

The revolution (again)

BitKom Berlin

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Open source enables what we take for granted but for others is miraculous.



Open source enables local talent to deliver real change




iDT
LABS



Open Source has solutions for problems we take for granted as solved in the west

Problem	Complications	Open Source Solution
No Worker ID scheme	Can't use finger print based biometrics (cross contamination risk)	ODK makes developing enrollment applications very fast Open source facial recognition framework
Data Repository	Must store profiles, payment histories, generate pay lists, manage issues	OpenERP/Odoo
1000's of duplicate and ghost entries from Gov lists (corruption)	Very limited variation in names nationwide Lots of missing and inconsistent data	Dedupe, a python library that uses machine learning to quickly perform de-duplication and entity resolution on structured data
Communications	Must be SMS based, and scale to 30K users flawlessly. Must allow interaction	Kannel SMS and WAP gateway
Leakages, system gaming and patronage	Corruption is a way of life	Audit module included and code is available for audit! Transparency win!

We now have solutions to fully leverage the power of open source.

<i>Problem</i>	Complications	Solution
<i>Local hosting difficult</i>	No power grid, No data centers, No good system admins, No infrastructure. No servers in the country.	Use cloud computing. Amazon takes care of everything. Only have to hold up an internet connection.
<i>Infrastructure</i>	Had to be instantly available 99.999 reliability	OpsWorks Amazon EC2 Amazon RDS Amazon Route 53 Amazon SQS Amazon SES 
<i>Deployment management</i>	Must be robust	Berkshelf/Chef
<i>Development</i>	Constant scope change	Coffee, Energy Drinks, Camp beds in office, no showers, not enough sleep

Open Source Software restored faith in ability of government systems to be run honestly



They're doing it for themselves.

The image displays four overlapping browser screenshots of websites related to technology and innovation in Africa:

- Top Left:** A screenshot of the IDT Labs website. The header includes the IDT Labs logo and navigation links for Home, About Us, Services, Incubations, and Clients. The main content area features a photograph of children and the text: "Our unique value proposition combines the power of emerging technologies with unique approach to its application to bring distinctive solutions to West Africa."
- Top Right:** A screenshot of the Karkhana website (www.karkhana.asia). The header shows the Karkhana logo and a large "00" followed by "HOME karkhana.asia". A vertical navigation menu on the left lists: 00 HOME (karkhana.asia), 01 ABOUT (Our Story), 02 PROGRAMS (Learning Lab), 03 NAWA MARGA (Post-Quake Relief), 04 BLOG (Dig Deeper), and 05 CONTACT. The main content area shows a collage of photos of people working.
- Bottom Left:** A screenshot of the iHub.co.ke website. The header includes the iHub logo and navigation links for ABOUT, COMMUNITY, BLOG, EVENTS, JOBS, RESEARCH, CONSULTING, UXLAB, and CONTACTS. The main content area features a large heading "Technology Innovation Community" and a sub-heading "iHub_ - Nairobi's Innovation Hub for the technology community is an open space for the technologists, investors, tech companies and hackers in the area." Below this, there are sections for "BLOG" (LATEST FROM THE TECH COMMUNITY) and "JOBS" (VISIT THE COMMUNITY'S JOBS BOARD).
- Bottom Right:** A screenshot of the iLab Liberia website (iliberia.org). The header includes the iLab Liberia logo and navigation links for Home, Events, and About. The main content area features a large photograph of a group of people working together at a table with sticky notes, and the heading "iCampus". Below the photo are buttons for "Events" and "Learn More".

Questions?

