

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

Date: 23rd September 2010

Venue: Sixty One Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET

Agenda subject to change

- 8.45 - 9.00 Registration
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Rupert Goodwins, Editor, ZDNet UK
- 9.05 - 9.30 **'Free' and open source software - an overview**
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**
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?
Alan Lord, Director, Open Learning Centre
Paul Holt, Corporate Sales Director, Canonical
Andrew Katz, Partner, Moorcrofts
Christopher Roberts, Finance Director, Trident Garages
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 - 10.20 **Chairman's closing remarks**
Rupert Goodwins, Editor, ZDNet UK
- 10.20 - 10.45 Coffee
- 10.45 - 10.50 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Philip Virgo, Secretary General, The Information Society Alliance (EURIM)
- 10.50 - 11.30 **The challenges of deploying open source software in the public sector**
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, Resources Department, Birmingham City Council
Miles Berry, Community Manager, Open Source Schools
Dr Mark Wright, Cabinet Member for Transformation, Value for Money and IT, Bristol City Council
Mark Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, Sirius
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.30 - 11.45 **The European debate on software interoperability, openness and freedom of choice**
Francisco Mingorance, Senior Director of Government Affairs, Europe, Business Software Alliance
- 11.45 - 12.40 **Open standards and software: consumer rights and legal implications**
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?
Dr Chris Francis, Government Programmes, IBM
Paul Fremantle, Chief Technology Officer and Co-founder, WSO2
Juan Crosby, Senior Associate, CMS Cameron McKenna
Glyn Moody, Technology Writer
Questions and comments from the floor with **Francisco Mingorance**, Senior Director of Government Affairs, Europe, Business Software Alliance
- 12.40 - 12.45 **Chairman's and Westminster eForum closing remarks**
Philip Virgo, Secretary General, The Information Society Alliance (EURIM)
Thomas Raynsford, Senior Producer, Westminster eForum

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