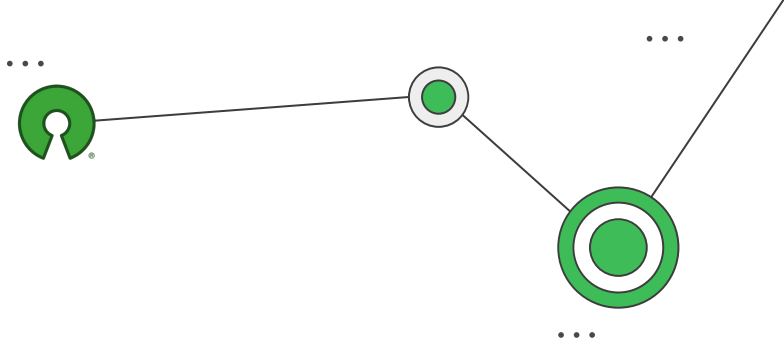


The State Of The Source

All Things Open 2026

Open Source Initiative Appoints Duane O'Brien as Executive Director

Veteran Open Source leader brings decades of experience advancing sustainability, collaboration and responsible participation across the Open Source ecosystem.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 15, 2026 — The Open Source Initiative (OSI), globally recognized as the steward of the Open Source Definition, today announced the appointment of Duane O'Brien as its new executive director.

O'Brien is a long-time Open Source leader with nearly 25 years of experience as a technologist, community advocate and strategist. He most recently led Collaborative Engineering at Capital One, where he oversaw the company's Open Source Program Office, InnerSource initiatives, and standards for programming language adoption and implementation. Prior to that, he built and led the Open Source Program Office at Indeed and directed Open Source programs and operations at PayPal.

Core Mission

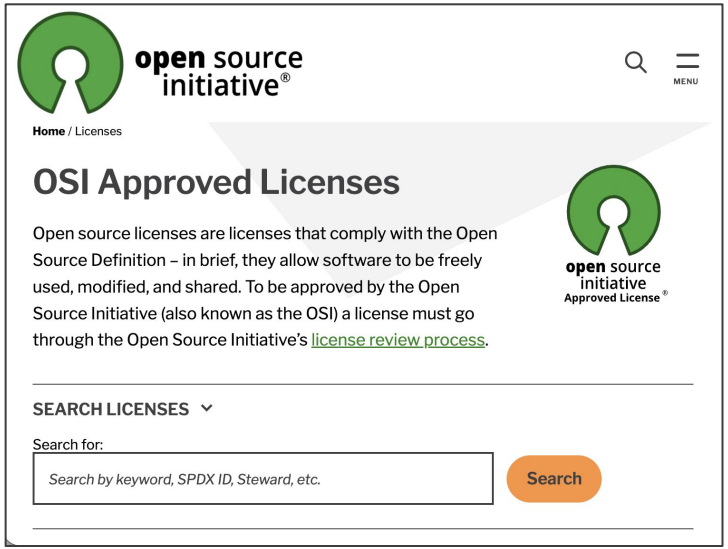
Core Mission : Initiatives

We lead the community discussion to define and protect Open Source licenses and principles.

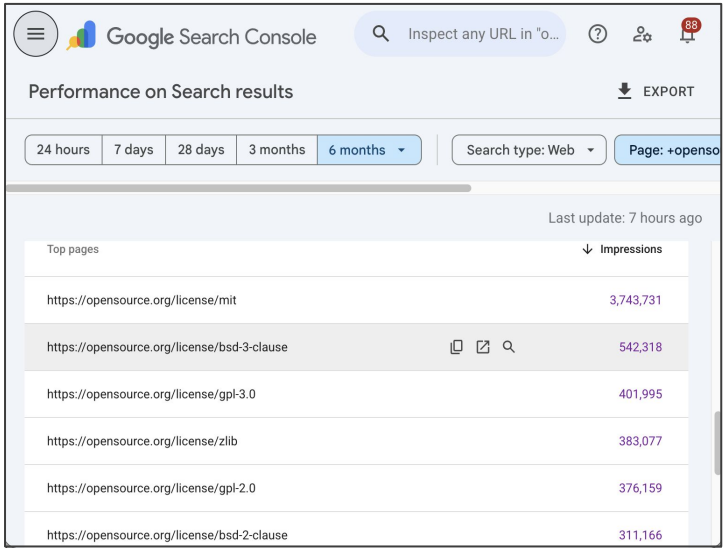
License Review & Discuss	OSI-Approved Licenses
We host, moderate, and drive the community review of new and existing software licenses, to determine if they conform to the Open Source Definition.	We manage the canonical list of licenses that conform to the Open Source Definition. We are recognized as the authority by industry and policy experts.
License Hosting	**Open Source Marks**
We host the approved text of every OSI-Approved license. These texts are referenced by SPDX and a multitude of tools, websites, and platforms.	We hold, maintain, and when necessary defend the “Certified Open Source” and “Open Source Approved License” trademarks.

Core Mission : 2026 Wins

We continue to be a vital resource for license information



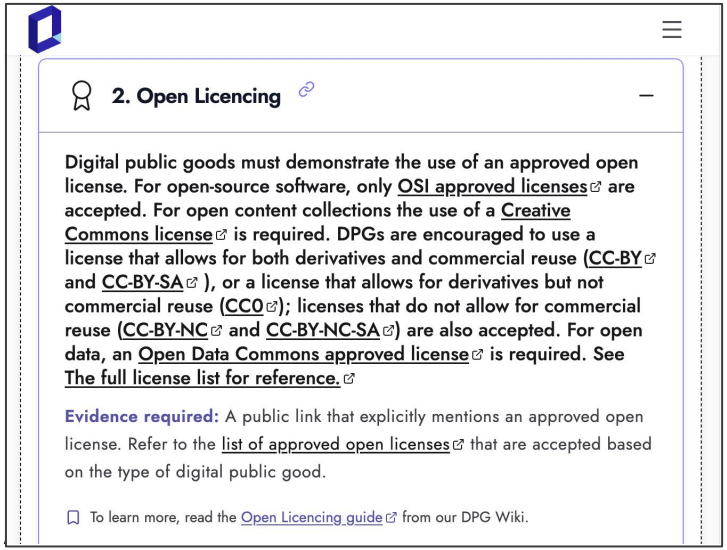
Nearly 2 Million Impressions over 6 months



Over 7.5 Million Impressions over 6 months

Core Mission : 2026 Wins

"OSI-Approved Licenses" is the standard used around the world.



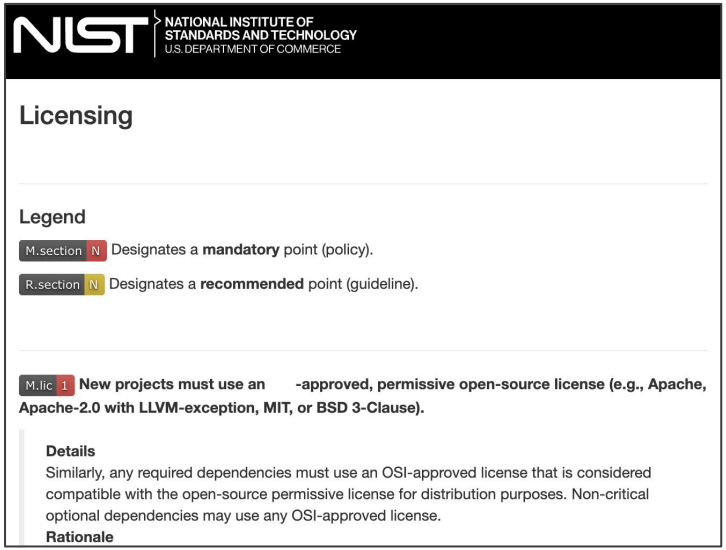
2. Open Licencing

Digital public goods must demonstrate the use of an approved open license. For open-source software, only OSI approved licenses are accepted. For open content collections the use of a Creative Commons license is required. DPGs are encouraged to use a license that allows for both derivatives and commercial reuse (CC-BY and CC-BY-SA), or a license that allows for derivatives but not commercial reuse (CC0); licenses that do not allow for commercial reuse (CC-BY-NC and CC-BY-NC-SA) are also accepted. For open data, an Open Data Commons approved license is required. See The full license list for reference.

Evidence required: A public link that explicitly mentions an approved open license. Refer to the list of approved open licenses that are accepted based on the type of digital public good.

To learn more, read the Open Licencing guide from our DPG Wiki.

From the Digital Public Goods Alliance...



NIST NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Licensing

Legend

M.section N Designates a **mandatory** point (policy).

R.section N Designates a **recommended** point (guideline).

M.lic 1 **New projects must use an -approved, permissive open-source license (e.g., Apache, Apache-2.0 with LLVM-exception, MIT, or BSD 3-Clause).**

Details

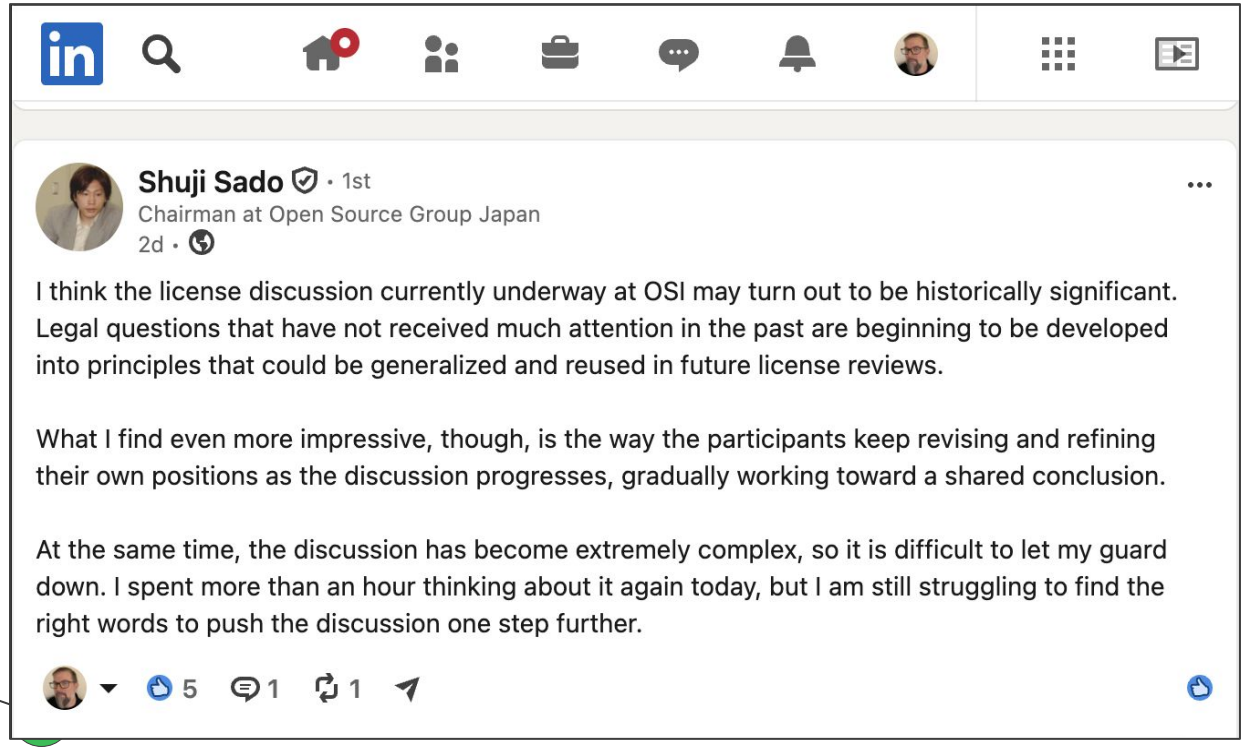
Similarly, any required dependencies must use an OSI-approved license that is considered compatible with the open-source permissive license for distribution purposes. Non-critical optional dependencies may use any OSI-approved license.

Rationale

... to NIST and many more.

Core Mission : 2026 Wins

License review is a critical, continuous process



Shuji Sado · 1st
Chairman at Open Source Group Japan
2d ·

I think the license discussion currently underway at OSI may turn out to be historically significant. Legal questions that have not received much attention in the past are beginning to be developed into principles that could be generalized and reused in future license reviews.

What I find even more impressive, though, is the way the participants keep revising and refining their own positions as the discussion progresses, gradually working toward a shared conclusion.

At the same time, the discussion has become extremely complex, so it is difficult to let my guard down. I spent more than an hour thinking about it again today, but I am still struggling to find the right words to push the discussion one step further.

5 1 1

US Policy

US Key Activities



Serving as subject matter expert to policymakers



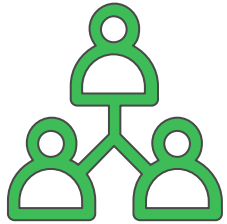
Tracking state and federal policy proposals



Leading development of policy positions for the Open Forum for AI



Effectively channeling expertise of OSS community into policy feedback loops



Coalition building on state legislation with Open Source partners



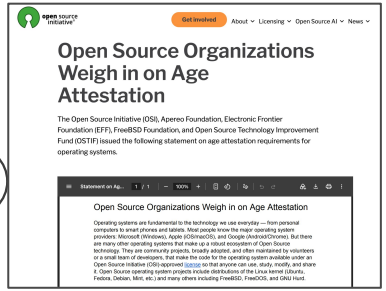
Making the case for philanthropic investment



Developing and sharing resources to educate policymakers and the public

U.S. Policy Highlights

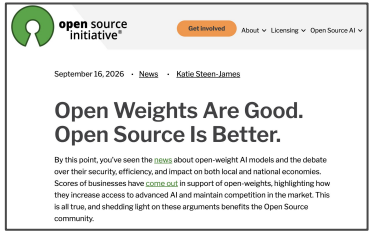
OPA Members and Age Attestation



OFAI Policy Statement



Educating on Open Weights vs Open Source



State policy wins (compromises)



What's Next?

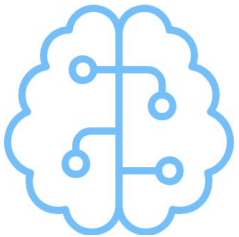
- Federal AI frameworks and proposals gain more traction if Democrats take one or both chambers of Congress
- More state legislation is expected that will impact open source
- Geopolitical tensions likely to make collaboration across borders harder
- The 2028 presidential contenders will start to take shape

Where we'll be focused

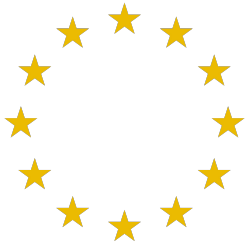
- Competition
- Procurement
- Sustainability of OSS
- Licensing
- Cybersecurity
- Age Attestation & Verification
- AI
- International Collaboration

EU Policy

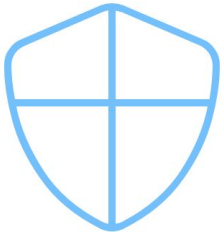
Successes this year (so far)



G7 Deliver Vision On AI Openness



The EU Tech Sovereignty package



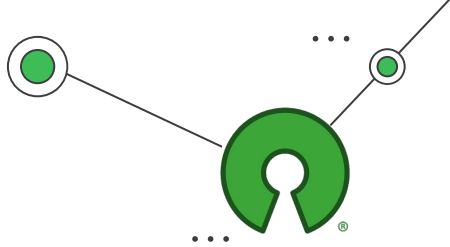
The CRA Standards & Implementation

G7 Deliver Vision On AI Openness

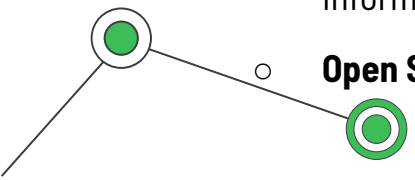
- French Presidency of the G7 contacted us, asked for support.
- We responded: Approx 6 in-person meetings in Paris from Jan - June, lots of work asynchronously.
- We supported development and got a positive reception from our collaborators.
- We were invited to attend the ministerial meeting and dinner. The declaration names the OSI explicitly.
- **The connections we made and input we gave are paying off in EU and UK policy work.**



G7 Deliverable on AI



- Principles:
  - AI Openness is community-driven
  - AI Openness is measured through multiple elements
  - AI Openness is a spectrum (but Open Source AI is a point on the spectrum).
  - AI Openness should be described through appropriate labels.
- Labels:
  - **Weights available:** Downloadable Models not licenced under an Open Source licence (LLama, Gemma 3)
  - **Open Weights:** Downloadable models licenced under an Open Source Licence (Phi, Gemma 4, Mistral..)
  - **Open Source:** OSAID but data is required except when legally or technically impossible, then Data information
  - **Open Source with Open Data:** OSAID but all data is required.



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Réunion des ministres
du numérique - G7 2026
Paris - 29 mai 2026
G7
FRANCE
ÉVIAN
2026

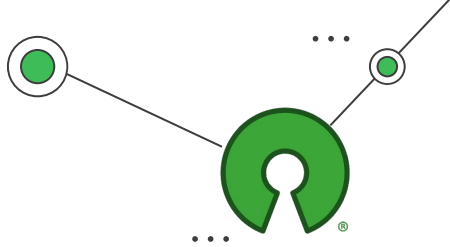

Réunion des ministres
du numérique - G7 2026
Paris - 29 mai 2026



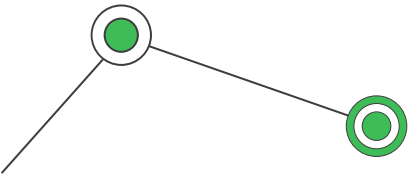



THE CURATORS
INDEED
Our team is growing
across the globe
INDEED
OPEN
SOURCE
BLOCKCHAIN
FOR
BUSINESS

The EU Tech Sovereignty Package



- ⅓ of the Tech Sovereignty package is on Open Source.
- Open Source at the heart the strategy.
- OSI Submitted a long and highly detailed position paper @ EU Commission's request and met with them.
- 70% of OSI's asks were fulfilled.
  - More funding and support for Open Source foundations.
  - More support for Open Source companies
  - Procurement reform to the benefit of Open Source
- These benefits will be rolled out progressively through several upcoming laws. OSI is keeping a close eye on them.



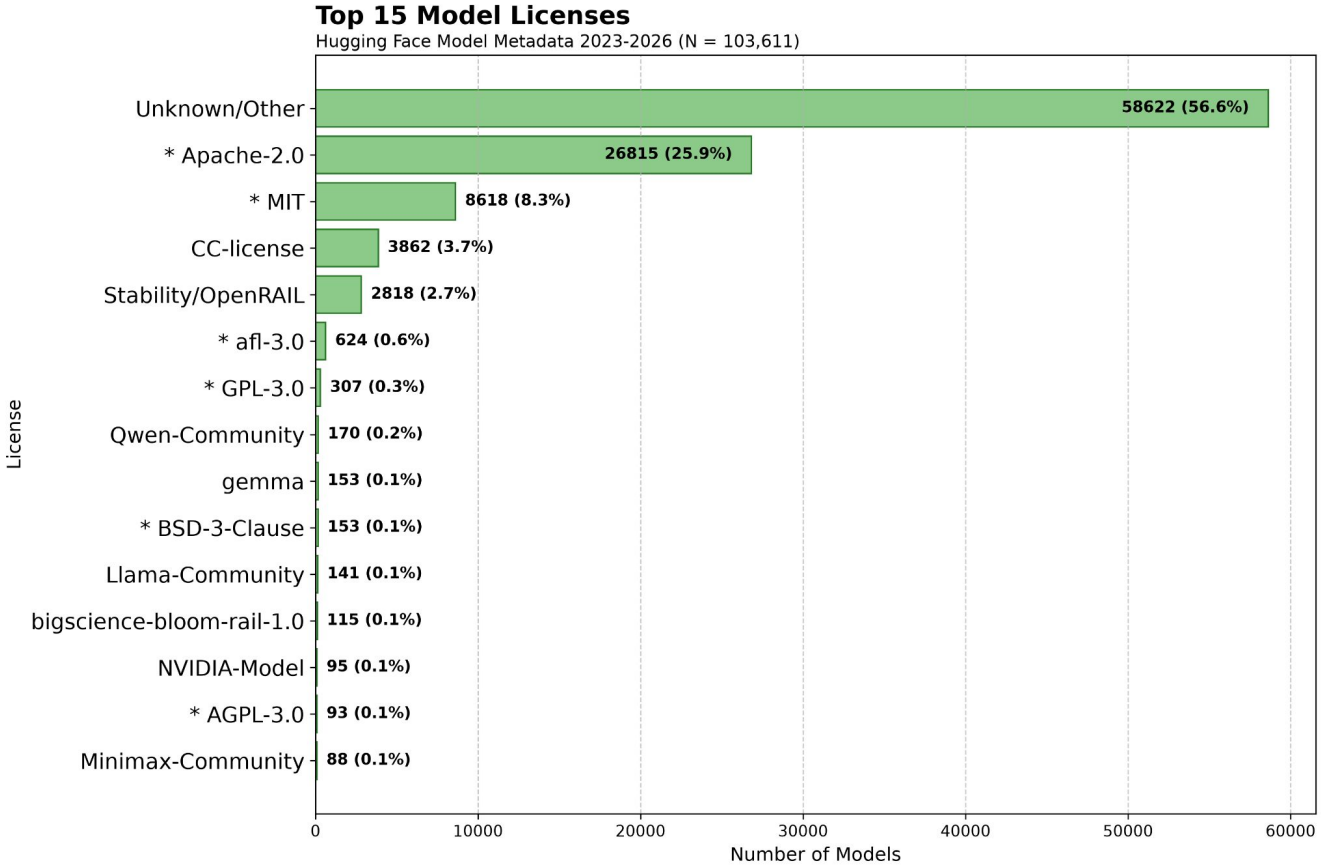
Open Source AI

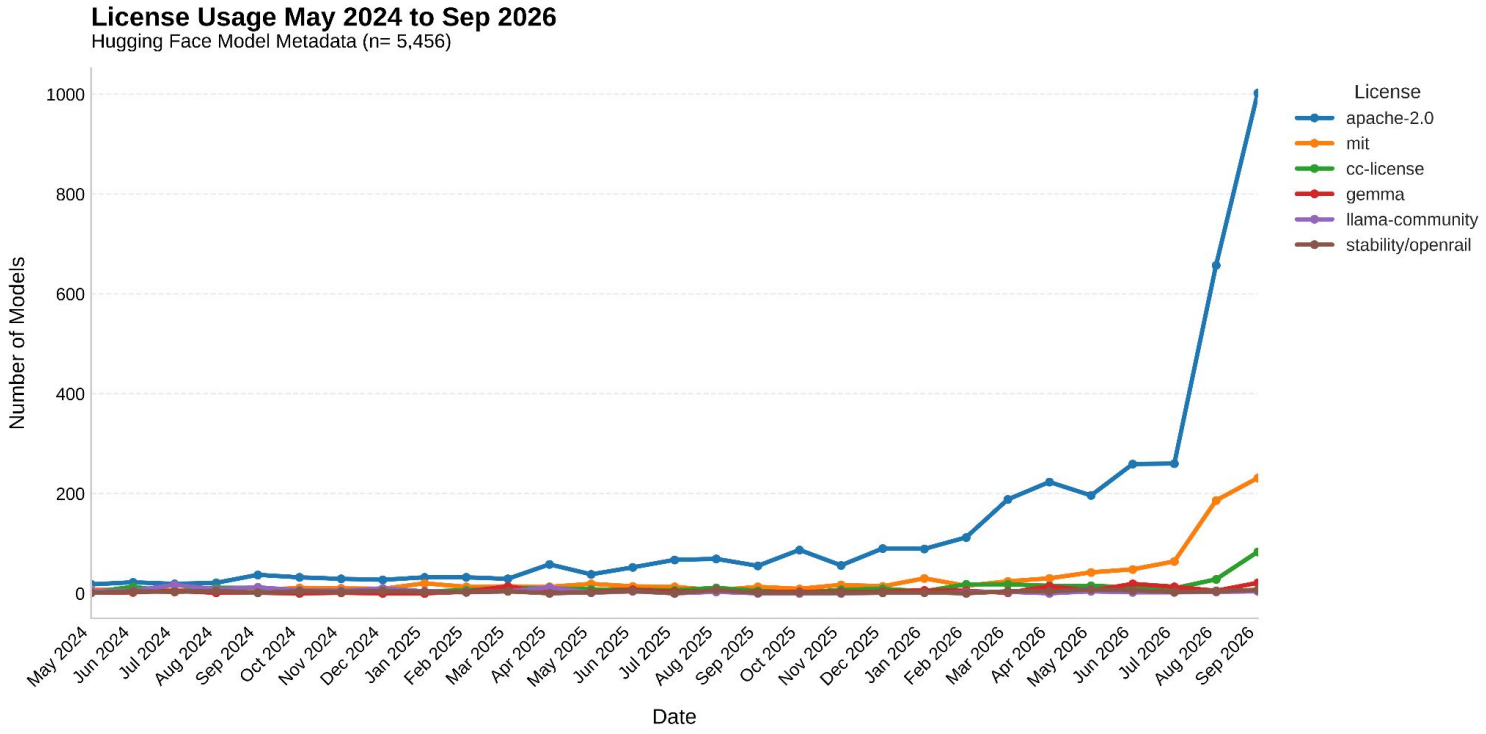
June 23, 2026 • News • OSI Policy Team

Open Source AI Fellowship Announced at UN Open Source Week

The Open Source Initiative (OSI) is pleased to announce the launch of the Open Source AI Fellowship at UN Open Source Week. The fellowship will support OSI's work to advance understanding, measure trends, engage in policy, and build consensus around what it means for an AI system to be labeled "Open Source." Through this program, OSI aims to serve as a hub for Open Source AI by coordinating evidence, partnerships, and engagement on key policy and governance issues.

In May, Gabriel Toscano was selected to serve as the Founding Fellow for his academic and professional achievements, interdisciplinary acumen, and demonstrated commitment to OSI's mission.


Top 15 Model Licenses
Hugging Face Model Metadata 2023-2026 (N = 103,611)
Unknown/Other
* Apache-2.0
* MIT
CC-license
Stability/OpenRAIL
* afl-3.0
* GPL-3.0
Qwen-Community
gemma
* BSD-3-Clause
Llama-Community
bigscience-bloom-rail-1.0
NVIDIA-Model
* AGPL-3.0
Minimax-Community
58622 (56.6%)
26815 (25.9%)
8618 (8.3%)
3862 (3.7%)
2818 (2.7%)
624 (0.6%)
307 (0.3%)
170 (0.2%)
153 (0.1%)
153 (0.1%)
141 (0.1%)
115 (0.1%)
95 (0.1%)
93 (0.1%)
88 (0.1%)
License
0
10000
20000
30000
40000
50000
60000
Number of Models


License Usage May 2024 to Sep 2026
Hugging Face Model Metadata (n= 5,456)
Number of Models
1000
800
600
400
200
0
May 2024
Jun 2024
Jul 2024
Aug 2024
Sep 2024
Oct 2024
Nov 2024
Dec 2024
Jan 2025
Feb 2025
Mar 2025
Apr 2025
May 2025
Jun 2025
Jul 2025
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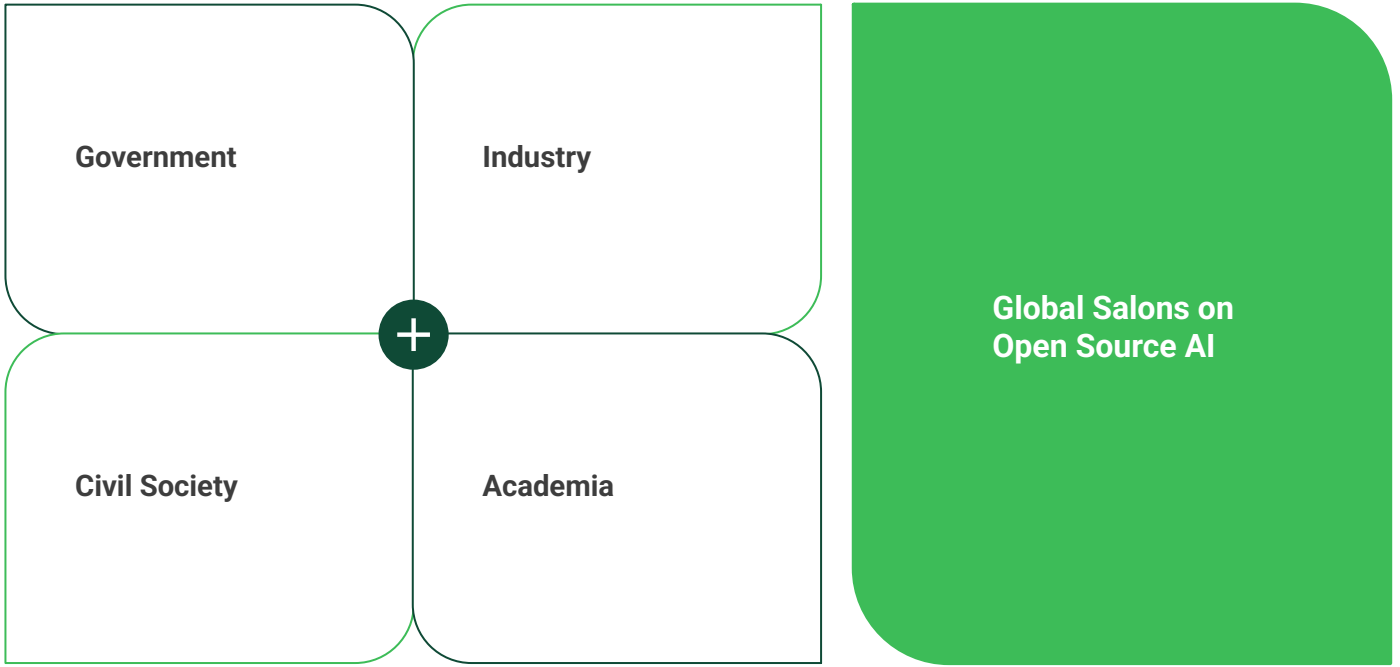
Oct 2025
Nov 2025
Dec 2025
Jan 2026
Feb 2026
Mar 2026
Apr 2026
May 2026
Jun 2026
Jul 2026
Aug 2026
Sep 2026
Date
License
apache-2.0
mit
cc-license
gemma
llama-community
stability/openrail

The Open Source AI Salons



Engaging with the OSAID

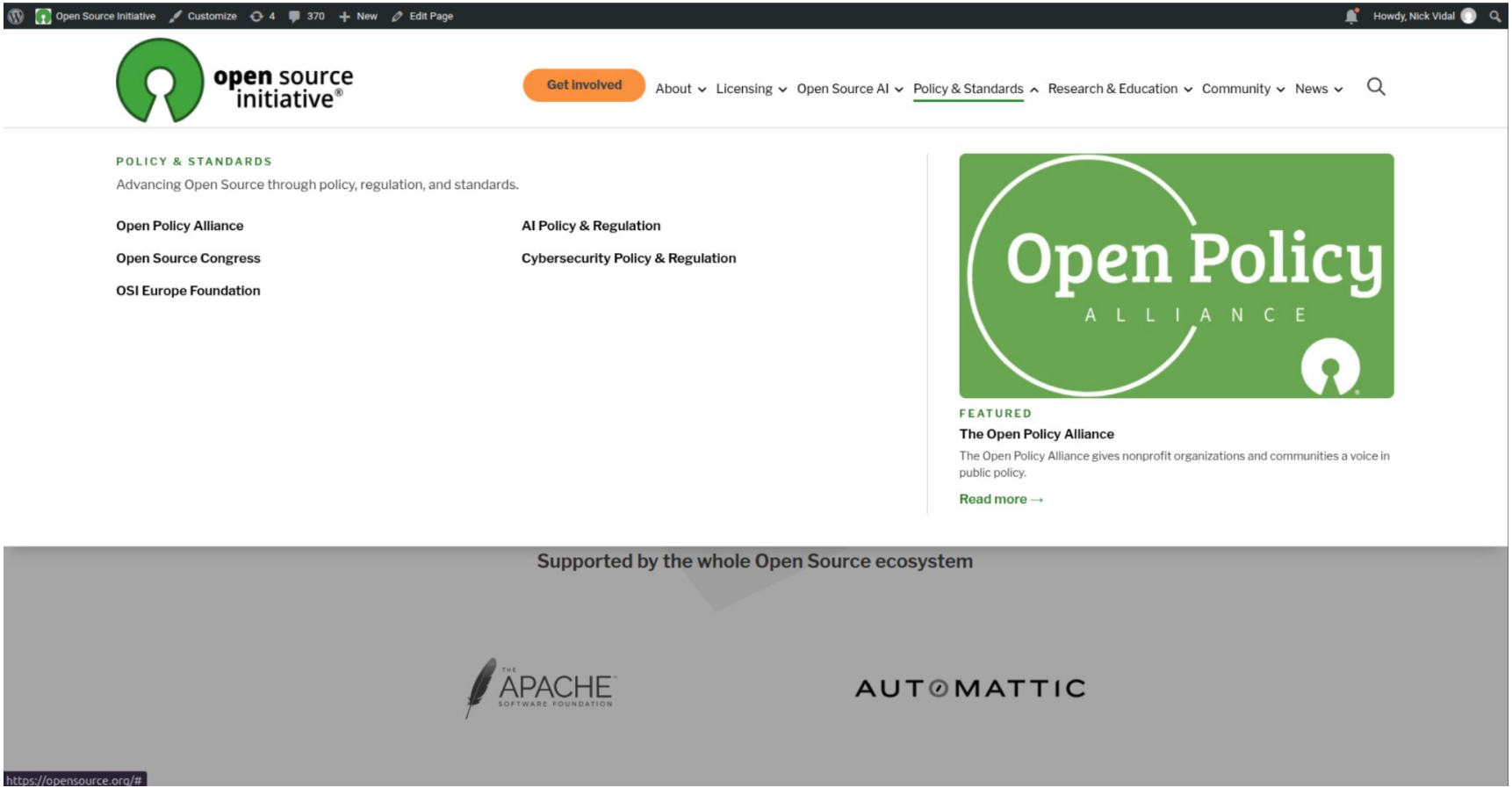
Q4 and 2027 Priorities

- Pipeline for global AI policy monitoring
- Research, publish, present
- Deliver on AI Salons
- Develop a strategic plan for updating the OSAID

opensource.org/fellowship

Telling Our Story

Website redesign







OSI Licensing 101

Start with the fundamentals of Open Source licensing and intellectual property.

- What is Open Source
- What is Copyright
- What is a Patent
- What is a License
- What is Copyleft
- What is Dual Licensing
- How to Choose a License
- Releasing Open Source Software

OSI Governance