

Getting the Maximum Benefit from Free and Open Source Software

Scott Wilson & Mark Johnson



OSS Watch

Independent

Non-advocacy

Based at University of Oxford

Long history of supporting education

<http://oss-watch.ac.uk>

@osswatch



What is Open Source? What is Free Software?



Software Freedom

- 0: The freedom to run the program, for **any purpose**
- 1: The freedom to study how the program works, and **adapt it to your needs**
- 2: The freedom to redistribute copies so you can **help your neighbor**
- 3: The freedom to **improve the program, and release your improvements to the public, so that the whole community benefits**



Open Source Definition

- Freely Redistributable
- Source Code Included
- Derived Works Permitted
- Integrity of Author Source Code
- No Discrimination Against Persons or Groups
- No Discrimination Against Fields of Endeavour
- Distribution of License
- License Must Not Be Specific to a Product (or distribution)
- License Must Not Restrict Other Software
- License Must Be Technology-Neutral (no 'click wrap')



Open Development

- Some, but by no means all Open Source projects practice a form of **community-led** open development
- Open development supports **sustainable** software communities, fostering **cooperation** and **user engagement**



Why does it matter?



Two Reasons

- Sustained Value from ICT
- Meeting User Needs

Sustained Value

- Reducing total cost of IT
- Avoiding lock-in
- Accessing the best solutions for purpose
- Amplifying investment

Reducing cost

Open Source solutions usually, but not always, have a **lower TCO**

This is driven principally not by removing licensing costs, but by **wider choice of suppliers** when it comes to hosting, support, consultancy and also from **unbundling**.

For example, many **local SMEs** provide services for common OSS platforms such as Drupal, Wordpress, and Joomla. In some cases *this alone has driven 90% savings for central procurements*



Avoiding Lock-In

The takeover, and subsequent end-of-life of WebCT by market leader Blackboard was a wake up call for many in the sector



Both closed-source **and** open-source software need to be evaluated for **sustainability** and viability of **exit strategies** examined as part of risk management

Accessing the best solutions



Amplifying investment

- Open development of open source can amplify investment in solutions by engaging a wider, more diverse **community** of users and developers
- Open development avoids abandonware and other pitfalls of closed projects



Meeting User Needs

- A key characteristic of **Open Source** is the flexibility to innovate, contribute, and extend without having to seek permission
- A key characteristic of **Open Development** is ability to collaborate to share costs of niche requirements

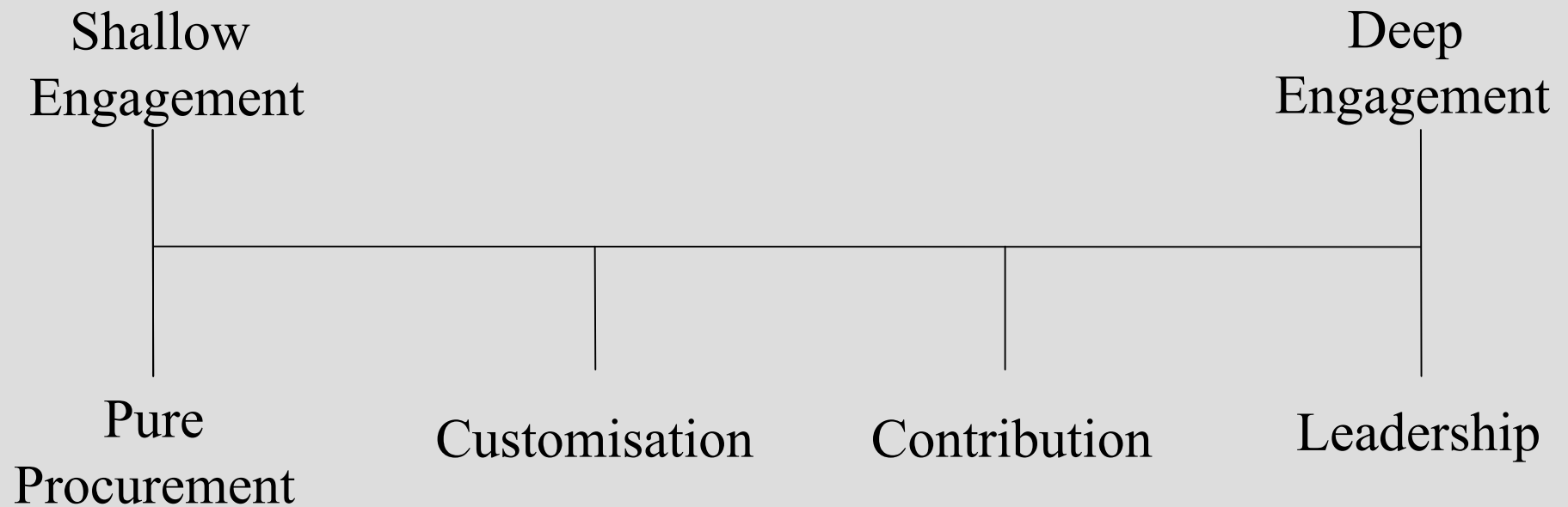
Shared Solutions



Over to Mark...



The Scale of Engagement



The Scale of Engagement

Deeper engagement != More value

You can maximise value for the point on the scale you choose to position yourself

Pure Procurement

Just like proprietary software!

Ensure your procurement policies give
open source a level playing field

Ask Us!



Customisation

Flexibility

FOSS is often modular

Documentation and developer support is
key



Contribution

Ensures customisations are maintainable

Encourages better coding

Builds influence in the upstream project



Leadership

Founding/Finding/Forking

Allows you to ensure the project meets your needs

Allows you to benefit from the investment of others



Strategic Challenges

- Many institutions have procurement policies that consider open source but there is often a **gap between policy and practice** and **uneven implementation within institutions**
- Open source options available for consideration in many, **but not all**, application areas (see <http://oss.ly/opt>)
- Open source projects from within the sector fill some niches **but these often do not use open development**

Summing Up

- Level the playing field for open source, and local SMEs, in procurement of software and services, at **both a policy and practice level across the organisation**
- Where new solutions and services are developed internally **consider using open development practices**
- Identify an **appropriate level of engagement with FOSS**



Find out more

<http://oss-watch.ac.uk>

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Bonus questions!

Cloud!

Security!

Legal!

Money!

Men with Beards!



Cloud

Cloud services can be **built on OSS**

*Google, Twitter, Facebook, GitHub, gov.uk,
Coursera*

... or provide a way to **deploy OSS**

Microsoft VM Depot, ULCC

... or be offered **as OSS**

OpenStack, EdX, Identi.ca, Diaspora

