



Open Source Observatory Policy Factsheet

China

OSOR

1 General Information

China exhibits a significant degree of engagement with open source software. In comparison to European policies, the primary focus of the Chinese government in relation to open source revolves around providing industrial support to this industry. With a history of active involvement in open source spanning over 25 years, the open source industry in China can be seen as a multifaceted collaboration between the public and private sectors, often with a blurred line between governmental and private interests. This intricately woven partnership encounters challenges, particularly concerning questions of autonomy and national security.

2 Actors

POLICY MAKERS

The Ministry of Industry & Information Technology (MIIT), is in charge of regulation and development of the postal service, Internet, wireless, broadcasting, communications, production of electronic and information goods and the software industry. It oversees the global digital policy for the country and therefore has an influence on the Chinese regulations on open source.

STRATEGIC PLAYER

The China Open Source Cloud League (COSCL) was created in 2012 by MIIT's department for software services. It is the designated organisation for the development of China's open-source cloud ecosystem. It participated in the creation of the Mulan open source licence together with Pekin University.

3 Policy and Legal Framework

14th Five-Year Plan for National Informatisation, 2021

This document, issued by the Central Network Security and Informatisation Committee, calls for important progress to be made in the construction of the open source community ecosystem.

Development Plan for Software and Information Technology Service Industry in the 14th Five-Year Plan of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT)

This plan details ambitious objectives to support open source as an ecosystem, through measures such as training, industrial support or IP management.



4 Open Source Software Initiatives

openKylin:

openKylin is the latest version of China's work to create its own operating system based on OSS. China's Kylin operating system project initiated in 2001. Since 2013, a lot of the development of Kylin took place within the Ubuntu Kylin project.

OSCAR Open Source Industry Conference:

Co-organised by the CAICT, the Cloud Computing Standards and Open Source Promotion Committee, this event held since 2019 in this form has served as one of the public fronts of the CAICT's work on open source. It also features the OSCAR Open Source Peak Case Awards.

18th Open Source China Open Source World Summit, 2023:

Started in 2005 and organised by the COPU, this is the oldest Chinese open source conference. Each year it features some of the most important open source figures globally.

CAICT's Global Open Source Ecosystem White Paper:

Released yearly since 2020, this paper analyses the governance structures and trends of open source from the Chinese government's perspective. It presents the industry's role as well as, since the 2022 version, policies created by both the EU and US.