COSS - the Finnish Centre for Open Systems and Solutions
White paper: Promoting open source expertise in Finland
3.5.2023

White paper:

Promoting open source expertise in Finland

Introduction

Open source actors in Finland's public administration and businesses have made significant efforts to promote the use of open source in Finland. Public administration and society widely use open source, but there is still much work to be done. Many European countries, such as France and Germany, have surpassed Finland as open source users. The fastest impact can be achieved by raising open source expertise in Finland.

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Finland should promote open source expertise for the following reasons:

1. Open source promotes innovation and economic growth

Finland is currently an internationally recognized leader in innovation and technology. Open source can help Finland maintain its leading position in this field. The use of open source enables more innovative and faster software development, leading to new services and products. In addition, the use of open source can promote economic growth as open source developers and companies can leverage open source when developing new products and services.

As a business model, open source focuses on the benefits derived from the use of software rather than the software itself. Thus, open source helps harness the benefits of digitalization.

As a development model, the best tools for open source development offer a time and location-independent working method, which easily transcends organizational boundaries and different silos. This streamlines development.

The government should:
➢ Provide funding opportunities for open source companies and projects. This may include direct subsidies, loans, venture capital funds, or other financial instruments.
➢ Support the development of expertise and the adoption of technology in open source companies. This may include support programs, training, and advice.
➢ Promote the use of open source in public administration. This may include legislative measures, such as favoring open source in public procurement, and practical support programs.
➢ Support open source communities and networks. This may include funding, advice, training, and other support measures.

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➤ Remove tax and legislative barriers to open source business. This may include, for example, tax breaks to encourage the use of open source or legislative changes that improve the operating conditions of open source companies.

2. Open source use promotes transparency

The Finnish government is committed to increasing transparency in public administration. The use of open source is one way to promote this goal. Open source allows for the inherent review and modification of software, which can increase software security and reduce the risk of malicious use. In addition, the use of open source reduces dependence on individual software vendors and improves software availability for all users.

3. Open source promotes efficiency in public administration

The use of open source improves the efficiency of public administration. Open source is freely available. This can help save public sector resources, for example, through joint development.

4. Open source use promotes sustainable development

Finland is committed to sustainable development goals. The use of open source can promote sustainable development in many ways. In particular, open source reduces duplication of work, thus saving both environmental and human resources. The transparency of open source also makes it easier to identify, for example, software that consumes resources unnecessarily and enables their easier improvement.

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5. Open source use promotes equality and inclusion

The use of open source can also promote equality and inclusion. When the source code of software is open, it allows all users and developers to participate in the development and improvement of the software. This helps ensure that all users can benefit from open source, for example, by using or developing a business around it. Open source is developed collaboratively.

6. Open source use promotes international cooperation

The use of open source can also promote international cooperation. Since all interested developers around the world can participate in open source projects, it enables cooperation and knowledge sharing between different countries and organizations..

7. Promoting open source creates competitiveness

Promoting open source can also help Finland maintain its competitiveness in international competition. If open source is widely and skillfully used in Finland, it can create an attractive environment for open source companies and developers. This, in turn, can attract foreign investments and innovations to Finland, as well as increase vitality.

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Summary

The use of open source can promote many important goals, such as innovation, transparency, efficiency, sustainable development, equality, inclusion, international cooperation, and competitiveness. Finland should continue and strengthen the promotion of open source and encourage public administration organizations and companies to use open source. Finland can also create a favorable environment for open source companies, which play a crucial role in promoting innovation and economic growth..

The Finnish government should also support the use of open source in public administration and develop a strategy for promoting it. This could include providing funding and support programs for the development and use of open source. The Finnish government should also promote the use of open source in education and research and encourage open source procurement in public administration.

Finally, Finland should promote international cooperation in the development and use of open source. Finland should participate in open source projects, support them, and share information about them internationally. This will help Finland strengthen its position as a leading country in innovation and technology.

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COSS - the Finnish Centre for Open Systems and Solutions promotes the use of open source and open technologies in both the private and public sectors. COSS aims to be the most well-known and recognized open source actor in Finland with its members. Its activities consist of broad-based collaboration, influencing, building ecosystems and networks, and supporting members' businesses.

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