

## Westminster eForum Keynote Seminar: Open source software: in business, in government

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2010

Venue: Sixty One Whitehall, London, SW1A 2ET

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.45 - 9.00 Registration
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 - 9.30 **'Free' and open source software - an overview**  
*Themes: What is 'free' and open source software (FOSS)? How far has FOSS entered the mainstream? What are the advantages and disadvantages of FOSS compared with proprietary for consumers and business? What kinds of organisations have adopted the new software?*  
**Karsten Gerloff**, President, Free Software Foundation Europe  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 10.15 **Implementation and the costs of open source and free software**  
*Themes: What are the challenges faced by small, medium and large organisations implementing FOSS on their networks? What are the financial and training costs of deploying open source and free software? In what ways is FOSS vulnerable? Who is responsible if FOSS is compromised or malfunctions?*  
**Paul Holt**, Corporate Sales Director, Canonical  
**Andrew Katz**, Partner, Moorcrofts Corporate Law  
**Alan Lord**, Director, Open Learning Centre  
**Christopher Roberts**, Finance Director, Trident Garages  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 - 10.20 **Chairman's closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.20 - 10.45 Coffee
- 10.45 - 10.50 **Chairman's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 - 11.30 **The challenges of deploying open source software in the public sector**  
*Themes: How has proprietary software fared in the public sector? In what circumstances is FOSS right for government, what uses are likely to see benefits from FOSS, and which are likely to face the greatest challenges? What are the costs and savings of FOSS for government? Will the safety of open source decrease if government and critical infrastructure moves to it? What lessons can the UK take from other nations and from the private sector?*  
**Richard Chapman**, Partner, Berwin Leighton Paisner  
**Gerry McMullan**, Business Policy Manager, Birmingham City Council  
**Mark Taylor**, Chief Executive Officer, Sirius  
**Dr Mark Wright**, Executive Member for Efficiency and Value, Bristol City Council  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.30 - 12.25 **Open standards and software: consumer rights and legal implications**  
*Themes: What are open standards and why are they important? How far are proprietary and FOSS interoperable? Why is interoperability important? What impact do open standards have on consumer rights and choice? Are open standards good for the software market? To what extent are user licenses, licenses or contract? How far are they enforceable?*  
**Juan Crosby**, Senior Associate, CMS Cameron McKenna  
**Dr Chris Francis**, Government Programmes, IBM  
**Glyn Moody**, Technology Writer  
Senior representative, device manufacturer  
Senior representative, proprietary software provider  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 - 12.30 **Chairman's and Westminster eForum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian  
**Thomas Raynsford**, Senior Producer, Westminster eForum

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