CCSL CENTRO DE COMPETÊNCIA EM SOFTWARE LIVRE
FLOSS Competence Center

E-government and the FLOSSCC Network

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Universidade de São Paulo
USP

Overview

- Electronic government is a strong tendency worldwide
- E-gov encompasses many areas
- Current situation in Brazil
- Challenges and opportunities
- The FLOSS CC Network

Electronic government is a strong tendency worldwide

- **www.epractice.eu**
  - portal and social network for public e-domains
  - cases, news, guidelines, factsheets, tv, blogs
  - **www.epractice.eu/factsheets** presents current status and news regarding e-gov for each country in the EU
- **www.osor.eu**
  - The Open Source Observatory and Repository for European public administrations (OSOR) is a platform for exchanging information, experiences and FLOSS-based code for use in public administrations.

- **CONSEGI** is a large international event, sponsored by the Brazilian government

Electronic government is a strong tendency worldwide

- **The UN performs a periodic survey about the status of e-gov in each of its member States, identifies tendencies, highlights success stories, and ranks each country's e-gov development level**
- **The rank is relative; the score of each country is calculated in relation to the top and bottom scores of all countries**
- **The rank takes three aspects into account:**
  - Quality of government online services
  - National telecommunications connectivity
  - National human capacity

Electronic government is a strong tendency worldwide

- **Quality of government online services**
  - Researchers browse the main government websites and answer a questionnaire about the services provided and the level of difficulty to find information
    - Questions try to identify features in 4 categories: providing basic information, providing more extensive information and communication, providing services depending on citizen identification, and extensive government-citizen interaction
- **Telecommunications connectivity**
  - Based on the average numbers of computer users, internet users, mobile phone users, and broadband users
- **Human capacity**
  - Reflects the national literacy rate and the rate of people attending school

E-gov encompasses many areas

Data access for citizens:

- Online following of the discussion and voting of laws
- Availability of data about ongoing judicial processes, case law, etc.
- Scrutiny of government activities, investments, procurement, etc.
- General information, such as atmospheric pollution maps, news, population data (such as those maintained by IBGE), etc.
- Specific private data that the state maintains about a specific citizen (should be available to that citizen)

E-gov encompasses many areas

- **Shaping of the technological environment within public administration:**
  - Standardization (e.g. Web Service Orchestration and Choreographies)
  - Technical infrastructure for schools, health system (SUS), retirement system, etc.
  - All of the IT tools for the State and related entities
    - Citizen data, such as IDs
    - Collection and control of taxes
    - Development of solutions for internal use

E-gov encompasses many areas

- **Interaction with the citizen**
  - Public consultation, such as the recent “marco civil da internet” and the current reform of the Brazilian copyright law
  - “Ask your representative”
  - Citizen organization and scrutiny, for example with the “ficha limpa” law
- **And others...**

Current situation in Brazil

Several interesting efforts

- At the software front
  - Demoiselle
    - A reusable framework for the development of e-gov applications in many different scenarios
  - Software Público Brasileiro (Brazilian Public Software)
  - Imposto de Renda (IRS)
    - For many years now, works over the Internet on any major OS

Current situation in Brazil

- On the web
  - Lots of websites with data on the various government affairs (senate, presidency, ministries, etc.)
- On other aspects of civil life
  - Registro de Identidade Civil (new Identity Card), which will ease the exchange of data among different branches and simplify the citizen's access to public services

Current situation in Brazil

Still, Brazil ranks at 61 at the UN ranking

- Previously, positioned at 33 in 2005 and 45 in 2008
- Behind Argentina, Chile and Colômbia
- Likely a result of improvements in other countries

The UN ranking

Table 4.9 **Top ranked countries in the Americas**

Rank	Country	E-government development index value		World e-government development ranking	
		2010	2008	2010	2008
1	United States	0.8510	0.8644	2	4
2	Canada	0.8448	0.8172	3	7
3	Colombia	0.6125	0.5317	31	52
4	Chile	0.6014	0.5819	34	40
5	Uruguay	0.5848	0.5645	36	48
6	Barbados	0.5714	0.5667	40	46
7	Argentina	0.5467	0.5844	48	39
8	Antigua and Barbuda	0.5154	0.4485	55	96
9	Mexico	0.5150	0.5893	56	37
10	Brazil	0.5006	0.5679	61	45
	World average	0.4406	0.4514		

The UN ranking

South America

Country	E-government development index value		World e-government development ranking	
	2010	2008	2010	2008
Colombia	0.6125	0.5317	31	52
Chile	0.6014	0.5819	34	40
Uruguay	0.5848	0.5645	36	48
Argentina	0.5467	0.5844	48	39
Brazil	0.5006	0.5679	61	45
Peru	0.4923	0.5252	63	55
Venezuela	0.4774	0.5095	70	62
Ecuador	0.4322	0.4840	95	75
Bolivia	0.4280	0.4867	98	72
Paraguay	0.4243	0.4654	101	88
Guyana	0.4140	0.4375	106	97
Suriname	0.3283	0.3472	127	123
Sub-regional average	0.4869	0.5072		
World average	0.4406	0.4514		

Challenges and opportunities

Interoperability among different branches

- (in)Compatibility of:
  - Tools
  - Data structures
  - Processes
- Privacy concerns
  - how to make sure private data is secured
  - how to give access to the right citizen (and only to him)

Challenges and opportunities

Lack of a *Central, Federated Governmental Portal*

- **Currently available data is scattered among different government entities**
- **An intelligent portal, grouping this data in a single location with an intelligent search system, would make access easier**
  - Better searches, with comprehensive results and without unrelated content; possibly using ontologies
  - Natural-language queries
  - Multimedia and mobility support
  - Results should be offered in a non-technical language and with multiple levels of detail
  - Example: legislation, citizen rights

Slow innovation

Public IT sector in Brazil is disconnected from Universities

- There are very few joint projects between top research groups in Brazil and the government in IT.
- Top researchers are left doing “theoretical” research supported by CNPq or to collaborate with private companies.
- In other fields, e.g., Economics, this is very different.

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FLOSSCC Network

- International Network of FLOSS Competence Centers
- www.flosscc.org or opensource.org/flosscc
- Organized during Open World Forum'2009 when the *Manifesto for FLOSS CCs was released*
- Currently has Centers in 7 countries
- Support from the *Open Source Initiative* (OSI)
- New FLOSSCC Summit to be held in Paris October/2010 when new members will join the network

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FLOSS Competence Center Network

Manifesto for FLOSS Competence Centers

Free / Libre / Open Source Software (FLOSS) has proven itself to be a highly advantageous model for software research, development, and commercialization, providing benefits in terms of cost, reliability, security, agility, interoperability, and vendor independence. In addition, unrestricted availability of source code makes knowledge readily available to all of society.

To further promote worldwide adoption and involvement with FLOSS, a group of Competence Centers shall be established and nurtured. Each Competence Center acts locally in its geographical region, working as a meeting point and knowledge repository in its area. Competence Centers also collaborate in a worldwide community exchanging experiences, methods, and solutions to expand and spread knowledge on FLOSS. These Centers work as catalysts, fostering trust and reliability of FLOSS, not only in the software industry but also in society as a whole.

Competence Centers should:

- be a meeting point for FLOSS users, developers, students, educators, researchers, and other enthusiasts both at the individual and institutional levels;
- stay up-to-date with FLOSS technology, market, and trends;
- provide and extend trust in FLOSS methods, tools, and solutions;
- act as a neutral player within FLOSS matters, trends, and studies;
- develop, maintain, and publish their work under a free/open license; and
- explore new innovation and collaboration opportunities by using FLOSS

In summary, by sharing a common ethics and culture of collaboration, Competence Centers promote synergies among educational institutions, industry, government, and communities. They help the dissemination and application of knowledge on open standards and technologies, and promote the development of Information Technology in a way that benefits the entire human society.

NEWS FROM THE COMPETENCE CENTERS

- Javali at São Paulo!
- The evolution of Ganeti, an Open Source manager for clusterized virtual machines
- FLOSS helps remove vuvuzela sound from World Cup broadcasts
- Eclipse Foundation highlights FLOSS usage growth
- C-DAC releases EduBOSS- an educational variant of BOSS GNU/Linux distribution

more

MANIFESTO

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Current Members

1) Madrid, Spain (URJC + Telefonica)

2) São Paulo/São Carlos, Brazil (USP)

3) Berlin, Germany (FOKUS - Fraunhofer Institute for Open Communication Systems)

4) Maribor, Slovenija (COKS)

5) Chennai (Madras), India (National Resource Centre for Free/Open Source Software - NRCFOSS)

6) Tokyo, Japan (Information-Technology Promotion Agency - IPA)

7) Italy (Engineering, U. Bolzano, U. dell'Insubria, U. Sannio)

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The FLOSS CC Network and e-Gov

The FLOSS CC Network is ready to help with e-gov efforts

- Partnerships among Universities, Government branches, and Contractors
- Research
  - new models of interaction/organization
  - federation of services and data provision on the Web
  - middleware for e-gov
  - Web Service Orchestration and Choreographies
- Development
  - specific innovative applications and services
- Training
  - on FLOSS tools, technologies, and development environments

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Thanks!

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Visit us:

- **http://ccsl.ime.usp.br**

Write us:

- **ccsl@ime.usp.br**

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E-gov and the IT industry

- **The State interacts strongly and directly with the whole society; therefore, State-defined standards impact the whole market**
  - Larger number of service providers
  - More users adopting the same tools as the State branches
  - The need to interoperate with the State influences the choice of technology
- **Therefore, FLOSS adoption by the State promotes FLOSS in society**
- **Adoption of ODF (CONSEGI declaration 2008)**