Where is FOSS in Government today in 2017

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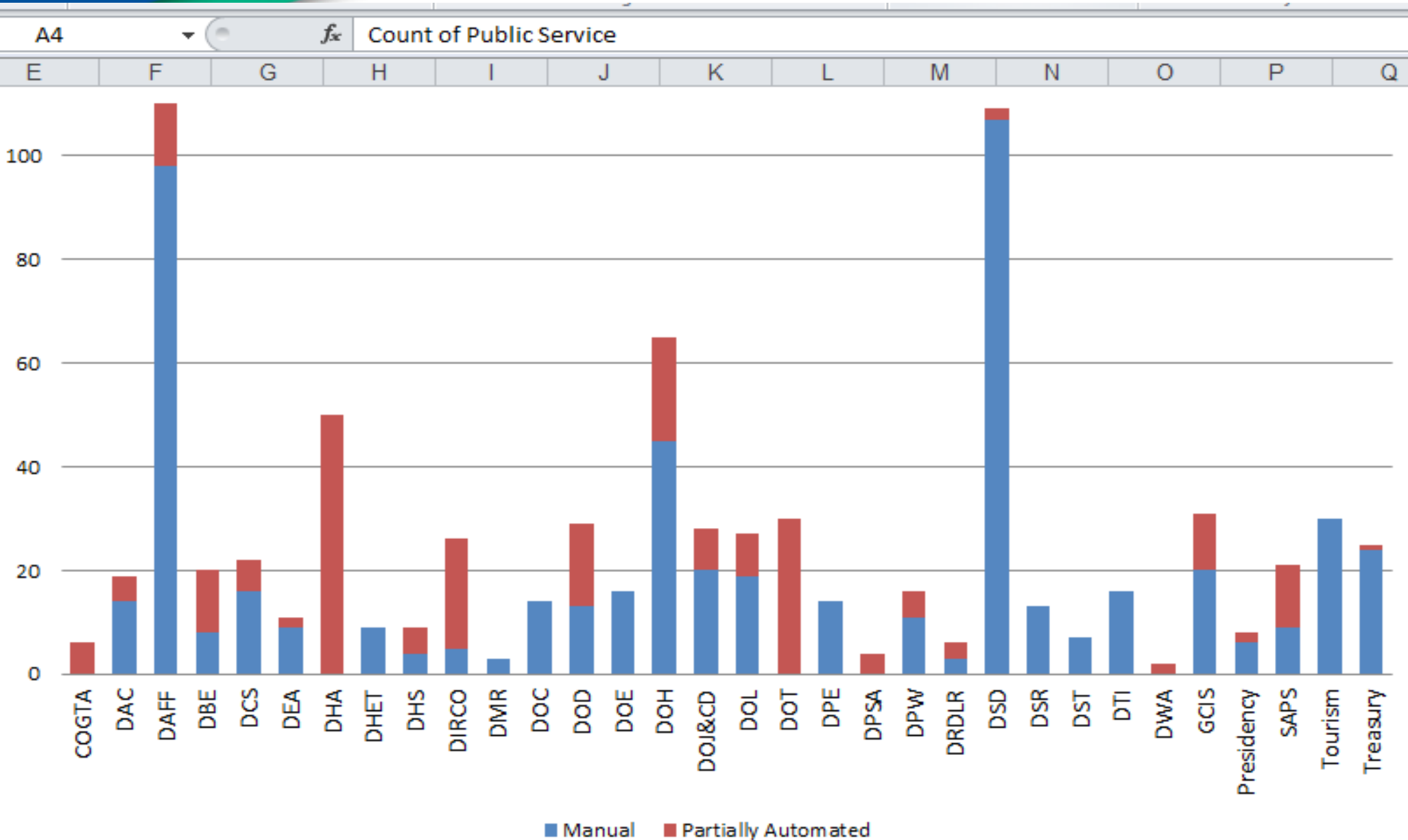**17 March 2017, Limpopo Connexion**

SITA

stateinformationtechnologyagency

SITA (State Information Technology Agency) mandated by the SITA Act of 1999.

Objectives are:

1. To *improve service delivery* to the public through the provision of ICT to National and Provincial departments and public bodies
2. The *promote the efficiency* of departments and public bodies through the use of ICT

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FOSS in Government

What is free open source software (FOSS)

1. FOSS is developed through public collaboration
2. Available to anyone for free or just material costs
3. Does not require proprietary licence fees
4. May be freely re-distributed
5. Users have access to human readable version of the software – source code
6. The use, modification, redistribution, is allowed as per various licences

The SA Government on FOSS

- 2002
  - Acknowledgement that FOSS is enterprise ready
  - Public Service FOSS work group established
- 2003
  - First survey showed little FOSS knowledge in government
  - Cabinet approves first strategy.
  - Emphasis on knowledge dissemination
- 2007
  - South Africa adopts the FOSS Policy
  - FOSS Policy with 5 key principles
- 2009
  - SITA creates the Foss Programme Office (FPO) under R&D
  - SITA uses FOSS tools in various Government Projects

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1. Choose FOSS
2. Migrate to FOSS
3. FOSS, open standards based development
4. Open Content
5. Promote outside government

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Government policy 2007

1) The South African Government will implement FOSS unless proprietary software is demonstrated to be significantly superior. Whenever the advantages of FOSS and proprietary software are comparable FOSS will be implemented when choosing a software solution for a new project. Whenever FOSS is not implemented, then reasons must be provided in order to justify the implementation of proprietary software.

2) The South African Government will migrate current proprietary software to FOSS whenever comparable software exists.

3) All new software developed for or by the South African Government will be based on open standards, adherent to FOSS principles, and licensed using a FOSS license where possible.

4) The South African Government will ensure all Government content and content developed using Government resources is made Open Content, unless analysis on specific content shows that proprietary licensing or confidentiality is substantially beneficial.

5) The South African Government will encourage the use of Open Content and Open Standards within South Africa.

Choose FOSS

Migrate to FOSS

FOSS, open stds based developmt

Open content

Promote outside govt

1. National Triple Challenge as per NDP

    Poverty, Unemployment, Inequality

2. Climate Change

    Weather and El Nino effects, drought

3. Digital Business

    Opportunities, threats

4. Population Changes

    Youth Bulge, Urbanisation

5. The Fourth Industrial Revolution

    Man and Technology are becoming One

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1. Skills Development

   1. About 30 students were trained and most employed in SITA

2. Software was used in SITA and other Government Departments

   1. Zimbra – SITA until 2016
   2. Alfresco - ECM – DAC and Parliament
   3. Development tools of IFMS
   4. Drupal – Most government departments website hosted by SITA

3. MIOS is enforced

   1. Increases interoperability and demanded in all the tenders through SITA

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1. Challenges of SITA/Changes in SITA
   1. Leadership changes
2. Changes in Government
   1. President Mbeki and Minister Fraser-Moleketi
   2. Support for OSS
3. Revenue Challenges in 2010/11 and Organisational Changes
4. SITA Operating Model
   1. Reactive to the client requests
   2. Self sufficiency
   3. Business model
5. GITO turnovers
   1. Risk aversion
6. Lack of Skills to manage or create opportunities
   1. Support models

1. Resurrect FOSS
   1. GITOC focus
   2. Research on current status and direction setting
2. FOSS as part of government set asides
   1. Make it locally profitable
3. Use FOSS in schools
   1. Use Pi-log type of programmes
   2. Teach using FOSS
4. Enforce standards
   1. E.g., Require micro-usb cables and power plugs

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Where is FOSS today

1. Android is based on Linux and has over 80% of smartphone market
2. Supported by former enemies e.g. IBM, Microsoft, etc.
3. In government we have to study the current installation base.

Thank you