I of the Malaysian Public Sector OSS Master Plan. MAMPU has conducted a Post Implementation Review (PIR) of LMS Pilot Project and based on the PIR findings, the following are the objectives of the LMS Enhancement Project;

- Evaluate the key success factors of LMS Pilot Project and incorporate the lessons learned to fine tune and plug gaps to ensure rectification before the LMS is rolled out to more schools in Malaysia.
- Reinforce buy-in for the project by including users' recommendations to bridge the gap between current LMS performance against requirements and expectations.
- Update on available technology, network infrastructure, tools and software.
- Accelerate Adoption: Roll-out LMS to at least 50 schools throughout Malaysia

In summary, the LMS project is a crucial step toward fulfillment of the “Each District, One OSS School” program, which is a comprehensive nationwide rollout plan to encourage at least one school in each district to make use of OSS solutions, with the vision to ensure wide, broad and deep OSS adoption taking place in accelerated pace. This is in line with MOE's longer term strategic roadmap for expanding Smart Schools to about 10,000 schools by the year 2010.

The figure below shows the three distinct phases of the LMS project according to the Malaysian Public Sector OSS Master Plan:



OSS Technology Updates - Android

The new cutting edge Open Source Technology Mobile Phone, Android has evolved. Android is both a software platform and operating system developed by Google and later the Open Handset Alliance for mobile devices, based on the Open Linux kernel.

It is built with the fully-fledged functionalities that enable customisation based on one's needs. Some of the fantastic features of mobile applications using this state-of-the-art OSS Technologies include;

- Swapping up of phone's homescreen.
- Change of the style of the dialer, or any of the applications.
- The built-in Photo Viewing Application can be instructed to handle the viewing of all photos.



From the developer's perspective, it can amazingly combine information from the web with data on an individual's mobile phone such as the user's contacts, calendar, or geographic location. With Android, a developer can build an application that enables users to view the location of their friends and be alerted when they are in the vicinity giving them a chance to connect.

Applications can be developed easily with Android. It enables developers to obtain the location of the device, and allows devices to communicate with one another enabling rich peer-to-peer social applications. In addition, Android includes a full set of tools that have been built from the ground up alongside the platform providing developers with high productivity and deep insight into their applications.

With its software platform capability, developers can also write managed code in Java language. It can compile application written in C and other languages to ARM native code. Most of the Android code are released under the Apache license, a free software and open source license. Android Software Development Toolkit (SDK) is available for download at <http://developer.android.com/>

Latest OSS Adoption Trend

MAMPU's Open Source Competency Centre (OSCC) is now progressing into the penultimate year of the Phase II of the Malaysian Public Sector OSS Master Plan. As of April 2009, 452 agencies have implemented OSS with over 1,400 known implementation. This also shows a remarkable 1,708% surge from just 25 agencies in 2003. A more detailed OSS Implementation for Public Sector Agencies is available at: <http://www.oscc.org.my/content/view/227/139/>.

The surge in OSS adoption is becoming more prevalent among Public Sector Agencies. An ever increasing number of government agencies have now reaped the manifold benefits of OSS such as lower costs, freedom from vendor lock-in and an increased growth of knowledge-based Public Sector Agencies. To date, over RM 47 million have already been saved on licensing and implementation costs and over 30,000 Public Sector staff and community trained in OSS projects.

International Visitation

Mr. Hassan Al-lamushe, the Libya General Director and the president of the Libyan Internet Society, has expressed interest in seeking ideas and information exchange in OSS during his visit to MAMPU's OSCC on 19th January 2009. In a meeting chaired by MAMPU Deputy Director, Madam Tan King Ing, Mr. Hassan Al-lamushe wanted to understand the initiatives that the Government of Malaysia (GOM) took to encourage and support Public Sector Agencies in OSS implementation. He also shared information on influential groups and experts in the area of cyber security, and strategic directions of the Organisation of The Islamic Conference-Computer Emergency Response Team (OIC-CERT) which he had attended on 13th to 15th January 2009 prior to visiting OSCC.

The Formation of the Open Source Software IPTA/Politeknik Development Committee (OIPDC)

A meeting was held at MAMPU's OSCC on 5th February 2009 to discuss the decision made by JPOSS (*Jawatankuasa Pemandu OSS*) about the establishment of the Open Source Software IPTA/Polytechnic Development Committee (OIPDC), its chairman and members.

In essence, this establishment or formation has been endorsed by OSS Steering Committee in executing one of the key action plans, namely "OSS In Education" under the Strategic Thrust (3) of the Malaysia Government OSS Master Plan.

With the formation of OIPDC in replacement of OSS Education Protem Committee (Protem), new terms of reference and governance structure were proposed. All activities will be reported to OSS Steering Committee.

In essence, the proposed terms of reference for OIPDC include firstly, the adoption of OSS in teaching and R&D within and among IPTA/Politeknik, and secondly, to support of OSS activities and programs within and among the Institutions involved.

MAMPU's OSCC Products Updates

1. MyMeeting Version 2.2



MyMeeting, the award-winning and Malaysian Government first fully open source software, has received favourable feedbacks from Public Sector Agencies.

This award signifies that MyMeeting has reached greater heights in terms of quality and recognition on which a benchmark can be set.

MAMPU's OSCC has released its latest version of MyMeeting, version 2.2, which has recently been uploaded to Sourceforge.net: <http://sourceforge.net/projects/mymeeeting/>, which is a popular OSS

application repository. This is part of MAMPU's contribution to the global OSS community.

Some of the many features that are enhanced in this latest version are:-

- Password recovery,
- Viewable history of status and project report,
- "Bahasa Malaysia" interface

As an introduction to those who are new to MyMeeting, it is a web application specifically designed to help better manage your meetings and get more out of them. It was initially developed at the Open Source Competency Centre (OSCC), and is the Malaysian Government's first fully open source software.

To date, twenty-two (22) agencies have installed MyMeeting. Most of these agencies have implemented it whilst a few agencies are evaluating the viabilities of this application. These agencies are:

1. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
2. Universiti Malaya
3. Universiti Malaysia Terengganu
4. Universiti Sains Malaysia, Health Campus
5. Perbadanan Harta Intelek Malaysia
6. Lembaga Pertubuhan Peladang

7. SUK Pahang
8. SUK Penang
9. Jabatan Pelajaran Negeri Terengganu
10. Jabatan Ketua Pengarah Tanah & Galian
11. Jabatan Audit Negara
12. Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam
13. Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya
14. Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (MOH), BTMK
15. Jabatan Pelajaran Negeri Pahang
16. Lembaga Kemajuan Kelantan Selatan (KESEDAR)
17. Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia
18. MAMPU
19. Majlis Perbandaran Jasin
20. Perbadanan Kemajuan Iktisad Kelantan
21. MOSTI
22. UST ICT Johor

Any agency who is using or testing MyMeeting but is not listed above, please contact us at marketing@oscc.org.my or fax to 03-83193206.

This latest version and its user manual are available for download at:

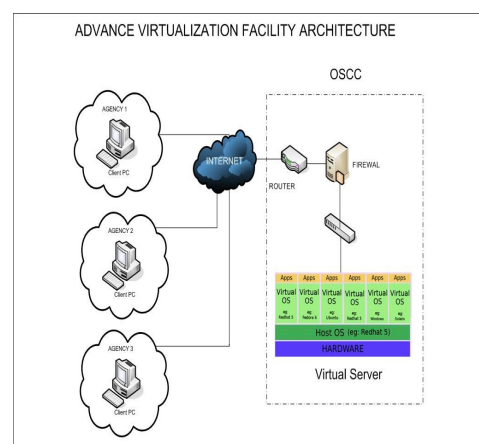
<http://mymeeting.oscc.org.my>

2. Advanced Virtualization Facility (AVF) - Free facility to remotely try out OSS Solutions

MAMPU's OSCC has been striving to provide the best services to all Public Sector Agencies. For the benefit of all agencies, a unique and free facility called Advanced Virtualization (AVF) is available to Public Sector agencies to test and evaluate OSS solutions remotely by utilizing hardware resources at OSCC. With AVF, agencies can try out OSCC products or other OSS Solutions before making a decision to implement the solution. It is provided for a fixed period to enable more agencies to utilize the facility.

Benefits of the AVF include:

- Optimum use of hardware
- Cost effective test drive of OSS solutions
- Concurrent support of multiple operating systems
- Technical consultancy from OSCC during evaluation



For further information, please visit <http://avf.oscc.org.my>. Alternatively, you may also contact our helpdesk directly to try and test OSS Solutions for free at 03-8319 1201 or helpdesk@oscc.org.my.

International Governments OSS Updates

Various governments around the world have been embarking on OSS and have launched initiatives to reap its benefits. There is a significant trend towards incorporating OSS into procurement and development policies. Besides the large number of reports and white papers recommending OSS solutions, there are 275 Open Source Policies Initiatives around the world according to a report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies dated July 2008.

Europe is also an area with strong government interests in OSS. In particular, the European Union, Germany, France and the United Kingdom are leading the way in OSS development.

1. UK Government Policy on Open Source and Open Standards

The UK government has revised its 2004 policy on open source software to take a more positive stance on encouraging the use of open source software for government IT systems. This is made viable by introducing an action plan that will ensure the theory is put into practice. The new policy is contained within the Government Action Plan namely Open Source, Open Standards and Re-Use.

One of the most active proponents of OSS is the National Health Service, in part due to the insolvency of a proprietary software vendor that forced hospitals to migrate to Linux. Besides, it is reported that OSS usage has since increased specifically for web server and Directgov, the official UK government website. Enterprise class OSS support services have grown, and the major I.T players are now actively supporting OSS and Open Standards.

In addition to the savings on licensing fees, the business needs of wanting more re-use of existing I.T assets, more transparency in the procurement process and an establishment of a valid IT ecosystem were also drivers in this decision.

The UK Government has today announced full backing for greater adoption of Open Source solutions in the public sector. According to the article at the BBC News site, Government Departments will be required to adopt open source software when "there is no significant overall cost difference between open and non-open source products" because of its inherent flexibility.

For more information of Uk Government OSS initiative, please visit:

[http://archive.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/e-envoy/frameworks-oss-policy/\\$file/oss-policy.htm](http://archive.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/e-envoy/frameworks-oss-policy/$file/oss-policy.htm)

2. OSS Adoption in France

France started to look into the benefits of OSS in the early 2000. The **French Gendarmerie Nationale** (national police) is composed of the police forces and the military police with over 100,000 employees distributed across the country. In 2001, the decision to explore OSS implementation started and by 2005 OpenOffice.org (OOo) was implemented. Other OSS implementation like Firefox (web browser) and Thunderbird (email & calendaring client) soon followed. Since they have managed to develop their employees with OSS skills, their next plan is for the migration to Linux desktops.

The **French Ministry of Agriculture** has migrated over 500 servers to Mandriva Linux since 2005. This is mainly to replace its MS Windows NT servers. A total of 15,000 employees is under this Ministry. Plans are underway to have an additional 400 servers on Linux.

The **French Parliament** moves towards OpenOffice.org in 2007. Following that Ubuntu Linux will be used as the desktop operating system. This will be over 1,000 PCs running Ubuntu Linux, which translate to even more opportunities to use the hundreds of OSS solutions through the Ubuntu Software Repository.



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