

Sergii KANDZIUBA, Viktoriia SUKHOVA
FOREIGN EXPERIENCE IN USE OF FREE SOFTWARE
FOR ELECTRONIC WORKFLOW IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS
AND PUBLIC AUTHORITY BODIES

On 30 November, 2011, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the State Special Scientific and Technical Programme for the use of open source software in public authorities for 2012 – 2015. The main objective of the Program is to ensure incremental transition of public authorities to open source software, which would reduce the cost of legalization and purchase of proprietary software. It was assumed that budget funds would be redirected to support domestic software developers. This would create favorable conditions for attracting investment in the development of the Ukrainian IT industry.

According to monitoring data for 2013, the percentage of open source software use in public authorities amounted to 17,65 % of the total volume of copies used by public authorities. The most common free software used in public authorities were the Open Office (1,85 % of the total number of copies), the Linux operating system (0,83 %), and the 7-zip archiver (6,62 %).

The situation with the use of free software for organizing electronic workflow is even worse.

The purpose of the research is to study and analyze the experience of foreign countries which have long and successfully used free software for organizing electronic workflow in public institutions and public authorities.

As the first example of popular free software ECM Alfresco is considered. Alfresco is developed by the company with the same name and represents a single platform for managing corporate information resources. Alfresco has open source, meets open standards and is a leading alternative to commercial solutions in the market for ECM systems.

Alfresco is a unique platform that can build solutions for the widest range of applications: electronic document management systems, business process automation systems and project management, portals, archives, information publishing systems in social networks, systems for organizing collaborative work of employees, business partners and clients, as well as many others.

Some examples of using Alfresco in public institutions and public authorities abroad are given.

eXo Platform is considered as the second example of the use of free software for organization of electronic workflow in public institutions and public authorities.

eXo Platform is an open source standard corporate social collaboration platform (Enterprise Social Collaboration Platform) written in Java and distributed under the GNU Lesser General Public License. The platform is sold and distributed by eXo Platform, a global company headquartered in San Francisco, California, headquartered in France and with office in Tunisia.

eXo Platform is a ready-made solution for creating a socially-internal corporate network. It is rich in interactive capabilities such as wikis, forums, calendars, and document management systems, skillfully integrated with activity feeds, social networking, and work areas. The mechanism has been carefully designed for immediate involvement of users. The programme runs inside a secure corporate network and is easy to adapt to changes. eXo Platform can be used to create a cloud corporate portal and platform for users (UXPaaS) that allows you to create and deploy transactional websites.

The Community Edition is free and open source. There is also a paid version of Enterprise that provides software support and maintenance.

The examples examined show the powerful potential of free software and prove the effectiveness of its use in public authorities. This means:

1. The task of research and testing of free software for organization of electronic workflow in public institutions and public authorities of Ukraine is relevant.
2. The task of developing a standard system of electronic workflow on the basis of free software for mass implementation in all public authorities is urgent as well.