

Using Open Source in eGovernment



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Example: Intrusion Detection

- 2002 Olympics presented security threat
- RFI process produced several commercial vendors
- Why not Snort?

Employees

- Very stable population
- Grew up “buying from IBM”
- Not much experience with open source
- Believe that it “might be wrong” or “not allowed”
- Start with operations-oriented groups
 - Samba, sendmail, security groups
- Education and encouragement

Out of the Closet

- Great first step is executive sponsorship
- If you're the executive take every opportunity to talk the talk
- If you're not, start the education process

Start OS Pilots

- Lots of small web-based projects
- Not much budget
- LAMP Platforms (Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP/Perl/Python) are naturals
- Develop teams of people comfortable with open source platforms
- Consider a hosted solution
 - Self-hosted
 - Commercial

Understand Sales Process

- Commercial companies are always in your face
- Commercial companies participate in the bid writing process
- OS opportunities need to be inserted during the sales cycle

Require Vendors to Use OS

- Vendors probably won't like this.
- NIC model
- Requires strategic plan to do successfully

Standards

- Add open source to standards documents
- Obviously easier in states and municipalities than the Federal Govt.
- Utah Technical Architecture includes:
 - jBOSS, Apache, MySQL, PostgreSQL, openLDAP, Linux, Samba, Snort, and StarOffice
- Don't forget interoperability standards.

Use the Political Process

- Open source movement needs to understand political process
- Commercial companies lobby (although not enough)
- Oregon
- HB 240 example

Summary

- Educate and encourage employees
- Preach open source
- Start OS pilots
- Find specific ways to insert OS into the RFP process
- Work with vendors
- Add OS to architecture standards documents
- Use the political process to push OS

For More Information

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