OPEN WORLD FORUM

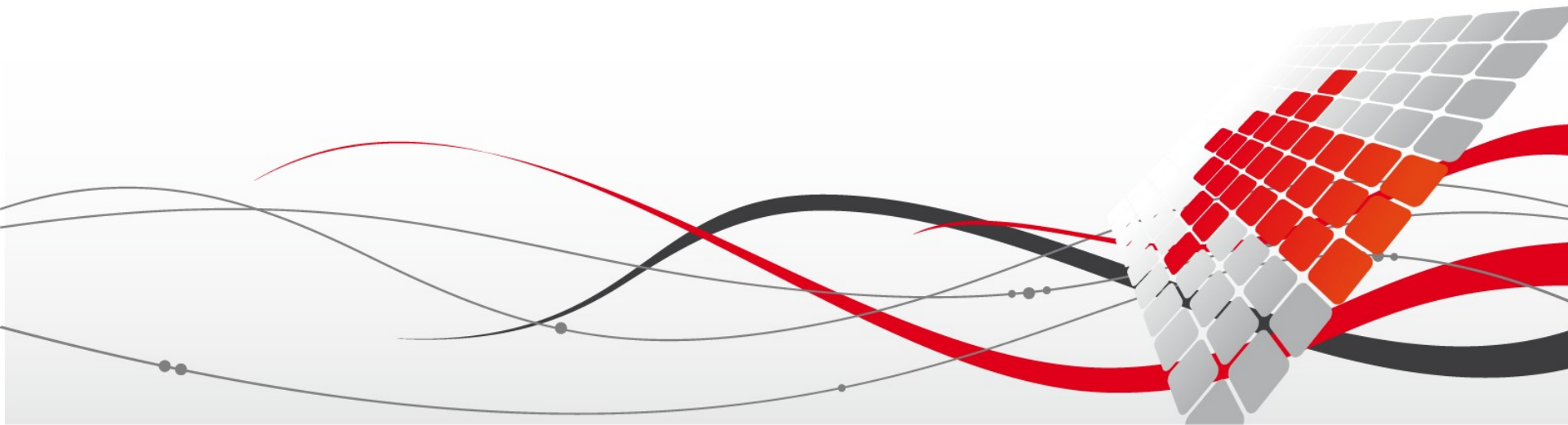# Best Practices in Open Source Governance
India's National Mission on Education: A Case Study

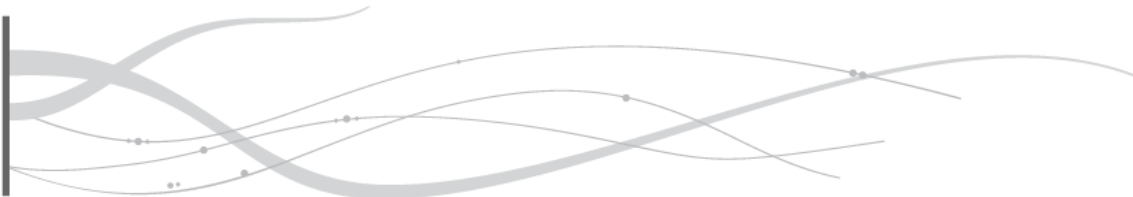By Alolita Sharma

October 1, 2010

Open Is The Future
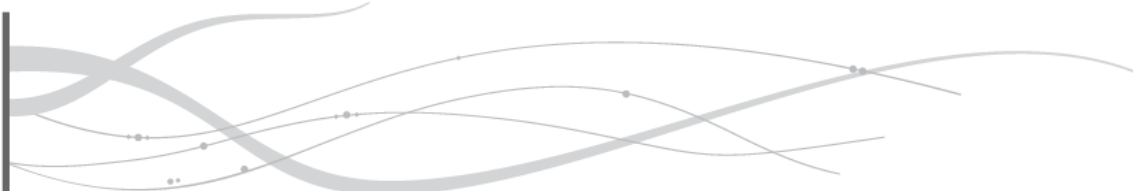Open Innovation - Open Enterprise - Open Society

Background

- India's National Mission on Education (NME)

- Program to roll-out and manage an open source software environment for mathematics and applied science education.
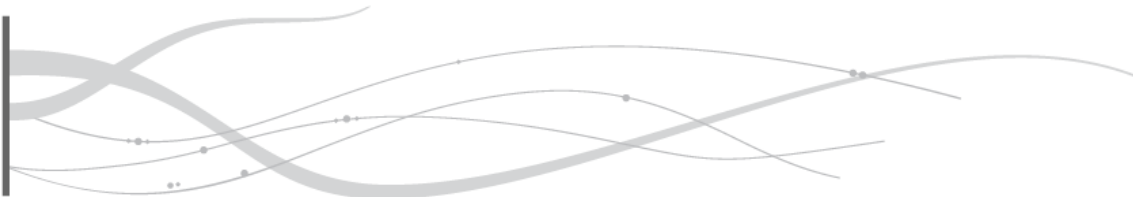
Background

- $1 billion USD to build out internet infrastructure to 30000 colleges and develop open source expertise and course material in 3 years

- Program is half-way done

- Public-private partnership model to provide open source experts to "train the trainers"

- Government - Academia - Industry partnership (Govt of India - Indian Institute of Technology Bombay - Corporate Partners)
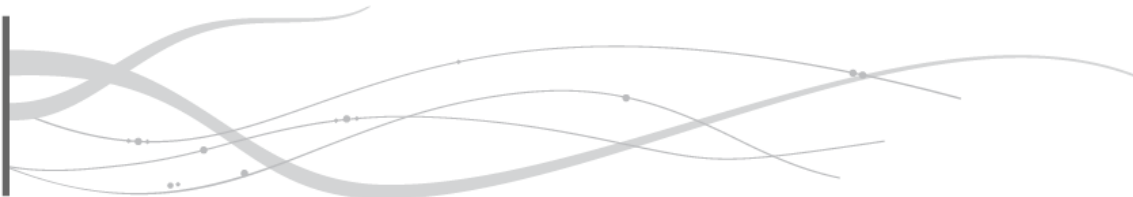
Goals

- Creating and distributing educational content using open source

- Creating courseware for specific open source tools for scientific research and teaching

- Training the trainers

- Increasing use of open source software in audio-video courses and virtual labs
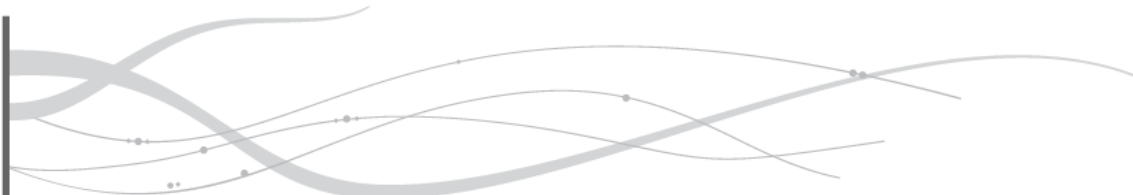
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Deliverables

- Courseware for mathematics and numerical analysis - Scilab, Sage and Python; for animation - Blender

- Documentation, books and courses for open source software and making available online for download

- Including open source software explicitly in university syllabi

- Workshops in engineering colleges

- Distributing content via distance learning infrastructure (NPTEL) and EDUSAT (Indian satellite)
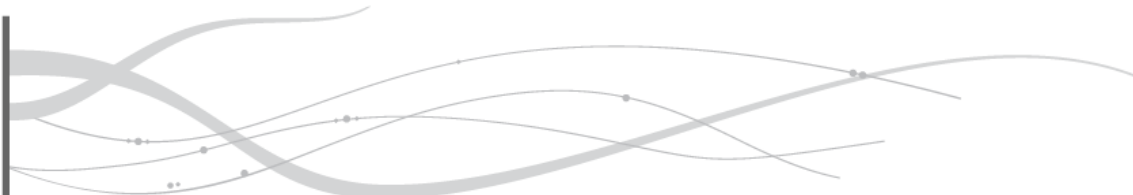
Project Structure

- Mandate from Government of India
- Program management by IIT Bombay
- Collaborating with
  - Open Source experts from industry
  - Subject Matter experts from various colleges
- Teachers
- Students

Takeaways

- Political capital behind national open source project

- Well-resourced

- Practical implementation using open source solutions

- Recognition that only open source licensing can be used to deploy project of this size

- Management by respected leader in science education

- Genuine collaborative effort

- Public private partnership that demonstrates government, academia and industry can work effectively together

Q & A