



## Think Tank Session

Why was "gvSIG" experiment successful in Spain  
in attracting strong collaboration between SMEs,  
local government and academia in Open Geo  
Services?

How can UK replicate this model?

# Open Source strategy for the UK government (Jan 2010)

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window displaying the Cabinet Office website. The page title is "Open Source, Open Standards and Re-Use: Government Action Plan | Cabinet Office". The URL in the address bar is "http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/open-source-open-standards-and-re-use-government-action-". The page features the Cabinet Office logo and a navigation menu with categories: About the Cabinet Office, National Security, Constitutional Reform, Government Efficiency, Transparency, Big Society, and Government: How it works. The main heading is "Open Source, Open Standards and Re-Use: Government Action Plan". Below this, there is a "Downloads" section with a link to "An Open Source strategy for Government" (PDF, 185.52 kB). An "Embed downloads" section provides an embed code. The "Publication date" is 27/1/2010. A "Quick Links" section contains several boxes with links to various government services and information.

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## Open Source, Open Standards and Re-Use: Government Action Plan

**Downloads**

[An Open Source strategy for Government](#)

File type: PDF - Portable Document format | File size: 185.52 kB

**Embed downloads**

Publication date: 27/1/2010

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## Government bodies must comply with Open Standards Principles

1 November 2012

From today all government bodies must comply with [Open Standards Principles](#), an agreed set of standards to make our IT more open, cheaper and better connected, Minister for Cabinet Office, Francis Maude said today.

The Open Standards Principles have been developed following the public consultation 'Open Standards: Open Opportunities – flexibility and efficiency in Government IT' which took place from February to June this year. The principles will help Government to deliver more innovative IT services and further drive savings and encourage more competition for government contracts.

There has been overwhelming support from the public and the IT community for setting an open standards policy for software interoperability, data and document formats:

- nearly 70 per cent of respondents believe the principles would improve innovation, competition and choice in the provision of government services; and
- over 70 per cent agree that they would help improve value for money.

Francis Maude said:



"We know that there are more real savings to be made in Government IT contracts – in the first half of this year, we have already saved £409 million on ICT services."

"Government must be better connected to the people it serves and partners who can work with it - especially small businesses, voluntary and community organisations. Having open information and software that can be used across government departments will result in lower licensing costs in government IT, and reduce the cost of lock-in to suppliers and products.

"It is only right that we are encouraging competition and creating a level playing field for all companies to ensure we

### Related links

[Francis Maude speech at an event for IT professionals](#)

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2. List of strategic suppliers
3. Open Standards Consultation responses
4. Open Standards Consultation documents
5. Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) – Secondary Legislation before Parliament

Open principles is now implemented by the UK Government and delivering huge cost savings for government

**£409 million in the first half of 2013 alone**

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/government-bodies-must-comply-open-standards-principles>

## Some background

There are 433 principal authorities in the UK:

- 27 county councils
- 55 unitary authorities
- 32 London boroughs
- 36 Metropolitan boroughs
- 201 districts
- 32 Scottish unitary authorities
- 22 Welsh unitary authorities, and
- 26 Northern Ireland districts .

All of them need GIS for their operations. So you can imagine the cumulative annual costs for the UK government for keeping buying proprietary GIS . Now imagine the costs for not just one year but in the future 5, 10 , 25 years.

The savings will be millions of pounds and with the UK government action plan on Open Principles implemented, we are in a good position to help these local authorities make transition .

Why not in UK ?

Other countries are doing this successfully and not only saving millions of dollars in annual licence fees on proprietary software but have also created hundreds of jobs highly skilled jobs locally

One example from Spain – gvSIG



Started 10  
years back for  
Valencia  
government  
needs

It then started  
expanding and  
creating a  
vibrant  
ecosystem



Commission Share and reuse interoperability solutions for public administrations

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 **Open source observatory** ( 5 stars ) 4.81/5 | 147 votes



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### One decade on, gvSIG offers powerful GIS tools

Submitted by [Gijs Hillenius](#) on January 06, 2015

( 5 stars ) 5/5 | 1 votes |  Editor's Choice

**Ten years after gvSIG's start by the government of Valencia (Spain), the open source geographic information system offers a broad range of GIS solutions. The software tools are used in sectors such as**

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<https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/osor/news/one-decade-gvsig-offers-powerful-gis-tools>

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Over 50 SMEs created providing support services and creating hundreds of highly skilled jobs locally



Open software  
Open data  
and  
Open standard

Providing to an open geospatial ecosystem for education,  
research and business



Group 1 – lead by Steve Fuller

Group 2 – lead by Simon Roberts

Group 3 – lead by Trevor Wright

Group 4 – lead by Suchith Anand

Each group to look into SWOT of

How can UK replicate this model?

Report back in 45 minutes and present to the whole group and  
will follow up ideas/collaborations