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science  
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# What's in it for us?

- At National Level: Economic freedom & growth.
- Institutional level: Cost-effective, reliable, redistributable.
- IT professionals: Elegance, reliability, effectiveness.
- Users: Not immediately obvious. NB Change Management

# The Policy

The Policy has 5 key points

1. Choose FOSS
2. Migrate to FOSS
3. Develop in FOSS
4. Use FOSS/Open Content licensing
5. Promote FOSS in South Africa

# Statement 1: Choose FOSS

The South African Government will implement FOSS unless proprietary software is demonstrated to be significantly superior.

- Choose FOSS
- Migrate to FOSS
- Develop in FOSS
- Use FOSS/Open Content licensing
- Promote FOSS in South Africa

Whenever the advantages of FOSS and proprietary software are comparable FOSS will be implemented when choosing software solution for a new project.

Whenever FOSS is not implemented, then reasons must be provided in order to justify the implementation of proprietary software.

# Statement 2: Migrate to FOSS

- Choose FOSS
- **Migrate to FOSS**
- Develop in FOSS
- Use FOSS/Open Content licensing
- Promote FOSS in South Africa

The South African Government will migrate current proprietary software to FOSS whenever comparable software exists.

Where it doesn't exist, development/enhancement using the FOSS model will be considered.

# Statement 3: Develop in FOSS

- Choose FOSS
- Migrate to FOSS
- **Develop in FOSS**
- Use FOSS/Open Content licensing
- Promote FOSS in South Africa

All new software developed for or by the South African Government will be based on open standards, adherent to FOSS principles, and licensed using a FOSS license where possible.

# The Policy; Statement 4: Use FOSS/Open Content

- Choose FOSS
- Migrate to FOSS
- Develop in FOSS
- Use FOSS/Open Content licensing
- Promote FOSS in South Africa

The South African Government will ensure all Government content and content developed using Government resources is made Open Content, unless analysis on specific content shows that proprietary licensing or confidentiality is substantially beneficial.

# The Policy; Statement 5: Promote FOSS in South Africa

- Choose FOSS
- Migrate to FOSS
- Develop in FOSS
- Use FOSS/Open Content licensing
- **Promote FOSS in South Africa**

The South African Government will encourage the use of Open Content and Open Standards within South Africa.

# MINIMUM INTEROPERABILITY STANDARDS (MIOS)

- Version 4.1 approved 22 October 2007
- All spheres of Government
- E- gov requires the seamless flow of information across all tiers of Government
- Technical principles and standards for achieving Interoperability

# Open Standards

**a standard shall be considered open if it meets all of these criteria.** There are standards which we are obliged to adopt for pragmatic reasons which do not necessarily fully conform to being open in all respects. In such cases, where an open standard does not yet exist, the *degree* of openness will be taken into account when selecting an appropriate standard:

# Open Standards

- It should be maintained by a non-commercial organization
- Participation in the ongoing development work is based on decision-making processes that are open to all interested parties.
- Open access: all may access committee documents, drafts and completed standards free of cost or for a negligible fee.
- It must be possible for everyone to copy, distribute and use the standard free of cost.
- The intellectual rights required to implement the standard (e.g. essential patent claims) are irrevocably available, without any royalties attached.
- There are no reservations regarding reuse of the standard.
- There are multiple implementations of the standard

# Challenges

- Tools, translators, support
- Signatures
- Delays 1.2

# Thank You

***“All the cultural treasures of mankind shall be open to all, by free exchange of books, ideas and contact with other lands;” (Congress of the people, 1955)***