

Locked in by choice: why the city of Rome is championing open source software

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Created 04/05/2017 - 9:21pm

Submitted by Roy Schestowitz on Thursday 4th of May 2017 09:21:58 PM Filed under [LibO](#) [1] [OOo](#) [2]

ComputerWeekly.com

Five years after the European Union adopted a policy designed to free public bodies in Europe from proprietary software, government authorities across Europe are deeply dependent on Microsoft software and services.

However, some government agencies have managed to migrate to open source alternatives. Their projects are often difficult, temporary, and, carried out under the radar, in an attempt to escape lobbying both from Microsoft and other parts of government.

Rome is one of Europe's cities advocating open source as a better alternative to Microsoft. City councilor, Flavia Marzano, argues that open source should start on the desktop with open source alternatives to Microsoft Office.

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