

Issues behind slow open source adoption

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THE Malaysian Government has made its stand on the adoption of open source software (OSS) with the unveiling of the Public Sector OSS Masterplan. However, at this stage of its adoption in the public sector, questions are being raised if there are enough local expertise such as software developers to meet the Government's OSS needs and aspirations.

Malaysian National Computer Confederation (MNCC)'s Open Source Special Interest Group chairman Lee Nan Phin said there appears to be a shortage of skilled OSS programmers to give the masterplan a boost.

He stressed that as the country had past the awareness stage in the OSS push, the challenge would now be for it to build a large pool of OSS implementers by perhaps revamping its current educational system.

"The root could be the country's education system. More people are treating programming as a hobby rather than a profession. They prefer spending more time surfing and chatting on the Internet.

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