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# PORTLAND, OREGON

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Office of Mayor Sam Adams

**Sam Adams, Mayor**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Mayor Adams Introduces Open Source Resolution**

*City and Regional Partners Seek to Put Data to Work with Help of Local Software Professionals*

(Portland, OR) The City of Portland today renewed the national call for increased transparency and open government by announcing support for open source software and open data. Developed using a collaborative process often involving commercial vendors, non-profit communities and individual enthusiasts, open source generally gives its users the rights to use, copy, modify and redistribute the software created.

"Today's announcement is about open government, cost savings and job creation for our region," said Mayor Sam Adams. "Software is a key industry cluster, and bringing together a growing industry with increased public sector transparency means more public involvement, smarter policy, and a stronger economy."

The Portland region is already a global leader in the open source industry. The Silicon Forest open source landscape includes vendors like Intel and IBM, software firms such as Janrain, Reductive Labs, and CSI, higher education institutions including Portland State University and OSU's Open Source Lab, and globally visible events, including LinuxCon and Innotech. With the public sector getting involved in three significant ways, the region is well-positioned to maintain leadership on this future-facing innovation.

"The City of Portland has done a remarkable job of bringing civic and institutional bench-strength to its new Open Data Initiative and complementary open source strategy," said Deborah Bryant, Public Sector Communities Manager at Oregon State University's Open Source Lab. " 'Open' initiatives are sweeping the imagination of all levels of government. Portland and Oregon are now poised to tap into a wealth of enthusiasm, collaborative talent and technical skills to retain our region's reputation as the epicenter of Open Source Software."

Today's resolution addresses two key areas of opportunity:

- **Open Source Software**

The City of Portland will consider Open Source Software as a viable alternative to proprietary software in future City purchases, especially where doing so can result in savings on software license fees that are common with commercial systems. Open Source Software and open standards offer platform-neutral alternatives to commercial options allowing for data interchange.

The City of Portland will consider Open Source Software when analyzing business requirements during the selection of new software. Additionally, the City will identify existing commercial systems scheduled for replacement in the near future and ensure Open Source Software is also considered in the improvement of the City's technology environment.

- **Open data**

The City is currently working with regional partners to open their data for public access in the Portland Metro area. Once that data is available in accessible formats, community developers will have the opportunity to participate in a region-wide Application Design Contest. The Contest is designed to encourage the creation of freely available open source licensed applications and mashups that use, interpret, and visualize the data. Mashups are applications that combine data from multiple sources into a single integrated experience.

Moving to open data will have the added benefit of allowing inter-governmental and non-governmental agencies to readily access and leverage each others' information, lessening past practices of institutional siloing away of data. The City expects that initial datasets will include regional maps and boundaries, zoning, business and building permits, crime, and many others.

For more information, please contact Rick Nixon at the Bureau of Technology Services. His email address is [rick.nixon@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:rick.nixon@ci.portland.or.us).

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