

Open Source Attracts Public Sector

By *srlinuxx*

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Once a curiosity of computer rooms, open-source software applications are now giving commercial programs a run for their money in public-sector information technology shops.

In fact, public-sector I.T. managers say free licensing isn't necessarily the most attractive characteristic of the best open-source products today. Many stand out for their stable programming code and array of useful features or, conversely, their stripped-down feature sets that eliminate unnecessary bells and whistles.

Open-source products tend to be driven by what features the user base is actually asking for and offers freedom from vendor dependency. With open source, there's no company that's going to take the source code away if they fold or get bought out.

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