Open Source Policy
INDIA

OSOR

1 General Information

In 2015, India has adopted a set of policies promoting the use of open source in the conception of every software developed by the Federal Government or its organisations. The implementation of this set of policies, which is still valid today, greatly popularised the use of open source in India. In alignment with Digital India, the national digitalisation strategy for 2015-2025, numerous open source software (OSS) solutions were elaborated for various Ministries.

2 Actors

Policy maker

Strategic player

The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is** responsible for all policy matters related to information technology, electronics and Internet, as well as for the implementation of the Federal Digital Agenda, called Digital India.

The **National Resource Centre for Free and Open Source Software** is an organisation established by the MeitY for the support and adoption of OSS in India, administrated by the network of Centres for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and by the research centre AU-KBC.

3 Policy and Legal Framework

2012
2015
2019

National Policy on Information Technology

One of the goals of this policy was to adopt open standards and promote open source and open technologies in India in order to emerge as the "Global Hub and Destination for IT" by 2020.
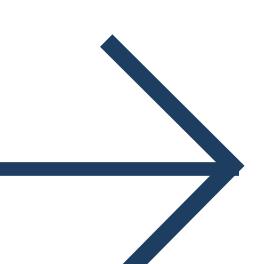
Policy on Adoption of Open Software for Government of India

This policy aimed to encourage the formal adoption and use of OSS in government organisations and to ensure strategic control in e-Governance applications and systems.

Digital India: India's Trillion-Dollar Digital Opportunity

This report on the impact of the Federal Digital Agenda on the national digital transformation mentioned the use of openness in the realisation of several objectives, as for example the use of open API.

4 Open Source Software Initiatives

Government e-Marketplace (GeM): GeM is a contactless, paperless and cashless online marketplace. This open source platform aims to increase transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement of goods and services by central and state governmental organisations.

OpenForge: OpenForge is an Indian platform developed in 2017 by the MeitY and the National e-Governance Division for open collaborative development of all e-Governance applications.

e-Basta: This open source project provides a framework to make the schoolbooks accessible in digital form as e-books for students and teachers.

e-Pramaan: e-Pramaan is an open source e-Authentication framework developed in 2017 by the national network of regional Centres for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), which facilitates multi-factor authentication to the users accessing various services using mobile or fixed platforms, including e-Government services.

Roundtable discussion on FOSS in Government: This initiative of the MeitY was organised in April 2021 to provide a forum for e-Government leaders of States, Central Ministries and Agencies to share their experiences, best practices and learnings in using OSS in government technologies, platforms and applications.

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