

# The Estonian software policy

*Freeing Public Sector Software  
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# Background

- 82 % householders have Internet connections (typically broadband)
- 52% of population - heavy users
- 100 % of public employees have computerized workplace with Internet connection
- All public sector institutions have web pages
- High level of Internet-banking (98% of transactions done by Internet)
- All citizens have ID-cards (smart cards)
- 88% tax declarations were filled and handled online
- Estonia - only binding Internet voting country
- (whole population - 1,356 mil.)



# Information Society policy

- Government program (political document)
- Information Society Strategy 2007-2013
- Implementation Plan: every year for two years
- Interoperability Framework
  - Main booklet: Strategic document
  - Others: Architecture, Semantic Interoperability, Software, Interoperability of WWW, Security Framework, Interoperability of document management systems, Open standards
  - Guidelines

# Aims (1)

- **Technological Neutrality.** Public administrations should focus on functional needs and defer decisions on technology as long as possible
- **Cutting costs.** The use of open-source software may help cut expenditure on the procurement and maintenance of software. A study showed that the transition of office software to open-source software would save the public sector about 2 million euros a year.

## Aims (2)

- **Sustainability.** Information systems will be less dependent on developers and software products. The public sector will be able to continue the development of an earlier information system in cooperation with any IT company.
- **Supporting Estonia's ICT sector.** In the case of open-source software, the Estonian ICT sector will be able to keep the money so far spent on “boxed products”. Instead of mechanical sales, high-qualification intensive development work will prevail.

# Aims (3)

- **Transparency.** Open-source software is, as a rule, based on open standards. Thus, the interoperability of public sector information systems will increase. IT procurements will become more transparent, remarkably decreasing the risk of corruption.
- **Reusability.** The best practice generated in the public sector is reusable and it can be developed further. The impulse created by one procurement is a good platform for new procurements.

# Aims (4)

- **Harmonisation with European policies.** The framework requires that the open-source software ordered by the Estonian public sector be licensed according to the European Union Public Licence (EURL). We are considering the using of the virtual forge services offered by the OSOR.
- **Clear policy.** There is no clear support to the new paradigm. The framework attempts to change this.

# Rules (1)

- **Alternatives.** When setting up information systems and preparing calls for tenders, it is obligatory to consider both proprietary solutions and open-source software alternatives. The decision may be in favour of either commercial or free software, or it may combine the two options. However, when all other conditions are equal, open-source software will be preferred. Each decision is made separately.

# Rules (2)

- **Open standards.** In solutions ensuring interaction between information systems, joint projects and multi-used information systems, but also in all new or re-established information systems, only services and products supporting open standards and specifications will be used.
- **Avoid dependence.** Dependence on certain-brand-based products and services is avoided in information systems.

# Rules (3)

- **Adjustments.** When ordering software for information systems, the code of that software and adjustments to commercial products are also obtained, if possible.
- **EUPL.** The software is registered in the repository osor.eu with the EUPL licence.
- **Reuse.** The software and its adjustments generated by one administration can be used without restrictions in other public administration institutions as well . If several institutions have similar software needs, it might be a good idea to make a joint order

# Problems

- Administration are not prepared to employ open source methods. Administrations are not adapted to use open source development model
- Administrations have not set up infrastructures in support of working together.
- Open source software are not distributed
- Software companies are not interested
- Software export
- Security: open code but not FLOSS??
- Weak open source community
- Localization widely used software products

# Estonian ID Card drivers and applications (Example)

code.google.com/p/esteid/

Uuno.Vallner@gmail.com | My favorites | Profile | Sign out

## esteid


Estonian ID Card drivers and applications / Eesti ID-kaardi draiverid ja programmid

Project Home | Downloads | Wiki | Issues | Source

Summary | Updates | People


### Uus ID-kaardi tarkvara on saabunud

**Install**




**Paigalda tarkvara**

**Develop**




**Arenda ise**

**Discuss**



**Suhtle teistega**

Star this project

Activity:  High

Code license: [GNU Lesser General Public License](#)

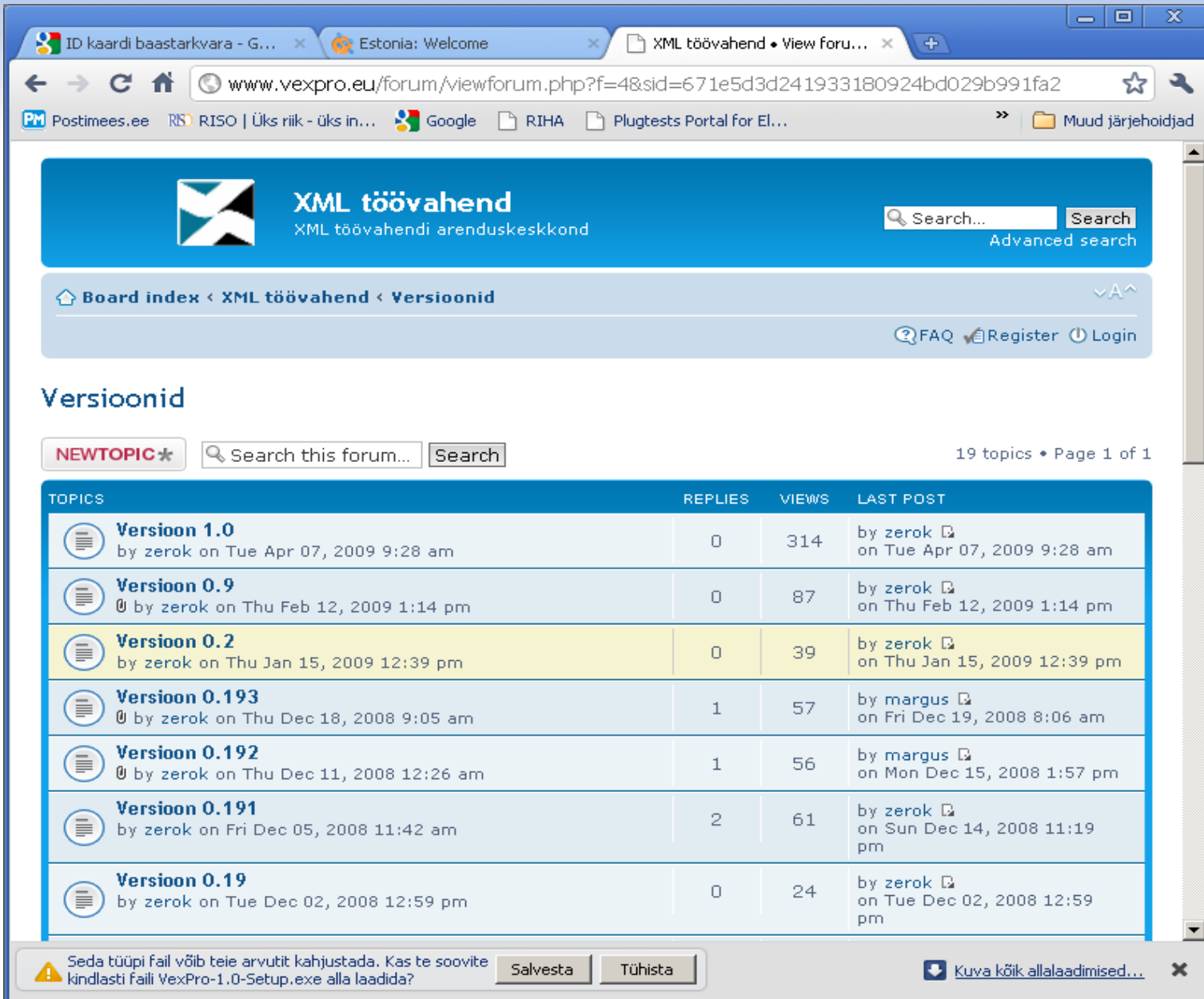
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- [ID-card\\_installer\\_2\\_8\\_1.dmg](#)

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# XML Editor of legal texts: http://vexpro.eu (Example)



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [www.vexpro.eu/forum/viewforum.php?f=4&sid=671e5d3d241933180924bd029b991fa2](http://www.vexpro.eu/forum/viewforum.php?f=4&sid=671e5d3d241933180924bd029b991fa2). The page title is "XML töövahend" and the subtitle is "XML töövahendi arenduskeskkond". The forum is titled "Versioonid" (Versions) and has 19 topics on page 1 of 1.

Search this forum... Search

19 topics • Page 1 of 1

| TOPICS   | REPLIES | VIEWS | LAST POST  |
|--|---------|-------|--|
|  <b>Versioon 1.0</b><br>by zerok on Tue Apr 07, 2009 9:28 am      | 0       | 314   | by zerok <br>on Tue Apr 07, 2009 9:28 am    |
|  <b>Versioon 0.9</b><br>by zerok on Thu Feb 12, 2009 1:14 pm      | 0       | 87    | by zerok <br>on Thu Feb 12, 2009 1:14 pm    |
|  <b>Versioon 0.2</b><br>by zerok on Thu Jan 15, 2009 12:39 pm     | 0       | 39    | by zerok <br>on Thu Jan 15, 2009 12:39 pm   |
|  <b>Versioon 0.193</b><br>by zerok on Thu Dec 18, 2008 9:05 am  | 1       | 57    | by margus <br>on Fri Dec 19, 2008 8:06 am |
|  <b>Versioon 0.192</b><br>by zerok on Thu Dec 11, 2008 12:26 am | 1       | 56    | by margus <br>on Mon Dec 15, 2008 1:57 pm |
|  <b>Versioon 0.191</b><br>by zerok on Fri Dec 05, 2008 11:42 am | 2       | 61    | by zerok <br>on Sun Dec 14, 2008 11:19 pm |
|  <b>Versioon 0.19</b><br>by zerok on Tue Dec 02, 2008 12:59 pm  | 0       | 24    | by zerok <br>on Tue Dec 02, 2008 12:59 pm |

Seda tüüpi fail võib teie arvutit kahjustada. Kas te soovite kindlasti faili VexPro-1.0-Setup.exe alla laadida?

# Estonia forge

## <http://estonia.forge.osor.eu/>

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [estonia.forge.osor.eu](http://estonia.forge.osor.eu/). The browser's address bar and tabs are visible at the top. The website's header features the 'FORGE' logo on the left, a search bar with a dropdown menu set to 'Generic', and 'Log In' and 'Register' links on the right. Below the header, there are two main sections: 'Forge' and 'My Page'. The 'Forge' section contains a heading 'This is the ESTONIA forge' and a sub-heading 'LATEST NEWS'. Below this, a message states 'No News Items Found'. The 'My Page' section includes a 'Register your project' button with an illustration of a satellite and a globe, and a 'Top federated sites stats' section showing a count of 719.

Generic

Log In Register

Forge My Page

This is the ESTONIA forge

LATEST NEWS

No News Items Found

Register your project

Top federated sites stats

719

# Next steps

- The support of open source software projects from European structural funds (information society measure)
- Guideline for Public administrations on Procurement Software.
- Open Source Software Day (yearly)
- Transfer Estonian public sector FLOSS products to the Estonian forge in OSOR
- Promotion open source office software and open standards in public sector

**Thank you for your  
attention!**

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