



BT Innovate & Design
Open Source Operations Team

BT Open Source policy – extracts for suppliers

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Date:	8 March 2011

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Change log

Issue and date	Authors	Changes
Draft 5 29/01/11	S Barnes, J McAvoy	Drawn from BT internal policy
Issue 1	S Barnes, J McAvoy	Following Legal discussion

1. Introduction

BT has a number of policies around the use of open source and this document intends to provide outline on the key aspects of some of these top level policies. This document is designed to give BT suppliers some understanding and guidance on what is expected when using open source within BT products and services.

2. Important notice

The information in this paper comprises extracts from BT internal open source policies - it **does not** comprise the actual policy. The intention is to give the reader a picture of BT's approach to open source for information only.

3. BT's Open Source policy – key principles

- BT recognises, and welcomes the use of open source software within BT. The use of open source software is a combination of commercial, business and architectural decisions made by BT Innovate & Design or other authorised BT decision makers. BT will be a good custodian and contributor to the open source software community, including participation in relevant standards.
- Open source software is managed – as far as possible - in the same way as any other software in BT. Technical choice will be made and authorised by "Platform Architects" within BT Innovate and Design (BTID) and will be considered to be part of a BT portfolio of approved applications and infrastructure.
- BT will always abide by both the letter and spirit of open source software licensing.

4. BT's Open Source Policy extracts

4.1. *Approval for use*

All open source software used in BT must be approved for use – in the same way as any other software. This approval is exercised by a BTID Platform Architect as part of the overall BT software portfolio management under the BT Matrix Architecture principles. The supplier will be expected to declare to BT all open source used in their supplies.

4.2. *Open source software as part of a BT procured product/service*

Where open source software is part of a product or service being procured from a third party, the following applies (depending on the ultimate use of the procured product or service):

Where BT intends to onward sell products or services to BT customers containing open source software, BT will engage with the supplier to fully understand the open source software included as part of the solution - this is because open source software licences contain obligations that become active when the code is "distributed", and BT must comply with such licence conditions. A full "bill of materials" must be provided and every open source software component and its associated licence understood. On top of this, BT also needs to know the context of use of the software and any modifications made, as this is key to understanding whether the obligations are applicable.

BT Procurement and Supply Chain will insert a special open source clause in all relevant supply contracts which covers BT expectations on suppliers regarding disclosure of open source software and relevant licence obligations. BT projects will exercise "continuous diligence" in the use of open source software components, recording every component, and understanding the licence obligations and ensuring there are no licensing clashes. This will be done from the inception of the project right through to delivery to the customer. BT may scan source code libraries and carry out a full subsequent analysis before delivery.

Note the supplier's own supply chain will need to be taken into consideration when considering how the supplier must comply with licence obligations.

4.3. *Outsourced/Offshored work*

Where contractors or sub-contractors are working on software development for BT, they will be made aware of the BT open source policy, and will be required to adhere to the same conditions as for BT employees (eg in the areas of architectural approval, safeguards in downloading and using, adherence to licence conditions, contributing code to open source projects etc). In all cases the BT Programme Manager's approval must be sought by the contractor/sub-contractor..

4.4. *Legal & Licensing*

All software has an associated licence, and open source software is no different. The licence is effectively a grant to use the software within the terms of the licence. BT policy is to always adhere to the requirements of all software licences, including all open source software licences. Particular care must be exercised where BT "distributes" open source software (e.g. as part of a product or service sold or passed onto external customers), because some open source software licences contain obligations on BT that trigger on such "distribution".

4.5. *BT policy on open source licences*

BT has no current policy which bans the use of software with any particular licence (eg GPL or other "copyleft" type licenses software). BT will assess each use on its own merits. As at 3.1, all software must be approved by BT

4.6. *IPR and Patents*

BT plc is the automatic owner of all IPRs (including copyrights) that result from software created by a BT employee or contractor/sub-contractor in the course of their work for BT. BT

plc has a policy to file patents (and thus protect its investment) in all areas of development, including open source software development if appropriate. Further advice should be sought from the BT Programme Manager/BT Legal representative.

4.7. Software developers

It is the responsibility of the software developer (including sub-contract and offshore) and/or programme and project managers to carry out frequent checks so as to ensure downloaded open source software is from reputable sources and has been appropriately checked (eg via MD5 has checks or virus scanning), together with verifying BT's full compliance with the licence obligations of any acquired open source software code.

4.8. Open source software Communities

BT actively encourages open source software community working and will create new, and join with existing communities. Releasing BT developed software code as open source software outside BT will be subject to decisions made under BT's IPR and Patent processes. BT contractors and sub-contractors on BT Programmes will be required to seek BT Programme permission before attempting to contribute any code outside of BT

BT will contribute to open source software communities wherever appropriate. Exceptions to this include where BT is not obliged to (although there may still be benefits), and when a modification or addition is either trivial or is unlikely to be accepted, or when, as a result of a substantial investment, the benefits of keeping the modification or addition "closed" outweigh those realised from publishing under an open source software licence.

Appendix A

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Field Code Changed