



Open-Source Licensing

A MOSIP Perspective

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What is Open-Source?





Open-Source Software

encompasses four fundamental freedoms



01 to USE



02 to STUDY



03 to MODIFY



04 to SHARE





Advantages

What benefits can Open-Source software offer governments?





Safeguards Against Vendor Lock-In



Complete control over software



Removes dependence on the single vendor/entity who owns the copyright



Countries are free to choose vendors for customisations, maintenance and support





01 GREATER EFFICIENCY



SEAMLESS

Both uniformity and flexibility amongst government departments



INTEROPERABLE

Common components for multiple solutions are easily transposed



COLLABORATIVE

Allows external users to make improvements



02 MAXIMISED RESOURCES



Removes the need for repetitive software development exercises



Allows migration of existing solutions into the open through brownfield implementations



Governments usually need to spend only on customisation and support/maintenance

03 REDUCED COSTS



04 FOSTERS GROWTH



Greater transparency builds trust in the technology among users and citizens



Encourages good development practices and higher quality development



Government can utilise local talent through capacity building exercises



Busting Common Myths

about Open-Source





Misconceptions

Around Open-Source



OWNERSHIP

The source code does not belong to a person or entity



LICENCE

The code is always distributed under specific license terms



DATA

Data associated with open source software is not public



COST

Not all open source software is available free of cost



Categories of Open Source Licenses





Categories of Open-Source Licenses



COPYLEFT

- Strictest terms
- The modified larger work must carry the same license
- Examples: GPL, LGPL

MIDDLE GROUND

- Takes the middle approach
- Original Source code and any changes to it must carry the same license
- Any “Larger Work” can remain proprietary
- Example: MPL 2.0

PERMISSIVE

- Most permissive
- You can use the source code however you want and share under any license including a proprietary one
- Examples: MIT, Apache



MOSIP's License

Choice and Reasoning





MOSIP's License

● Core platform is under **MPL 2.0**

Balance between

Source code remaining open

Allowing proprietary derivative works

- Users are permitted to modify source code and create derivative works
- During redistribution, original source code must be made available under MPL 2.0





Diversifying MOSIP's Licenses



As the platform has matured, we have decided to make some components available under more permissive licenses



Provides flexibility for the commercial ecosystem to flourish



Example: Android Reg Client which is a reference implementation





Thank you!

For further questions,
please reach out to us!

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