



SAVINGS, SECURITY, INTEROPERABILITY AND INNOVATION FOR GOVERNMENT

UNDERSTANDING THE RAPID GROWTH OF OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE DEPLOYMENTS
IN PUBLIC SECTOR ORGANISATIONS AND IT SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEMS INTEGRATORS



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“Open source software is proving to deliver value and innovation to public sector organisations”, says Tod Cury, head of UK public sector business at Red Hat, the enterprise distributor of the Linux operating system and JBoss enterprise middleware and integration technology platform. This identifies not only a fundamental shift in perceptions of open source technology, but also an impressive momentum to its adoption by major enterprises - including various bodies from the UK public sector and systems integrators delivering IT services to the public sector. Open source software has proven itself as an enterprise platform delivering significant lower total cost of ownership when compared to proprietary based software options.

Open source technology vendors like Red Hat have removed any risk associated with deploying open source software, by ensuring that it is consumable for the enterprise and guaranteeing value and service second to none. Software deployed in an enterprise needs to be stable, reliable and secure, where you can pick up a phone and speak to an expert on a 24/7 basis. This is what Red Hat provides to its customers, as an enterprise distributor for Linux and the JBoss middleware platform.

Under its enterprise distribution agreement, the company provides support, maintenance and over 2000 certifications for hardware systems and software applications for a period of seven years. Red Hat has built an ecosystem of hardware and software vendors which provide their products in a form that works with Linux, this provides the foundations for large scale roll outs of the technology throughout an enterprise. The variety is wide enough to give customers plenty of choice in building their architectures.

Red Hat Enterprise Linux, JBoss and MetaMatrix operate on most platforms including x86; Intel and IBM, and are deployed on a wide range of hardware solutions from Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) partners like IBM, Dell, Hewlett Packard, Fujitsu, SGI, Unisys and Sun.

Customers also have the freedom to utilise more than 1800 certified applications from a wide range of industry-leading solution providers such as BEA, EMC, IBM, Oracle, PeopleSoft, SAP, and VERITAS. Tod says, “this provides the confidence for organisations to make major investments that will help them obtain the full benefits of open source. For example, if you want to run a large Oracle application then you want to be sure it will be certified for the future. It will be with Red Hat. Oracle’s recent announcement that it will support Linux is a testament to this fact.”

Also, Red Hat offer an Open Source Assurance Program, whereby they will indemnify and protect any of its customers against copyright or patent infringement claims, therefore voiding any threats made by proprietary software vendors.

SIGNIFICANT COST SAVINGS

The immediate and long term cost savings, through a reduced need for expensive licensing arrangements, can make significant positive contribution to an organisation’s financial outlook. This combines with the capacity of the technology to improve performance and provide increased control, while remaining stable, portable, and easy to deploy. One well known UK based public transport organisation has reported, within 1 year, an 80% reduction in investment and operating costs, by replacing their proprietary based solution with a JBoss open source solution.



INTEROPERABILITY

In addition, open source fully supports vendor neutral, open standards. This maximises the potential for true interoperability and information sharing between government departments and agencies, while enabling full control of IT investments; no more vendor lock-in and high cost of exit.

As a result, a growing number of UK central and local government organisations are adopting open source software technologies.

There are growing deployments throughout UK government departments and agencies, such as the Home Office, NHS, Department for Work and Pensions, Network Rail, the BBC, numerous local authorities and police constabularies. Also, many systems integrators are utilising open source technologies in order to deliver innovative IT solutions and services to their government customers; the up-front and ongoing costs of delivering a government awarded contract is reduced, therefore allowing these systems integrators to be more competitive in their bids. The savings made can be invested in other areas of innovative citizen-centric service delivery.

SECURITY

Red Hat has helped the Defense Information Systems Agency in the US adopt open source. Its programme manager, Rob Walker, says "it has made a big contribution to providing a more secure environment for the management of highly sensitive information."

"Open source allows us the opportunity to have a pro-active and pre-emptive identification of security holes by friendly analysis," he says. "As a result, this early identification and rapid repair of security vulnerabilities has become a major advantage of open source over proprietary approaches to software development."

- Rob Walker, Programme Manager, Defense Information Systems Agency

The US government has embraced open source fully, by adopting Red Hat's Open Source Architecture as part of its Federal Enterprise Architecture. Red Hat's Security Enhanced Linux was developed in conjunction with the NSA and it is the first choice of use by the most secure government agencies, such as military and intelligence agencies. All of the very highest government security certifications are met. On top of this, you will find that most high availability and high performance computing environments are using open source technology.



Red Hat has recently enhanced its security offering by adding to its existing Identity Management Directory Server and Certificate Systems fully integrated Identity, Policy and Audit (IPA) technologies.

A COMPLETE OPEN SOURCE OFFERING

Red Hat has also strengthened its capabilities when it acquired JBoss, the global leader in open source middleware, and with its recent acquisition of MetaMatrix, a leader in data integration and data services technology. Red Hat is now able to offer a complete open source middleware and integration platform. This has positioned Red Hat to place a greater emphasis on open source architectures and laid the ground for the next generation of web enabled applications. Tod Cury says, "Red Hat is in the unique position to offer its customers a complete end-to-end open source SOA infrastructure, giving a new meaning to SOA - Simple Open and Affordable."

Red Hat continues to invest in extending the Red Hat Enterprise Linux operating system platform with its MRG technology, to include integrated software virtualisation, automated messaging (AMQP), grid computing, and clustering. This Linux automation strategy, along with the investments being made into the JBoss Enterprise Middleware Solutions, which includes MetaMatrix data service management, SOA and ESB platform offerings, provide a robust, flexible, low cost infrastructure to support the government's initiatives on shared services and green IT.

RED HAT WITHIN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

As the world's leading provider of open source solutions, Red Hat is in a unique position to offer government customers and their IT service delivery partners high-quality, industry open standard technologies; enabling government agencies to meet budget constraints, provide information sharing, interoperability and security second to none; while providing improved citizen services to constituents.

Governments are choosing Red Hat/JBoss open source architectures to maintain full control of their IT investments, and optimise open standards based integration, thereby enabling vertical and horizontal information sharing. It is also helping them solve middleware issues around service oriented architectures, improved network security and consolidation of services. This technology allows government departments to manage and gain access to their legacy technology estates and plan for their eventual migration when ready.

Red Hat has won some impressive testimonials for its work with government bodies. Francois Mounier, Integration and Development Manager at London Borough of Camden states, "As part of London Borough of Camden's continuous effort to provide better customer focused services we have successfully used the JBoss/MetaMatrix product range to build an aggregated view of our siloed customer databases. With Metamatrix we were able to create a virtual database without the need to move any data. We are now able to build business focused applications using a single database connection. The fact that Metamatrix can connect to a wide range of data sources from standard relational databases to non structured documents and utilise web services allowed us to reuse existing components. The proof-of- concept project was wrapped up in 2 weeks in partnership with Red Hat consulting."



DRIVING INNOVATION

Red Hat is ideally suited to support the public sector's efforts to improve performance and increase security and effectiveness of services. Numerous independent studies have verified that Linux on commodity hardware offers big performance advantages while delivering significant cost savings. Others have shown that Linux systems require fewer hardware resources than alternatives such as Microsoft Windows and UNIX.

They also give users the ability to select the optimum server to suit the workload, and combined with powerful processors can support government agencies in performing critical functions. In addition, JBoss has a wide feature set and a strong reputation in the open source community, supporting a variety of software.

For example, Hampshire Police quickly realised that their ANPR application would be optimised if migrated from a Microsoft environment and deployed on Linux-based servers. With Linux, ANPR would provide increased performance and stability, according to others already using the application. With Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5.1, Hampshire Police has experienced increased reliability, performance, and cost savings. Hampshire Police's total cost of ownership (TCO) for the ANPR system has also been substantially reduced.

The ANPR project has also provided new opportunities for future software choices within Hampshire's police force.

“The project has opened up a whole new door for us. Before, most new technologies would have been deployed on proprietary solutions. Since the success of this project, we have proven what we can achieve with open source and now other open source solutions are being considered. We have been very happy with Red Hat and the support that the company provides. Red Hat is now the preferred open source solution provider for Hampshire Police. Where we can, we will try to standardize on Red Hat Enterprise Linux.”

- Duncan Watkins, Technical Infrastructure Analyst, Hampshire Police



A complete end-to-end open source architecture offered by Red Hat helps to harness the full potential of the technology for the public sector. By driving down the costs of IT service delivery, deploying open source technology allows governments and their IT service delivery providers to invest those saving in areas of innovated service delivery and their people, as opposed to limited and costly infrastructure technology.

Simon Mather, Head of Software Engineering, UFI learndirect is responsible for architecture and development of the organisation's financial systems and its flagship on-line learning system "learndirect". This is a long-standing and highly successful service funded by the UK Government to compliment more traditional educational methods. With more than 2 million registered learners it is quoted as being the largest on-line learning system in the world. Mather states: "We do not have to compromise on either training or consultancy with the open source technologies we have selected. The quality of the tools we use is in many ways measured by the extensive community supporting them. This gives us as much or more confidence in the open source components we integrate as those of any commercial vendor. Open source software provides us with access to independently maintained libraries which can be integrated quickly and at low cost. This frees up our developers to concentrate on the evolution of business functionality. It also makes us more responsive to the changing needs of the business."

Open source has now attained a level of maturity in the market, to the extent that it has to be considered for almost any tender for new systems or service delivery. UK government organisations and their IT service delivery partners are adopting open source technologies for all of the reasons and benefits identified.



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