

# Public Sector Software Policy and Design

Software for Public Sector:  
Key Characteristics and Requirements

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All Government services accessible to the common man

Transparency, reliability and affordability

Services for all stakeholders: citizens, businesses, other public sector

Interoperability between heterogeneous, isolated legacy systems

Uncompromising security

Prohibitively high costs

Vendor locking

Security challenges

Interoperability limitations— lack of standardization in several emerging technology areas.



Lack of adequate commitment to Open Source solutions

Proliferation of proprietary software in some domains

Lack of readily available solutions

Lack of willingness to share content

Limited capacity in FOSS within country

E-governance specific FOSS projects yet to reach critical mass

Lack of support and maintenance

“The Government will take all efforts to develop free software and free knowledge and shall encourage and mandate the appropriate use of free software in all ICT initiatives.” (para 2.10 of IT Policy-2007).

“FOSS will be used in all Government funded ICT e-governance projects to the maximum extent possible. preferential treatment will be given to FOSS as it enables the knowledge to be used democratically, makes software accessible to everyone and is economical.” (para 6.7 of IT Policy-2007)

# Open Standards Policy 2010

To provide a framework for the selection of Standards to facilitate interoperability between systems while providing organizations the flexibility to select different hardware, systems software, and application software for implementing e-Governance solutions.



## Mandatory Features

Specification document to be made available preferably without restriction → Essential patent claims preferably to be made available Royalty Free (RF) with no payment and no restriction

If not possible, then Fair, Reasonable and Non-Discriminatory (FRAND) and RAND could be considered

Identified Standard to be adopted and maintained by a not-for-profit organization, wherein all stakeholders can opt to participate in a transparent, collaborative and consensus manner.

## Mandatory Features

Preference to Standards which is proved recursively open.

Standard to have technology-neutral specification.

To be capable of localization support, for all Indian official Languages for all domains.



## Interim Standards

Where a standard for an Area, meeting all the mandatory characteristics is not available, an alternate standard may temporarily be adopted.

Mandatory characteristics may be relaxed one by one, on case to case basis.

Who decides?



## Need to move towards increasing Openness in public sector

Current policies need to provide greater commitment

Facilitation to address challenges in adopting Open Standards and Solutions

