



National Capital Region Chapter of the
ACM Special Interest Group on Computer Human Interaction

Open Source Software and Government

The Intellectual Resources Canada (IRCan) Initiative

Presented by **Joseph Potvin**, Treasury Board Secretariat, Government of Canada
on Thursday April 20, 2006 at **Adobe Systems Canada**

What?

Intellectual Resources Canada (IRCan) is an emerging inter-departmental and inter-sectoral initiative to rationalize public spending on custom intellectual assets, including software. It is being created to support collective evolution of such assets across combinations of public sector, commercial, academic and civil society participants, while engaging the full spectrum of business methods and legislation, agreements, policies and guidelines. In this session, the business requirements of two open source project communities initiated by the Canadian Government will be outlined to explain the underlying purpose and strategy of the IRCan Initiative.

Who?

Joseph Potvin is an IT economist with the Enterprise Stewardship and Internal Services Strategies division, Chief Information Officer Branch, Treasury Board Secretariat, Government of Canada. He coordinates the synthesis of Government of Canada's IT expenditure reporting, and he initiated the ITERation Project to convert this process to an architected solution for expenditure data assembly, management, statistical analysis and reporting. For three years Mr. Potvin has also coordinated planning towards the creation of Intellectual Resources Canada (Ressources Intellectuelles Canada).

After working internationally in the private sector, Mr. Potvin joined the federal government in 1999, first with the International Development Research Centre. There he served as the lead architect and project manager of the third open source (GNU-GPL) software release by the Government of Canada, a grants and contributions management system for the Online Proposal Appraisal (OPA). In 2001, Mr. Potvin was invited to joined the IT Services Branch of PWGSC, to help broaden the use of open source methods in the Government. He represented the branch at the Inter-departmental Open Source Committee hosted by Treasury Board Secretariat.

On his own time, Potvin is co-coordinator of GOSLING (Getting Open Source Logic INto Governments), a voluntary, informal learning and knowledge-sharing community of practice, involving civil servants and other citizens who actively assist the engagement of free/libre open source methods and software solutions in government operations. www.goslingcommunity.org

Mr. Potvin completed an Honors BA (economics) at McGill University in 1983, and a Masters Degree (economics and technology) at Cambridge University, England in 1986. In the late 1980s he taught economic project appraisal, as well as macroeconomic development theory, at three universities in South America.

When and Where?

The meeting takes place on Thursday April 20, 2006 at 7:00 pm in the Klondike Conference Room at Adobe Systems Canada in Ottawa, located at 785 Carling Avenue (near Dow's Lake, between Rochester and Preston streets) Ottawa, ON K1S 5H4 Canada.

- Free parking available on site after 6:00 PM; entrance is on Rochester Street.
- **Bus routes 6 and 85** pass in front of the Adobe Systems Canada office on Carling Avenue.
- **Bus route 3** stops on Preston St at Carling Avenue, near the Adobe Systems Canada office.
- **Bus route 4** stops on Bronson Avenue at Carling Avenue, near the Adobe Systems Canada office (10-15 minute walk)
- The **O-Train** stops at Carling Station; you can walk east long Carling Avenue from the station (3-5 minute walk).

Note: All attending will be required to register with security. Please arrive 5-10 minutes earlier to allow for registering.

The meeting fee is \$5 for non-members and free for CapCHI members (\$10/year*). Membership is for the session period (September 2005-August 2006) - anyone can join!

Refreshments will be provided for the meeting.

For more information see www.capchi.org or contact info@capchi.org.

* Updated fee for the remainder of this season.