



Ministerstvo  
informatiky  
České republiky

# Open Source Software in the Czech Republic

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**IDABC OSS Event, 11.4.2006**

- established on 1 January 2003
- central government body for:
  - **eGovernment**
  - **electronic communications**
  - **public administration infrastructure**
  - **postal services**
- key strategies:
  - **State information and communication policy**
  - **National broadband strategy**
  - **National information security strategy**

## State Information and Communications Policy

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- IS-strategy**
  - Approved by the Czech gov. in March 2004
  - Defines strategy of the Information Society development until 2006
- Priorities**
  - Affordable and secure communication services
  - Information literacy
  - Modern online public services
  - Dynamic e-business environment
- Policy on standards and OSS**
  - Orientation to open, particularly practically validated international standards
  - Provision of informational and methodical support

## ■ What is openness?

- Ensuring flexibility
- Ensuring interoperability
- Avoiding vendor lock-in
- Avoiding imposing technology decisions on the community
- Driving cost effectiveness
- Ensuring future access to information
- Ensuring a level playing field

*(Open Forum Europe, 2004)*

## ■ What is open standard?

- **Not-for-profit organisation based within Czech Technical University**
- **Granted patronage from the Ministry in June 2005**
- **Meeting and contact point for public administration in OSS matters**
- **Provides advice and consultations to PA**
- **Working towards the competence to make public administration and OSS community to speak in one language**
- **Work on Czech Open Source Repository**

[WWW.OSS.CZ](http://WWW.OSS.CZ)

- Decin, Domazlice – linux servers and workstations, OpenOffice.org
- Ostrava-South – municipality completely running ICT on Open Source products
- Blansko, Caslav, Czech Railway Inspectorate – OO.org
- Contacts established with Nove Mesto na Morave, Prague 5 and Prague 13 (more to come)
- Agreement on further co-operatin with the Association of Secretaries of Towns and Municipalities
- **No major problems of users with using OO.org – all solved via internal IT help desk**
- **Interoperability problems with central state information systems (closed platforms)**

## OSS vs. MICR (the future)

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- **Open Government 2006 as the launch of discussion what potential lies within PA**
  - PA just as the user of OSS
  - Or potential for bigger involvement in OSS development
- **Continuation in (technical) support of IT departments and regular exchange of views with top management of PA bodies**
- **Need for well established open standard definition**
  - lift the burden for compliance from users of OSS to users of closed SW
- **Need for resolution of legal questions addressed by licensing**
  - validity of OSS licenses is questionable regarding the Czech copyright, civic code and contractual laws
- **Recommendation on document formats**
  - but with what level of compulsarity to be effective and adoptable?

## Suggestions for IDABC

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- **Are all conditions in place across Europe to allow legal certainty in using OSS licenses?**
- **While there is a demand for open source repositories, there is also need for information on proprietary products that can be operated on OSS products**

**Thank you for your attention!**

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