

POSS Network Activities and F/OSS Adoption in Indonesia

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Abstract

Indonesia has a very big population scattered in most of its 14000 islands. Unfortunately, the population are not uniformly distributed (in terms of density, prosperity and literacy, including IT literacy). To keep pace with IT progress while alleviating poverty, Indonesia are encouraged to adopt Free/Open Source Software (F/OSS) as an approach to be legal with low-cost. The government, represented by five ministries, accepted F/OSS by declaring IGOS (Indonesia Goes Open Source) Movement in 2004. Lots of efforts have been carried out to realize the IGOS spirit, two of them are creating Indonesian distros (IGOS, Blankon, Kuliak) and setting up F/OSS corners (IGOS Centers & POSS Network). The POSS Network is a hand-in-hand collaboration between government (represented by Ministry of Research and Technology) with Universities to boost the adoption of F/OSS in the community. POSS Network members have organized activities, such as: seminar/conference, competition, roadshow to schools and government offices, setting up repositories and portal, training, setting up help desk and developing applications/distros.

Currently, the F/OSS has been adopted by many organization, not to mention by individuals in Indonesia. This promising situation for F/OSS can not be separated from the government commitment to realize IGOS declaration indicated by the issuance of at least two important Letter of Encouragement by the Ministry of Communication and Informatics (DepKomInfo) and the Ministry of Civil Servant Empowerment (KemenPAN). For short, F/OSS has gained its attention and sufficient share of use by Indonesians, especially academicians (universities and schools), business (state/private) or profit-oriented organizations government offices and NGOs (including voluntary communities).

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