



No. Admn/435/1517/16908

From

Principal Secretary to Government, Haryana,
Information Technology, Electronics & Communication Department,
Chandigarh.

To

1. All the Administrative Secretaries to Government of Haryana;
2. All the Divisional Commissioners in Haryana;
3. All the Heads of Departments in Haryana;
4. All the Managing Directors/ Chief Administrators/ Chief Executive Officers of Boards/ Corporations/ Public Sector Undertakings, etc;
5. All the Deputy Commissioners in Haryana;
6. The Registrars of all Universities in Haryana;

Chandigarh dated, the 14.01.2022.

Subject: Uniform Guidelines for Switching to Open-Source Technologies.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to invite a reference to the deliberation and decision taken in 125th State Technical Committee meeting held under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary IT, Electronics & Communication Government of Haryana on 25th August 2021 where in usage of proprietary OEMs/ licensing and Open Source options were discussed.

Need was felt that due to the use of proprietary software, the OEMs are charging huge costs for licensing subscription fee for support/ upgradation/ updation. The OEMs citing change in their policies or global changes increase cost of their licensed products which is causing unnecessary financial burden. The impact of surge pricing in licensing becomes multifold as the procurement through various modes is happening across the State. Accordingly, Department has prepared the detailed guidelines, copy of which is enclosed herewith.

You are requested to direct the concerned officer(s) to use Open-source technologies for development of applications and migrate the existing applications in a phased manner.

Director (Admn.)

for Principal Secretary to Government,
Haryana Information Technology, Electronics and Communication Department.

Annexure 'A': "Guidelines for Adoption of Open-Source Software"

1. Background

While developing applications for the state, a strong need has been identified for switching over to Open-Source Technologies. GOI has also been "promoting the use of open-source technologies in e-Governance domain within the country to leverage economic and strategic benefits".

These "Guidelines on Adoption of Open-Source Software for Government of Haryana" will encourage the formal adoption and use of Open-Source Software (OSS) in various departments and will act as a guide in setting up a commensurate hardware and software infrastructure, which may eventually build the State capacity, increase interoperability and reduce dependency on proprietary software.

2. Need:

- a) In the state of Haryana major applications are being developed on .Net platform and the developers are available for that however, 'applications developed specifically on MS technologies are platforms dependent and therefore not compatible with the open-source technologies.
- b) Applications can easily be developed on fully open source and cross platform frameworks like DotNet Core and DotNet 5 i.e., the software so developed is platform independent ie can work on Windows, Linux or Mac Operating Systems.
- c) With past experience it has been observed that stable & secure applications can be developed easily on Open Source software platforms like PHP, MySQL, etc.
- d) In the state there are many large scale projects which are on MS technologies and migrating them to 'Open-Source platform won't be easy however the new development and small/ mid-sizer projects can be migrated in a phased manner.
- e) However, there is a strong need for migrating from proprietary software licensing/ support model to open-source platforms.
- f) Also switching to open-source platforms would require training and capacity building of the IT resources deployed with departments, Boards and Corporations and Universities etc.

3. Implementation Phases

- a) For Development of Applications:

Phase-1:

- a) The new development (Web/Mobile) be carried out in open-source platform / technologies
- b) The small and medium scale existing applications be migrated to the open-source platform within 3-6 months
- c) Capacity Building of existing resource is required and they may be encouraged to act as master trainers and extend their knowledge to other resources.
- d) Capacity building wing of DITECH may be contacted for needful training and capacity building activities.

Phase-2:

- a) The Large/ Enterprise scale applications be migrated to the open-source platform – special care to be taken to migrate Critical applications.

b) For Switching to Open OS & Office:

- a) laptops and desktops to be encouraged to be procured without MS Windows or MS office
- b) This would significantly reduce the cost of the hardware.
- c) User convenience is more with Microsoft products and open-source office is not that friendly to use, therefore migration process may be carried out gradually.

4. Compliance

- a) All development teams while developing and implementing applications and systems must ensure the usage of Open-Source Technologies by the respective development teams.
- b) Administrative Departments/ HODs shall ensure compliance with this requirement towards capability, strategic control, scalability, security, lifetime costs, and support requirements.
- c) In the case of third-party development, the department should include a specific requirement in Request for Proposal (RFP) for all suppliers to consider Open-Source Systems while responding.
- d) The ownership of the developed source code shall remain with the indenting organization and shall be free from any royalty.
- e) DITECH shall actively collaborate with OSS communities and contribute wherever appropriate.

5. Exceptions

In case there is an exception and department want to use the proprietary software licensing, the same is to be brought to the notice of State IT Technical Committee headed by Principal Secretary, Information Technology, Electronics & Communication Department, to decide on the matter.