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Public administrations & FOSS

not always a happy relationship

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Who I am?

- Retired software engineer
- 35 years of experience, 25 of which
with the European Commission
- Today: OpenForum Europe

OpenForum Europe

Openness Principles

User centricity

Competition

Flexibility

Sustainability

Community

Public administrations

using FOSS

- Using FOSS does not imply public procurement
- Public procurement needed for FOSS related services

Public procurement

- For the supply of goods and services
- Functional requirement
- The use of standards and technical specifications
- The “or equivalent” clause
- Lock-in

Open Standards

- European Interoperability Framework

Definition

Development/maintenance open to all stakeholders

The specification is available for everybody

IPRs irrevocable available on a royalty-free basis

- ELF version 1 vs. ELF version 2
- Open standards \nleftrightarrow Open source

The use of open standards

to achieve interoperability

- Within the organisation
- Between organisations
- Over time
- The importance of architectures
- Interoperability standards and the “or equivalent” clause

Public administrations

and custom software

- Public administrations should make sure they own the software especially developed for them
- Sharing, re-use and collaborate
- The European Public License
- Building communities

Should all software used/owned by public administration be available for re-use?

- Legislation on access to documents
- Public Sector Information: the PSI directive

Public administrations and FOSS communities

- Give staff members and contractors the right to participate in FOSS communities

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