



City of

PORTLAND, OREGON

Office of Mayor Sam Adams

Sam Adams, Mayor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Adams Introduces Open Source Resolution

City and Regional Partners Seek to Put Data to Work with Help of Local Software Professionals

(Portland, OR) The City of Portland today renewed the national call for increased transparency and open government by announcing support for open source software and open data. Developed using a collaborative process often involving commercial vendors, non-profit communities and individual enthusiasts, open source generally gives its users the rights to use, copy, modify and redistribute the software created.

"Today's announcement is about open government, cost savings and job creation for our region," said Mayor Sam Adams. "Software is a key industry cluster, and bringing together a growing industry with increased public sector transparency means more public involvement, smarter policy, and a stronger economy."

The Portland region is already a global leader in the open source industry. The Silicon Forest open source landscape includes vendors like Intel and IBM, software firms such as Janrain, Reductive Labs, and CSI, higher education institutions including Portland State University and OSU's Open Source Lab, and globally visible events, including LinuxCon and Innotech. With the public sector getting involved in three significant ways, the region is well-positioned to maintain leadership on this future-facing innovation.

"The City of Portland has done a remarkable job of bringing civic and institutional bench-strength to its new Open Data Initiative and complementary open source strategy," said Deborah Bryant, Public Sector Communities Manager at Oregon State University's Open Source Lab. "'Open' initiatives are sweeping the imagination of all levels of government. Portland and Oregon are now poised to tap into a wealth of enthusiasm, collaborative talent and technical skills to retain our region's reputation as the epicenter of Open Source Software."

Today's resolution addresses two key areas of opportunity:

- **Open Source Software**

The City of Portland will consider Open Source Software as a viable alternative to proprietary software in future City purchases, especially where doing so can result in savings on software license fees that are common with commercial systems. Open Source Software and open standards offer platform-neutral alternatives to commercial options allowing for data interchange.

The City of Portland will consider Open Source Software when analyzing business requirements during the selection of new software. Additionally, the City will identify existing commercial systems scheduled for replacement in the near future and ensure Open Source Software is also considered in the improvement of the City's technology environment.

- **Open data**

The City is currently working with regional partners to open their data for public access in the Portland Metro area. Once that data is available in accessible formats, community developers will have the opportunity to participate in a region-wide Application Design Contest. The Contest is designed to encourage the creation of freely available open source licensed applications and mashups that use, interpret, and visualize the data. Mashups are applications that combine data from multiple sources into a single integrated experience.

Moving to open data will have the added benefit of allowing inter-governmental and non-governmental agencies to readily access and leverage each others' information, lessening past practices of institutional siloing away of data. The City expects that initial datasets will include regional maps and boundaries, zoning, business and building permits, crime, and many others.

For more information, please contact Rick Nixon at the Bureau of Technology Services. His email address is rick.nixon@ci.portland.or.us.

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RESOLUTION No. 3 6 7 3 5

Mobilize and expand the regional technology community of software, hardware and service professionals by promoting open and transparent government, open data, and partnership opportunities between the public, private and non-profit sectors, academia and labor (Resolution)

WHEREAS, the City of Portland is committed to engaging the community by working with citizens, soliciting their ideas, input, and creative energy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland is committed to using technology to foster open, transparent, and accessible government; and

WHEREAS, by sharing data freely, the City of Portland seeks to develop opportunities for economic development, commerce, increased investment, and civic engagement for Citizens of the Portland region; and

WHEREAS, publishing structured standardized data in machine readable formats creates new opportunities for information from different sources to be combined and visualized in new and unexpected ways, for niche markets to be identified and developed, and for Citizens to browse, interpret and draw attention to trends or issues with greater efficiency; and

WHEREAS the adoption of open standards improves transparency, access to public information, and improved coordination and efficiencies among bureaus and partner organizations across the public, non-profit and private sectors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland seeks to encourage the local software community to develop software applications and tools to collect, organize, and share public data in new and innovative ways; and

WHEREAS, Software applications and tools that enable Citizens to access, visualize, and analyze public information will promote greater civic engagement and encourage Citizens to provide feedback on local issues; and

WHEREAS, the Portland region is a global leader of the Open Source Software industry, with leading foundations, businesses, and professionals located in and around Portland; and

WHEREAS, supporting and encouraging the development of Open Source Software curricula in Portland area educational institutions will result in a "Culture of Openness" that will enable Portland to increase the momentum behind its efforts for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, Open Source Software can enable the City of Portland to use, copy, customize and redistribute software it deploys for government services; and

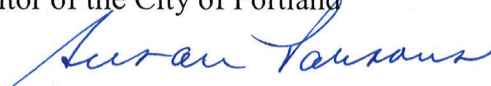
WHEREAS, the City of Portland will consider Open Source Software as a potential alternative to existing commercial software solutions in its purchasing and contracting decisions; and

WHEREAS, the City will promote the creation and continued evolution of innovative Open Source Software solutions to meet civic needs;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Portland:

1. Directs the Bureau of Technology Services to:
 - a. Enter into agreements with our regional partners to publish and maintain public datasets that are open and freely available while respecting privacy and security concerns as identified by the City Attorney;
 - b. Develop a strategy to adopt prevailing open standards for data, documents, maps, and other formats of media;
 - c. Organize a regional contest to encourage the development of software applications to collect, organize, and share public data;
 - d. Establish best practices for analysis of business requirements in software review and selection processes, identify existing commercial software systems with licenses that are scheduled to expire in the near future, and encourage the consideration of Open Source Software in the review, replacement and continual improvement of business solutions;
 - e. Work with Travel Portland and regional partners to promote Portland as a host city for leading Open Source Software conferences and related technology events, such as LinuxCon, Innotech, etc;
2. Directs the City's Purchasing Agent to notify and distribute all formal technology related purchasing and contract opportunities for publication and distribution by the Software Association of Oregon, Oregon Entrepreneurs Network and the open source community in addition to those public notice requirements required under Portland City Code 5.33.300.

Adopted by the Council: **SEP 30 2009**
Mayor Sam Adams
Prepared by: Warren Jimenez
Date Prepared: September 17, 2009

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland
By: 

Deputy

Agenda No.
RESOLUTION NO. 36735

Mobilize and expand the regional technology community of software, hardware, and service professionals by promoting open and transparent government, open data, and partnership opportunities between the public, private and non-profit sectors, academia, and labor (Resolution)

INTRODUCED BY	<p style="text-align: right; color: blue;">SEP 25 2009</p> <p>CLERK USE: DATE FILED _____</p>
Mayor Sam Adams	<p>LaVonne Griffin-Valade Auditor of the City of Portland</p>
NOTED BY COMMISSIONER	
Mayor—Finance and Administration	By: _____
Position 1—Utilities	Deputy
Position 2—Works	
Position 3—Affairs	
Position 4—Safety	
BUREAU APPROVAL	
Bureau: N/A	
Prepared by: Warren Jimenez Date Prepared: 9/17/2009	
Financial Impact Statement ____ Completed ____ Amends Budget ____ X ____ Not Required	
Portland Policy Document If "Yes," requires City Policy paragraph stated in document. ____ Yes ____ No	
Council Meeting Date September 30, 2009	
Bureau Head:	

ACTION TAKEN:

AGENDA		FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
				YEAS	NAYS
Consent	Regular X	1. Fritz	1. Fritz	✓	
NOTED BY		2. Fish	2. Fish	✓	
City Attorney		3. Saltzman	3. Saltzman	_____	
		4. Leonard	4. Leonard	_____	
		Adams	Adams	✓	