



## **The Impact of Open Source Software on Government Transformation**

Oct. 20, 2008, 12:00-3:00 p.m. ET

### **Transcript of Videoconference Greeting**

By Marcos Vinicius Ferreira Mazoni, Director-President, SERPRO (Brazil)

"I will talk about the Brazilian free software perspective and strategy.

We've been working with the principle of knowledge acquisition and management as a strategy. That is much more than just the objectives of saving resources or simply comparing software prices. Our commitment is with our knowledge and our intelligence.

We are knowledge resourceful in our country and we are investing in the leading edge knowledge of how technology evolves and how this evolution impacts our information systems and the way they are built.

Our governments are heavy users of information systems. In fact we have one of the highest information systems dependency levels in the whole world. We need to deal with multiple platforms on both the user and the server sides. The best way for us to operate in such a scenario without becoming vendor-dependent is to adopt an approach that combines free software and standards.

Standards play a key role in our software development policy and free software provides us with mainstream tools to comply with those standards.

When we build free software-based solutions, we are promoting further knowledge development and fostering our country's abilities to contribute to global communities. This is our relation with the free software world and from this relation comes cooperation.

Free Software becomes more sustainable as more people cooperate, sharing information and knowledge and working toward the same goal. Thus we are building a permanent free knowledge network in South America, Latin America, Europe, USA and whatever other countries or regions that undertake commitments to share this will, including Africa and Oceania

Our belief is that our knowledge grows more solid and stronger as more and more people and nations work together to provide responses to our needs. In this way we will achieve joint development working with those players or derive development from the ' achievements of others. This is, in our view, the best way to define free software and standards.

Clearly we have extensive savings once we adopt free software, and since it is possible to reuse open source software we are also able to accelerate our processes. But the essential goal of our free software policy is to contribute to mankind's ability to use technology to meet social and economic objectives.

This allows a non-dependent process by which software evolves, since free software leverages all players at the topmost level of knowledge and technology with no industry-driven lag or handicap, but the possibility for all to choose their best options as good as "best" may get.

The developed nations in technology and those currently in development are all facing the same conditions to benefit from the mankind's achievements and evolution. This is the underlying reason why we are working in Brazil for very strong adoption of free software in our "telecenters", schools, and health facilities as well as in the Brazilian e-gov as a whole.

Brazil's federal e-gov infrastructure is based on FOSS. This won't preclude the use proprietary or closed software. But our government's policy, our perspective, is to move further and further into free software world, free knowledge. That is why is so important to take part in discussions like this. Knowing more people, users, and developers, we get acquainted with new solutions and partners, strengthening this win-win network.

I'd like to wish you a great GOSCON. I see this kind of dialogue and network building as of the very highest importance and look forward to hear great results from this meeting.

Have a good conference!"