Singapore Open Institute

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Proposal

- We establish a **Singapore Open Institute,** funded by government and/or corporate sponsors.
- SOI's role will be primarily at assessing all the open source solutions being developed around the world especially for government (and education) and finding local use of them. Likewise, local public sector agencies can seek SOI's help in creating open source solutions.
- SOI will be the trusted agency that public sector entities will seek advise and clearance in projects they want to undertake.
- SOI will also create a **Public Sector Software Exchange (PSX)**. The PSX will be open to anyone, anywhere to contribute to as well as to consume code from. All code in PSX could be on a GPLv3 or Apache License v 2 or something Singapore-branded, like the EU open license. PSX will also host SMEs, start-ups and individuals who can provide solutions. Parts of the Instruction Manual will have to be amended as needed to accommodate this.
- SOI will also be the entity to which *requests for exemption (RFE)* has to be applied for by public sector agencies before going for closed source products. RFEs will have an expiry period and will be specific to a project.
- SOI will also be the catalyst in creating and running programming contests, hack-a-thons etc (both with open source software and hardware). This is principally to encourage as many people to learn coding and build solutions.
- Mindef, Police, SCDF and security related agencies are exempted from SOI but are strongly encouraged to create an equivalent of forge.mil.
- SOI will also be the thought leader for Open Data, Open Source, Open Hardware and Open Standards.