

Switching to Open Source Coops UK Hackathon

Summary of Contents

- Incomplete list of alternatives/examples
- Resources for switching
- Barriers to switching
- Possible actions/tactics

Incomplete List of Alternatives 1

Proprietary	Alternative	Comment
Windows/IOS	Linux	NetBSD etc. too!
Office365	LibreOffice	Contribute to dev too?
Slack	Mattermost	Core only is free now
Ning	Elgg	Social Network Software
360Learning	Moodle	Many UK Universities
Facebook	Frendica	Early Development
Elastic Search	Opensearch	Amazon did this!
Twitter	Mastodon	Not exactly, federation
Google docs	Cryptpad	
Youtube	Peertube	Framasoft, see later

Incomplete List of Alternatives 2

Proprietary	Alternative	Comment
AWS	OpenStack	Not exactly equivalent
Dropbox	NextCloud	OwnCloud successor
Infrastructure		
AWS/Azure	To be discussed	
	Innovation Coop	
	Krystal	Ex Exeter Uni, non Coop
	Space/ideas for development here	

Resources for Switching

Resource	Comment
https://www.opensourcealternative.to/	
https://alternativeto.net/	
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_free_and_open-source_software_package	
To be completed! Search ' <i>open source alternatives</i> ' for example	

Barriers to Switching 1

- Dominance of Brands, 'safe' choices
- Institutional Inertia
- If it's 'free' then it's worthless, market framing
- Lack of polish and integration, harder 'work' (searching too)
- Fear of unknown
- Lack of associated training
- Disruption
- Under supported and dead projects

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Barriers to Switching 2

- Warranties and insurance (but can inspect code!)
- Accounting and formal processes (it may not 'cost' anything!)
- Installation, apt get/snap etc. as opposed to Windows installer

Possible Actions/Tactics

- Training/Education
- How to search and evaluate (choice heuristics)
- Pilot projects and limited switching
- Switching when prototyping (de-risking)
- Information sharing between silos and coops
- Contribution to projects (finance, support and code, especially 'foundations')

Thanks/Questions/Comments

- I'm aware that this is very incomplete!
- Basis and structure for something more substantial
- Thanks for all the contributions
- Saved as powerpoint, ugh!
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- Hugh Barnard 2024 Coops UK Lichfield (copy and paste at will)
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