

Introduction and Survey Structure

Help us identify critical open source used within European Public Services

This survey is being conducted by Inno³ and Deloitte on behalf of the European Commission.

Introduction

As part of the new European Parliament sponsored and European Commission managed [FOSSEPS Pilot project](#), this survey will identify and create an inventory of critical open source software in use at European Public Services. In this instance critical means software that is in danger of discontinuation or lack of ongoing maintenance. It is likely that many organisations are unaware of such software, which they implicitly rely on. Recent examples such as the [log4j vulnerability](#) highlight the need for alertness on heavily relied upon software.

Survey structure

While our primary objective is to get your list of critical software, we also want to understand how you handle open source in your organisation.

This survey comprises 19 questions in three sections. The first relates to pre-built, off-the-shelf open source software applications.

The second relates to open source dependencies, such as software libraries and frameworks an organisation uses to develop applications.

The third section asks questions about open source in your organisation, though many questions are interspersed in the other two sections.

Two spreadsheets need to be filled in and uploaded, one listing critical open source applications and the other listing critical open source dependencies. Templates and detailed instructions have been provided.

You can save your partial answers and resume the survey later by clicking on **Resume Later** in the top right corner of the window. All responses will be treated as completely Confidential. Also note the words open source in this survey mean free and open source software. We have avoided the use of acronyms such as FOSS.

Help: We think the questions are pretty straightforward, but you may need some help in identifying your critical software. In the first instance, please refer to [this Survey Guide](#). If you are still unclear, please contact us on fosseps@inno3.eu and we can setup a quick video call.

There are 19 questions in this survey.

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Recent Vulnerabilities

1 Is your organisation aware of, or been affected by any of these incidents/vulnerabilities?

- Heartbleed (2014)
- LeftPad removal of NPM (2016)
- Event-stream hijacking (2018)
- Log4shell (2021)
- Scuttling of colors.js/faker (2021)

	We have been affected by it	We are aware, but were not affected	We were aware, but uncertain if we have been affected	We were not aware of it	No answer
Heartbleed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Log4Shell	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
LeftPad withdrawal of NPM	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Event-stream hijacking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Scuttling of colors.js/faker	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

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Section 1: Critical Applications

These questions help us understand your organisation's use of and support for open source applications within the business and infrastructure areas.

2 Does your organisation have an explicit policy regarding open source software?

- ☒ We have a dedicated open source policy
- ☐ We have open source specific clauses in other policies (e.g., in the security policy)
- ☐ We have some informal rules/internal culture relating to open source
- ☐ We have no policy regarding open source

Please enter your comment here:

3 Does your open source policy include rules about support for open source used within your organisation?

Open source policies in organisations often include rules stating the required levels of support for open source components for them to be included in different kind of projects (e.g. test and PoC can have internal support only, but for projects in production, a support contract with SLA is required)

- ☐ Yes, well-defined rules
- ☐ Yes, but mostly guidelines
- ☐ No specific rules
- ☒ No answer

Please enter your comment here:

4 Does your open source policy include rules about contributing to open source projects used within your organisation?

Contribution comes generally into organisations which have already reached a certain level of maturity regarding open source. Contributing to open source projects can bring many advantages to organisations, but requires specific guidance at legal and organisational levels.

- ☐ Yes, well-defined rules
- ☐ Yes, but mostly guidelines
- ☐ No specific rules
- ☒ No answer


Please enter your comment here:

5 Does your organisation have a dedicated contact person or structure (sometimes also called an "Open Source Program Office") for matters related to open source software?

- ☐ We have an official OSPO-like structure
- ☐ We have an official open source officer
- ☐ We have unofficial open source reference persons/experts
- ☐ Other
- ☒ No answer

Please enter your comment here:

6 Could you please upload the list of the most critical open source applications or infrastructure elements for your organisation and estimate their criticality, using the [FOSSEPS_Survey_Critical_Apps_infra_template.ods](#) file as a template? (Please click here for help in filling in this sheet)

 Upload file

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Section 2: Critical Open Source Dependencies

This group of questions aims at better understanding the position of your organisation regarding the usage and support of open source dependencies (that means libraries and frameworks) from a software development point of view.

7 Does your organisation develop (or get developed) open source software applications? If so, please indicate the approximate number of such bespoke applications currently in use?

💡 If your organisation develops, or have some of its software applications developed specifically for itself, we'd like to have a rough figure to understand the importance of this activity and estimate accordingly the numbers that you will mention in the listing of your critical dependencies.

8 Is your organisation aware of recursive software dependencies in the software development tools/frameworks that you use?

💡 We ask about recursive dependencies, as you can be aware of your direct open source dependencies (because you have to declare them explicitly), but you are not necessarily immediately aware of the dependencies of your dependencies (and of the dependencies of the dependencies of your dependencies, and so on)

- ☐ Yes we are very aware of it
- ☐ Only vaguely
- ☐ No
- ☒ No answer

Please enter your comment here:

9 Does your organisation take any specific action to tackle security problems that may affect the tree of recursive open source dependencies used by your applications ?

💡 Example of specific action: security audits on the full dependency tree, etc.

10 Does your organisation take any specific action to tackle sustainability problems that may affect the tree of recursive open source dependencies used by your applications ?

💡 Example of specific action: contributing directly to the open source projects, etc.

11 Could you please upload the list of the most important open source framework/libraries used in your software developments and their criticality, using the [FOSSEPS_Survey_Critical_dependencies_template.ods](#) file as a template? You will find detailed explanations of the different fields in the [short guide](#) that you can download.

📁 Upload file

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Section 3: Your organization

12 Which public organisation are you answering for?

13 What is the website address for your organisation?

14 Could you please state your name?

15 Can you provide your work email address?

16 What is your position at this organisation?

17 Would your organisation be interested in cooperating with other European Public Services about open source and specifically about critical open source?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe
- ☒ No answer

Please enter your comment here:

18 Would your organisation be willing to explore this cooperation further and attend a European Commission workshop?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe
- ☒ No answer

Please enter your comment here:

19 If you have any further comments on the topic of open source, please let us know here:

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Link to Survey

<https://survey.inno3.eu/index.php?r=survey/index&sid=695576&lang=en>