

<p>CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY</p> <h1>TECHNOLOGY LETTER</h1>	<p>NUMBER: <b>TL 18-02</b></p>	<p>DATE ISSUED: <b>MAY 2018</b></p>
<p>SUBJECT: <b>OPEN SOURCE AND CODE REUSE</b></p>	<p>REFERENCES: Government Code § 11545 and § 11546 State Administrative Manual (SAM) Sections 4819.2, 4984, 4984.1 and 4984.2 Technology Letter 10-01</p>	

## BACKGROUND

The California Department of Technology (CDT) is committed to improving the way Agencies/state entities acquire, build, and deliver information technology (IT) solutions, to better support cost efficiency, effectiveness, and the public's experience with government programs. Currently, when Agencies/state entities produce custom-developed source code, they do not make their new code broadly available for state government-wide reuse. These challenges have resulted in duplicative acquisitions for substantially similar code and the inefficient use of taxpayer dollars. Enhanced reuse of custom-developed code across state government can have significant benefits for taxpayers, including decreasing duplicative costs for the same code and reducing vendor lock-in. This policy seeks to address these challenges by ensuring new source code, which has been custom-developed by the State of California, be broadly available for reuse across state government in a consistent manner.

In January 2010 CDT's predecessor organization, the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), permitted the use of Open Source Software (OSS) in state government. While the benefits of custom-developed code reuse are significant, additional benefits can accrue when custom-developed code is also made available to the public for inspection, improvement, and reuse as OSS. When possible, making source code available as OSS can enable continual improvement of state software development efforts as a result of a broader user community implementing the code for its own purposes and publishing improvements. This collaborative atmosphere can make it easier to conduct software peer review and security testing, to reuse existing solutions, and to share technical knowledge.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this Technology Letter (TL) is to announce:

- New SAM Section 4984, provides an overview of the Open Source and Code Reuse Policy.
- New SAM Section 4984.1, outlines Agency/state entity requirements for the Open Source and Code Reuse Policy.
- New SAM Section 4984.2, includes exceptions to the Open Source and Code Reuse Policy.
- Updated SAM Section 4819.2 to include new definitions of "Code Repository", "Custom-Developed Code", "Source Code" and modified definition of "Open Source Software".
- Establishment of CDT's public code repository, [code.ca.gov](http://code.ca.gov), to host all new custom-developed open source code and related information and make this information available to all other Agencies/state entities.
- Agencies/state entities shall use best practices to ensure custom-developed code, documentation, and other associated materials are delivered from developers throughout the software development lifecycle and made available for reuse across state government through [code.ca.gov](http://code.ca.gov).

- Agencies/state entities shall, whenever possible, make code custom-developed by the State of California available to the public as OSS, pursuant to the limited exceptions outlined in SAM Section 4984.2.

**QUESTIONS**

Questions regarding this Technology Letter should be directed to the Department of Technology, Office of Governmental Affairs at [ITPolicy@state.ca.gov](mailto:ITPolicy@state.ca.gov). Additional information regarding this policy is available at <https://code.ca.gov/>.

**SIGNATURE**

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