Demystifying ITS Open Source Software
Open Source Software?
Isn’t that…

now that we’ve gotten that over with…
ITS Open Source Software

- Open Source ‘in a nutshell’
- Cost
- Support
- Reliability, Security, Scalability
- Will it meet your requirements?
- The way forward…
ITS Open Source Software

What is open source software?

Software that is created, used, and maintained by a community. Unlike proprietary ‘closed source’, it can be used without any license fees and the source code is available, ‘inspect-able’, and changeable by its users.

For ITS, community members include...

- Federal, state, and local agencies
- Universities
- Individual software developers
- Commercial entities
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Open Source *is* licensed software

Unlike proprietary, closed source software licenses, open source licenses are...

- Simple, laconic ‘cut & paste’
- Protect the inventor’s intellectual property
- Protect the user’s right to modify & distribute
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Open Source ≠ Free !!!

- Research (will it meet my needs?)
- Hardware
- Installation, Configuration, Testing
- Training
- Integration + Customization
- Dedicated IT staff or outsourced provider
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OK, so why would I consider this?

...am I going to end up with a
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Why Open Source Might Make Sense For You

- Support > Closed Source
- Reliability, Security, Scalability > Closed Source
- Lifecycle costs < Closed Source
- More open source ITS software is now available
- You get control!
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Many ‘infrastructure’ choices...
- Operating System
- Application Servers
- Web Servers
- Web mapping/GIS

Some ITS-specific choices...
- Freeway Management System (FMS)
- Advanced Traveler Information System (ATIS)
- Incident Management System (IMS)
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The Way Forward

• Reach out to the community
• Understand your needs
• Understand your limitations
• Take it for a ‘test drive’
• Become part of the community!
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Q & A