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A Setback for FOSS in the Public (War) Sector, CONNECT Interoperability Project Shifting to the Private Sector

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- **GAO: DoD Not Fully Implementing Open-Source Mandates** [2]

  > The Department of Defense has not fully implemented mandates from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to increase its use of open-source software and release code, according to a September 10 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report.

  > The report notes that the 2018 NDAA mandated DoD establish a pilot program on open source and a report on the program?s implementation. It also says that OMB?s M-16-21 memorandum requires all agencies to release at least 20 percent of custom-developed code as open-source, with a metric for calculating program performance.

  > However, DoD has released less than 10 percent of its custom code, and had not developed a measure to calculate the performance of the pilot program. In comments to GAO, the DoD CIO?s office said there has been difficulty inventorying all of its custom source code across the department, and disagreement on how to assess the success for a performance measure. While the department worked to partially implement OMB?s policy, the department had not yet issued a policy.

- **Pentagon moves slowly on open-source software mandate amid security concerns** [3]

The Defense Department has been slow to meet a government-wide mandate to release more open-source software code, as DOD officials have concerns about cybersecurity risks and are struggling to implement such a program across the department, according to a new audit.

- **[DOD struggles to implement open source software pilots](#)**[4]

  The Department of Defense?s congressionally mandated efforts to create an open source software program aren?t going so well.

  DOD must release at least 20 percent of its custom software as open source through a pilot required by a 2016 Office of Management and Budget directive and the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act. Open source software, OMB says, can encourage collaboration, ?reduce costs, streamline development, apply uniform standards, and ensure consistency in creating and delivering information.?

- **[DOD drags feet with open-source software program due to security, implementation concerns](#)**[5]

  The Defense Department has been slow to meet a government-wide mandate to release more open-source software code, as DOD officials have concerns about cybersecurity risks and are struggling to implement such a program across the department, according to a new audit. Since 2016, DOD has been required by law to implement an open-source software pilot program in accordance with policy established by the Office of Management and Budget.

- **[DOD pushes back on open source](#)** [6]

- **[DOD pushes back on open source](#)** [7]

- **[CONNECT Interoperability Project Shifting to the Private Sector](#)**[8]

  The CONNECT project, an open source project that aims to increase interoperability among organizations, is transitioning from federal stewardship to the private sector and will soon be available to everyone.

  Developed ten years ago by a group of federal agencies in the Federal Health Architecture (FHA), CONNECT was a response to ONC?s original approach to a health information

network. The agencies decided to build a joint health interoperability solution instead of having each agency develop its own custom solution, and they chose to make the project open source.

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