

Feds put open source into active service, eh?

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The federal government has embarked on an ambitious project that will use open source software to manage assets created for use in the public sector, including custom-developed applications.

Called Intellectual Resources Canada (IRCan), the project is being led by the CIO Branch of the Treasury Board Secretariat but has its origins in Public Works and Government Services. The departments are setting up a repository of sorts based on GForge, an open source collaboration and code management tool which grew out of the original Sourceforge.net system created by VA Linux.

Treasury Board CIO branch senior director of technology and internal services Chuck Henry said the first pilot under GForge was recently launched and is still going through a few growing pains. The long-term plan is to set up a secretariat around IRCan that will govern its processes, access to GForge and to capture the lessons learned from managing its assets through the system.

?We don't know that this is going to work. We're all geeks here, so obviously we're pretty positive,? said Henry.

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