

Open Data and (Free and) Open Source

by Digital Freedom Foundation

Who are we?

Created in 2007 in the US, moved to HK in 2013,
DFF promotes free and open sharing of knowledge in the digital world.

Open Data

Is data that can be freely used, shared and built-on by anyone, anywhere, for any purpose.

“Public Sector Information as Default”

“Ignite business innovation through research and development and provision of open data.”

by the Digital 21 Strategy

Caution!

“Identify the value to the government rather than just the value to the public to make it sustainable.”

By Pia Waugh,

Director of Coordination and Gov 2.0 Technology and Procurement Division
Office of the Australian Government CTO

How?

Through policy and legislation

Develop better practice guidance e.g. standards, privacy / confidentiality issues, tools...
Assign human resource, set timeline, monitor progress...
and it's crucial to be transparent

Open Data Census

Hong Kong scored 265 out of 1000, is the top 58 out of 75 countries...

by the Open Knowledge Foundation

Data.One Analysis Summary and Report

Identified issues with the open data format provided and the site UI, etc.

by Open Data Hong Kong

Improvement is needed

both qualitative and quantitative

Open licenses

To be used, reused and built upon
(e.g. Creative Commons, Open Data Commons, attribution
and attribution shared-alike licenses.)

Avoid risks of the terms being untested, defensible only by you, vague...

Open formats

no proprietary lock-in (e.g. XML, CSV, JSON)

promote re-usability

Open tools and APIs

better ways to publish, share and use the data
(for presentation, publishing, automation, data visualization, analysis, APIs and apps
development, metadata, linked data tools and feedbacks...)

e.g. Open Data Kit, ckan, JSON Validator

Metadata

Informative: keywords tags, purpose, progress status, data generation and production process, how the data was collected, compiled and aggregated...

Standardized among all datasets: able to understand by machine and human, compare and merge data from different sources, etc.

Data portal

welcoming, targeted and educational

(Independent site using existing open tool e.g. CKAN)

Feedback loops

accept, share and work with input with each dataset, rating, etc.

Outreach

public engagement through education, advertising and promotion

Collaboration

NGOs, communities, industries, academia, agencies & governments around the world

e.g. online platform, conferences, trainings, workshops,
online Q&A sessions, hackathons, app contests,

and join the Open Government Partnership!

What about (Free and) Open Source?

(Free and) Open Source

Software written to be freely used, distributed, studied, and modified
in any way, for any purpose

Benefits

No entry barrier: accessible to all

Rights to reuse and improve for free

Better code quality, documentation

Lower cost of ownership

Security: rapid and public actions

Flexible: transparent technology, able to reuse what exists and customize

Support: anyone can provide support since the code is open and accessible to all

...

EU Commissioner Kroes

"The downside of relying on proprietary standards, which cost the European economy "several hundred million Euros per year" in public sectors and damages competition."

UK Government Service Design Manual

“With the software we are making, we have a preference for open source, because it means other countries can use it too and help make that software better. This approach will also ensure we are not locked in to some mad oligopoly outsource.”

South African government

“...with the traditional proprietary software model, South Africa ends up primarily being an importer of software, with little influence over how software is developed. It is hoped that using FOSS systems will change this.”

Brazilian government

“Implementing OSS policy hoping to leverage its impact for development purposes by extending technological tools and knowledge throughout the country using cheaper and easily-accessible open-source applications... helps Brazil to foster a skilled workforce — both in software production and basic IT literacy, thus giving its economy a huge boost.”

How about Hong Kong?

FOSS is not mentioned...

Software in education

in general and programming in every children's education

use FOSS

(free to use, study and distribute, cross platform...)

Supporting the underprivileged groups

use FOSS

(free to reuse, cross platform, community support...)

Supporting the startup ecosystem

encourage and promote FOSS

(availability of tools, flexibility, no vendor lock-in...)

Open data

use FOSS

(lots of existing quality tools, no vendor lock-in, more transparent...)

Cloud

use FOSS

(pick a solution that is not belong to one country or company)

Cut cost?

use FOSS

(existing quality software across different fields and industries)

What's happening elsewhere?

95% of the top 500 Supercomputers run GNU/Linux...

40+ countries have policies to use FOSS

Europe: Germany, France, Norway, UK, Spain, Finland, Czech, Turkey, Iceland...

The Americas: USA, Canada, Peru, Venezuela, Brazil...

Asia: Japan, China, Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam, India, Russia, the Philippines...

Africa: South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana, Zambia...

Australia and New Zealand...

FOSS will continue to be the 'go to' approach

for governments around the world facing
transparency and security issues, budget constraints,
avoiding lock-in and growing demand for
innovative services and citizen engagement

How about Hong Kong?

More information

http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/FOSS_A_General_Introduction/FOSS_Success_Stories

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Linux_adopters

<http://agict.gov.au/policy-guides-procurement/open-source-software>

<http://timreview.ca/article/250>

<http://opengovernmentdata.org/>

<http://opendatacommons.org/licenses/>

<http://opendatahandbook.org/en/>

<http://ckan.org/>

<http://pipka.org/2012/12/18/my-nz-open-data-and-digital-government-adventure/>

<http://pipka.org/2012/10/02/okfestival-2012-open-data-open-gov-open-science-in-helsinki/>

<https://www.gov.uk/service-manual>

<http://www.computerweekly.com/news/2240179643/Government-mandates-preference-for-open-source>

<http://census.okfn.org/country/>

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