

Open Source Policy AUSTRALIA



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General Information

The use of open source software (OSS) in the Australian public sector was set in motion in 2010 and several state governments have included the use of OSS in their digital strategies. Public agencies and departments can find tools for the development of their solutions on official platforms such as Digital Marketplace and the GovCMS, offered by the Digital Transformation Agency of the Australian Government.

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Actors



Policy maker



Strategic player

The **Digital Transformation Agency** is an executive agency of the Australian Government. It provides advice to public agencies and institutions on ICT and digital investment proposals, based on the Digital Service Standard criteria.

Linux Australia is a non-profit organisation responsible for representing and supporting open source communities in Australia. It is composed of different sub-committees which organise and participate in various sector-focused events.

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Policy and Legal Framework

2010

2011

2018



The Open Source Software Policy

In 2010, the Australian Government listed three core principles that government agencies should comply with when dealing with procurement processes for OSS.

Guide to Open Source Software for Australian Government Agencies

The Australian Government introduced agencies to the definition of OSS, the most well-known models for development and support, as well as the benefits and risks of using OSS.

Digital Transformation Strategy

In 2018, the Australian Government presented a roadmap of goals to achieve by 2025, which included making government source code open and reusable.

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Open Source Software Initiatives



CovidSafe: The Australian Government developed and released its COVID-19 contact tracing mobile application. The source code of the application was publicly shared in order to gather feedback and improve the solution based on issues raised by the community.

Digital Marketplace: The online marketplace of the Australian Government was built to provide both government agencies and businesses with sourcing options that will respond to their digital needs. It was built with OSS provided by their British counterpart, facilitating partnership between both countries.

GovCMS: The GovCMS platform centralises open source tools for agencies that need a website for purposes such as running campaigns, online catalogues or setting up corporate, ministerial, and service-based web pages. Over 300 websites were launched with the aid of GovCMS.

Repository of the Digital Transformation Agency: Serving as a Commonwealth record, the repository stores and tracks all solutions developed by the government agency, in accordance with the Archives Act 1983 and guidelines from the National Archives of Australia.