F.No.J-13011/1/2014-e-Gov.
Government of India
Ministry of Water Resources,
River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation,
(e-Governance Cell)

Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg,
New Delhi, dated the o1 April 2015.

## Office Memorandum

**Subject:- Guidelines for using Open source software and Open Application Programming Interfaces in developing e-Governance applications– reg.**

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Department of Electronics & Information Technology's draft policies on using Open source software (OSS) and open Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) and to forward guidelines formulated in association with NIC about using OSS and open APIs in developing e-Governance applications for your information and compliance:-

2.    **Background:-** Government of India aims to make all Government services digitally accessible to the common people and ensure efficiency, transparency & reliability of such services at affordable costs.

⊕    To meet this objective, there is a need to setup huge infrastructure in terms of hardware and software. Many a times software is proprietary in nature and involves huge cost in licenses and its renewal.

⊕    GoI aims to promote the use of OSS and Open APIs in e-Governance applications and systems in comparison to Closes Source Software (CSS).

3.    **Key Features & Advantages:-**

⊕    Open source software ensures availability of devices drivers for Open source Operating system in e-Governance applications. This will enable technology neutral and cost effective deployment of e-Governance application.

⊕    Open source software are user/ Client license requirement free but Legacy/ branded/proprietary software require user license for development as well as for application access by client user. The user license requirements depends on the client/ user visiting the particular e-Governance application.

⊕    This would provide freedom to redistribute copies to organizations etc. under the Ministry.

⊕    The freedom to improve the program and release the improvements to the public so that the whole community benefits. Access to source code is precondition for this.

⊕    Open standards for OSS and APIs are independent of Operating system platform and interoperability.

- Open APIs would provide interoperable ecosystem of data, applications and processes which will make the right information available to the right user at the right time.
- Having an open API allows various stakeholders to manipulate an existing service to serve their own interests.
- It would encourage 'one-stop shop' of Government datasets and statistics, ripe for analysis by statisticians, researchers and data scientists.
- It would reduce time and complexity of transparent integrating e-Governance applications and rapidly deliver new services by bridging new channels and delivery models with back-end e-Governance applications.
- This would harness the Internet of Things via scalable, reliable, real time event driven interactions.
- It would facilitate access to Government owned shareable data and information within the framework of National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP-2012).

4.    **How to Comply?-**

- · While implementing e-Governance applications and systems, a specific requirement in Request for Proposal (RFP) must be included for all suppliers to consider OSS along with CSS. While responding suppliers shall provide justification for exclusion of OSS.

5.    This has the approval of Secretary (WR, RD & GR).

**(Ashok Kumar Gupta)**
Under Secretary to the Government of India
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To

1.    All Heads of Organizations under the Ministry.
2.    All Wing Heads of the Ministry
3.    **Technical Director,** NIC-MoWR, RD & GR with a request to kindly upload this on Intra-MoWR as well.

Copy for information to:-

1.    Sr. PPS to Secretary (WR, RD & GR),
2.    PS to AS(WR, RD & GR).