



Open Source Observatory Policy Factsheet

Singapore

OSOR

1 General Information

Singapore has created a strong digitalisation programme over the last ten years and has evolved its digital strategy to adapt to various challenges. Overall, its agencies have adopted a robust entrepreneurial approach to using open source, which has naturally evolved to meet the government's needs. Under the Smart Nations and Digital Government Group's responsibility, the government's digital policy is being designed and implemented by a dedicated agency, GovTech. Open Government Products, an independent unit of GovTech, is the main entity responsible for the development of open source solutions.

2 Actors

POLICY MAKERS

Smart Nation and Digital Government Group (SNDGG), established in May 2017, is overseen by a Ministerial Committee made of the ministers in charge of communications and information, public service, GovTech Singapore and a senior minister. The SNDGG mission leads the development of digital government's services and coordinates the work related to the use and implementation of open source.

STRATEGIC PLAYER

The Open Government Products unit of GovTech is tasked with accelerating the digital transformation of the Singapore Government by applying an experimental approach to IT development. It is the main open source actor in the Singaporean government. Founded in 2019, it maintains various open source solutions and has created a yearly hackathon.

3 Policy and Legal Framework

Smart Nations Initiative

This Initiative created the Smart Nation and Digital Government Group which oversees government digital services. It is based on 3 key pillars: Digital Economy, Digital Government and Digital Society. Its objectives regarding Digital Government were developed in the subsequent Digital Government Blueprint.

Memorandum of cooperation with Japan

Signed by the Digital Agency of Japan and the Government Technology Agency of Singapore the declaration calls for the support of open, inclusive and transparent government, which includes promoting open standards and open source technology.



4 Open Source Software Initiatives

Singapore Government Developer Portal, 2019

Set up by GovTech Digital Services unit, this portal allows citizens and businesses to access digital products developed by the government. Among other categories, a section of the website is dedicated to open source solutions.

sgID, 2021

An Open Government Products project, sgID is a digital identity verification and authorisation service using government-verified data that's integrated into the SingPass app which is also released as open source.

FormSG, 2020

One of Open Government Products' flagship projects, FormSG is a form builder and manager used by the Singaporean government to collect data from residents and businesses. The code was forked from Typeform. It has been implemented in many sectors and has been used in more than 110 million submissions. This solution has been further forked and reused by the Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) of Sri Lanka.

FOSSASIA's Open Tech Summit, 2009-now

One of the biggest open technology conferences in Asia, the Open Tech Summit of FOSSASIA is held annually in Singapore. It gathers professionals from the public and private sectors and is held by the FOSSASIA organisation, which also develops open source software and hardware. Additionally, FOSSASIA organises events under the name "codeheat" which are contests aiming to help develop the association's projects and invite the best developers to participate in their Open Tech Summit.