OpenAustralia.org’s experience with Open-source and content - a tiny case study

Matthew Landauer  
Founder / Developer  
twitter: @matthewlandauer  
email: matthew@openaustralia.org

Unlocking IP 2009
What is OpenAustralia?

- Website to make it easier for the general public to follow what their elected representatives are up to
2:27 pm

Scott Ludlam (Australian Greens) Link to this | Hansard source
My question is to the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Conroy. I refer to the statements made by Minister Conroy in Senate estimates hearings on 20 October 2008, in which the minister said that Sweden, the UK, Canada and New Zealand had mandatory internet filtering systems similar to those now being trialled in Australia. Can the minister explain why he made the statement in light of the fact that in not one of those countries is the filtering system mandatory and, in fact, the various systems in those countries are entirely voluntary if they exist at all?

Stephen Conroy (Australian Labor Party, Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate) Link to this | Hansard source
I thank the senator for his question and further thank him for providing me with notice of the question. The government’s ISP filtering policy is one component of the government’s comprehensive, $125.8 million cyber-safety plan. This plan contains a comprehensive set of measures to combat online threats and help parents and educators protect children from inappropriate material. I can assure the senator that the government will implement the ISP filtering component of this policy in a considered and consultative way. We are aware of technical concerns with filtering technology. That is why we are conducting a pilot—to put these claims to the test. We are happy to have an open debate about these technical issues.

ISPs in a number of Western countries, such as the United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, Finland, France and Canada, have voluntarily introduced ISP-level filtering. The government is of course considering the experience of these countries in the development of its own policy. This international experience will also inform the government’s upcoming real-world live pilot.

On 10 November I released an expression of interest, seeking the participation of ISPs and mobile telephone operators in this live pilot. The pilot will specifically test filtering against the ACMA black list of prohibited internet content, which is mostly child pornography, as well as filtering of other unwanted content. While the ACMA black list is currently around 1,300 URLs, the pilot will test against this list as well as filtering for a range of URLs to around 10,000 so that the impacts on network performance of a larger black list can be examined. The live pilot will provide valuable real-world evidence of the potential impact on internet speeds and costs to industry and will help ensure we implement a filtering solution that is efficient, effective and easy for Australian
A feature taster

• Read debates
• “Digital Dossier” for Representatives / Senators
• Email alerts
• RSS feeds
• Powerful / Easy to use searching
Who runs OpenAustralia?

- Volunteers
- Non-partisan
Everything is open-source
Based on TheyWorkForYou.com
twfy code BSD licensed
Our parser Afferro GPL
What about the content we use?
Content

• Photos
• Hansard
• Hand collected information about Representatives / Senators
• Register of Interests
Hansard

• “Copyright Commonwealth of Australia”

• First request to Commonwealth Copyright Administration beginning of Dec 2007

• No response

• Tried again in Jan 2008

• 10 Jan: copyright belongs with Australian Parliament House
Hansard

- 13 Feb: Parliamentary Web Manager, Parliament House, passes request to “web content” section.
- 18 Mar: “You do not require permission to reproduce Hansard extracts, as the Hansard report is considered to be public domain material”
/Register of Members' Interests
Statement of Registrable Interests

Returning Members - declare at p1-6, interests as at the dissolution of the last Parliament (17 October 2007) and at p.7 alterations since that date

Newly elected Members - declare at p. 1-6, interests as at the date of election, and at p.7 alterations since that date

Notes:
(1) It is suggested that the accompanying Explanatory Notes be read before the return is completed.
(2) The information which you are required to provide is contained in resolutions agreed to by the House of Representatives on 9 October 1984, as amended on 21 March 1985, 13 February 1986, 22 October 1986, 30 November 1988 and 9 November 1994 and 16 October 2003. It consists of the Member's registrable interests and the registrable interests of which the Member is aware (a) of the Member's spouse and (b) of any children who are wholly or mainly dependent on the Member for support. For the definition of "dependent children" see the introduction to the Explanatory Notes.
(3) If there is insufficient space on this form for the information you are required to provide, you may attach additional papers for that purpose. Each paper attached to this form should be signed personally by you and dated.

Surname SHORTEN Other Names BILL
Electoral Division MARIQUANNS State VICTORIA

1. Shareholdings in public and private companies (including holding companies) indicating the name of the company or companies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Name as company including holding and subsidiary companies if applicable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Self</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse</td>
<td>TSV HOLDINGS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dependent Children</td>
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Register of Interests for Senators and Representatives

• financial interests
• stocks and shares held
• gifts received over a certain value, and
• memberships of Clubs and Associations
Register of Interests for Senators and Representatives

- No clue what the copyright / licensing situation is despite numerous requests