Open-source promoted

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The increasing adoption of open-source software in Thailand could reduce the cost of imported software licensing, which topped 1 billion baht in the past few years, says the Association of Thailand Open Source Federation.

Open source software (OSS) is computer software of which source code can be studied, changed and improved under an open-source licence usually free of charge.

Tawatchai Lempaiprote, vice-president of the Association of Thailand Open Source Federation (TOSF), said at least 1,000 enterprises adopted the use of open-source software in the past few years.

He cited the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand, which has saved up to 36 million baht in software licensing cost by using open-source software.

Danupol Siamwalla, chairman of the Business for Open source Society, with 20 Thai open source software firms as members, said the open-source software players were moving to the booming cloud computing market by offering online software through a subscription-based service model.

While users can down and install open-source software for free, they need support and services, an area where IT conmpanies can earn revenue.

The TOSF, Panyapiwat Institute of Management and the National Electronics and Computer Technology Center will hold the Thailand Open Source Software fair from May 18 to 19. The event raises awareness of local open-source software use.