Harnessing Open Source for Agile Government

Agility is essential to today's government operations — and as GBC's recent poll of federal employees shows, open-source software is increasingly seen as a key enabler for this agility.

"My organization is committed to exploring, adopting, and sharing open-source software to meet mission demands."

30%	32%	38%
Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree

While adoption varies among agencies, there is growing recognition that sharing custom source code for reuse and modification can dramatically improve cost efficiency, mission effectiveness, and citizen service experiences.

Since the establishment of the Federal Source Code Policy in 2016, the federal government has taken steps to reduce duplicative acquisitions and inefficient use of taxpayer dollars.

Code.gov: In this repository of over 4,500 open source projects, users can find WNTR — a tool developed by EPA to analyze resilience of water distribution networks — as well as ITS ODE, a real-time virtual data router created by DOT to distribute traffic management processes.

Code.mil: Modeled after Code.gov, this DoD invention seeks to leverage open source to improve military readiness and efficiency.

GitHub and Government: Approved by GSA, this partnership between GitHub and federal agencies provides another platform for publishing, using, and sharing open-source code.

The time is ripe for more agencies to reap the benefits of open source

Digital Services	Citizen Access	Business Analytics	Security Analytics	Enterprise Research	Logging

Want to learn more?

The Federal Source Code Policy provides a number of recommendations to aid early adopters of open source.

About GBC

As Government Executive Media Group's research division, Government Business Council (GBC) is dedicated to advancing the business of government through analysis, insight, and analytical independence. An extension of Government Executive's 40 years of exemplary editorial standards and commitment to the highest ethical values, GBC studies influential decision makers from across government to produce intelligence-based research and analysis.

About Elastic

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Learn more at elastic.co.

Sources

1. Code.gov:
https://code.gov/#/
2. Code.mil:
https://www.code.mil/
3. GitHub and Government:
https://government.github.com/
4. Federal Source Code Policy:
https://sourcecode.cio.gov/