File No.8-23/2014-IT-V

Government of India
Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications
Sanchar Bhawan,20, Ashoka Road
New Delhi-110 001

New Delhi, Dated the **01/06/2018**

Subject: **Release of "Policy on Adoption of Open Source Software for GoI" and "Framework for adoption of OSS in eGovernance applications"**

        Usage of Open Source Software(OSS) has increased worldwide and has led to innovations in implementation of ICT solutions across businesses and Governments. With objective to enable effective adoption of OSS in Government of India, MeitY (the then DeitY) has issued a "Policy on Adoption of Open Source Software for Government of India" vide Gazette Notification dated 27.03.2015 as well as a 'Framework for adoption of OSS in eGovernance Applications". The copy of the OSS Policy is available at http://egazette.nic.in while the copy of both OSS Policy and OSS Framework is available at http://www.egovstandards.gov.in/notifications-0.

2.   The above mentioned OSS Policy and OSS Framework have been also circulated by MeitY(the then DeitY) vide DO letter No. 1(3)/2014-EG II (Vol. I) Dated 29.04.2015. A copy of the same is enclosed herewith for kind information/necessary action.

3.   This is issued with the approval of Sanjeev Gupta, Delegated - DDG(RT)-IT, O/o DDG(IT)

Enclosure: As Above

Signature valid

Digitally signed by SHAILENDRA SAGAR
Date: 2018...

(Shailendra Sagar)
ADG (IT-II)
Tel: 23036158

To:
1. All Sr. DDG/DDG/JS level officers of DoT Hq.
2. Heads of all Attached Offices/ Subordinate Offices/ Field Offices/ Statutory bodies/Autonomous bodies/ CPSEs of DoT.
3. NIC-HoD, DoT; STD, NIC-DoT

Copy to:
1. PPS to Member(S), Member (T), Member (F), Special Secretary (T)
2. PPS to Advisor (O), Advisor (T), Advisor (F)
3. Upload on DoT Website

आर एस शर्मा
सचि॰

R S Sharma
Secretary

Subject: Release of "Policy on Adoption of Open Source Software for GoI" and "Framework for adoption of OSS in eGovernance applications"

Dear Secretary,

As you are aware, GoI is implementing the 'Digital India' programme to prepare India for a knowledge based transformation into a digitally empowered society and a knowledge economy. Under the overarching vision of Digital India, GoI aims to make Government services digitally accessible to citizens in their localities and to ensure efficiency, transparency and reliability of such services at affordable costs.

2. To meet this objective, there is a need for commensurate hardware and software infrastructure, which require significant resources. Also, the challenges in eGovernance are not technical rather, it is use of technology to improve capacity of government institutions while improving quality of life of citizens by redefining the association with them. In India, which has multiple languages, the Closed Source Software (CSS) based on one language (generally English) hinders the spread of information all over the country. Usage of Open Source Software (OSS) has increased worldwide and has led to innovations in implementation of ICT solutions across businesses and Governments. GoI has been promoting the use of open source technologies and has been keenly encouraging their adoption in the eGovernance applications in the country. The adoption of OSS by Government also reduces the dependency of Government on CSS and allows them to use their in-house skills and support from OSS communities to modify the source codes according to their needs. The flexibility to modify the source code to perform the specific task is probably one of the major benefits associated with the adoption of OSS. Another key benefit is its scalability.

3. With the objective to enable effective adoption of OSS, DeitY has formulated a **"Policy on Adoption of Open Source Software for Government of India"** which will encourage the formal adoption and use of Open Source Software (OSS) in Government Organizations.

4. As per this policy, all Government Organizations, while implementing eGovernance applications and systems must ensure compliance with this

policy and decide by comparing both OSS and CSS options with respect to capability, strategic control, scalability, security, life-time costs and support requirements. However, in certain specialised domains where OSS solutions meeting essential functional requirements may not be available or in case of urgent / strategic need to deploy CSS based solutions or lack of expertise (skill set) in identified technologies, the concerned Government Organization may consider exceptions, with sufficient justification. The "Policy on Adoption of Open Source Software for Government of India" formulated by DeitY, is available at: https://egovstandards.gov.in/sites/default/files/Published%20Documents/policy_on_adoption_of_oss_0.pdf .

5.   In addition to the above policy, DeitY has also formulated a **"Framework for adoption of OSS in eGovernance applications"** which provides a set of procedures and recommendations for promoting, managing and adopting OSS as a potential option in e-Governance Systems. It suggests developing a collaborative ecosystem consisting of support services for better understanding and acceptance of the OSS. The support system proposed in the framework includes creation of Institutional mechanism, partnership with industry & academia, and partnership with OSS community within India and globally. The framework   is   available   at https://egovstandards.gov.in/sites/default/files/Published%20Documents/Framework_on_OSS_in_eGov.pdf .

6.   It is requested that the above mentioned policy may be implemented in your Department and organizations.

     With kind regards,

                                                              Yours sincerely,

                                                              (RS Sharma)

Encl: As above

1. Policy on Adoption of Open Source Software for Government of India

To

Secretaries of All Central Department/Ministries, Govt. of India