

# Open Source Policy UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (Federal Government)



## 1

### General Information

The General Services Administration (GSA) is a federal agency in the United States of America, and acts as the main actor toward encouraging the uptake of open source software (OSS) throughout the federal government. The Federal Source Code Policy (M-16-21), released in August 2016 (now archived), was the first U.S. federal policy to support open source across the government.

## 2

### Actors



The **General Services Administration (GSA)** is a U.S. federal agency. Its main role is to provide centralised procurement for the federal government. The GSA applies the principle of open source-first.



**18F** is a consultancy by and for the U.S. Government. The main task of 18F is to help government services improve user experience by building and buying technology. 18F builds openly by default, as stated in its open source policy.

## 3

### Policy and Legal Framework

2014

#### Digital Services Playbook

Play 5 highlights that open source alternatives should be evaluated when contracting a service. Play 13 encourages a default to open and publishing codebases under open source licences and making components available to the public as open source.

2016

#### Federal Source Code Policy

The Policy aims to support the opening of data sets and collections of the government. It requires that at least 20% of the newly built source code that was developed by or for the Federal Government is made available across all Federal agencies as OSS.

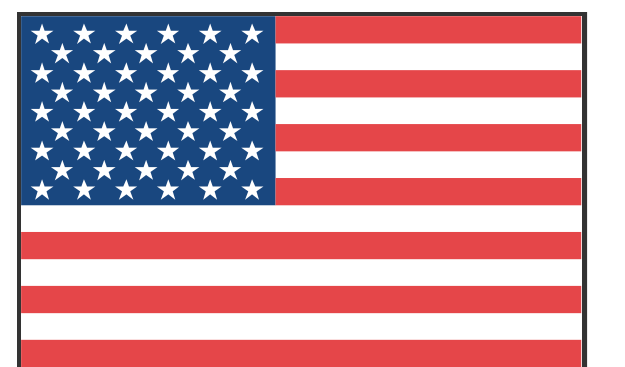
2020

#### Federal Data Strategy

The Strategy aims to enhance the data management of federal agencies by providing a set of data principles and best practices. Among others, it launched a pilot for the GSA to leverage the existing data.gov open source codebase.

## 4

### Open Source Software Initiatives



**Code.gov:** The Code.gov website was established following the publication of the Federal Source Code Policy. It is used by federal agencies to share and reuse open source code, promote open source projects, as well as track compliance with federal open source policy.

**Pandemic Response Repository:** The repository was created by the New America foundation. It is a collection of open source digital resources that governments may use to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Projects can be sorted by different topics such as health, assistance, community, and research.

**Federalist:** The Federalist is a publishing platform that uses open source in the public domain. Any organisations using the services are therefore also built using open source code. The main activity of Federalist is building, launching and managing government websites, which have exceeded 100. Nine U.S. government agencies power their websites with Federalist.

**College Scorecard:** Launched by the Department of Education, College Scorecard is an OSS website and application programming interface (API). It was developed for citizens, more precisely for future college and university students, who can use the free tools of the website to decide which institution to attend.