WHITE PAPER

openDesk

Collabora Online brings Digital Freedom to European Government

The openDesk project, spearheaded by the German Federal Ministry for Digital Transformation and Government Modernisation (BMDS), stands at the forefront of European initiatives aiming to fortify digital sovereignty. With a focus on open-source and secure digital solutions, this project seeks to redefine how governments harness technology for seamless operations, with Collabora Online making significant contributions amongst other valued partners. Building on our success and experience in the public and private sector, Collabora's involvement in the openDesk initiative clearly demonstrates our commitment to providing secure, transparent, and interoperable solutions for any industry.

In partnership with:

Collabora Online

Nextcloud

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X-WIKI

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Increasing dependence on proprietary software solutions poses a significant threat to digital sovereignty, as governments find themselves unable to clearly identify how their data is being controlled, or even which jurisdictions the data resides in, compromising control over critical digital infrastructure. The need for secure, open-source alternatives becomes paramount as governments grapple with the imperative to control their deployments, protect sensitive data, maintain interoperability, and establish cost-effective yet robust solutions.

This case study explores how Collabora Online plays a pivotal role in addressing these challenges, offering public bodies a path to navigate the complex terrain of digital governance with resilience and adaptability.

Collabora Online's Role

"We want to just focus on what we do best which is loving your documents and bringing them from that proprietary world into an open sovereign environment. But of course we're only one piece of that big puzzle that needs solving and so we bring all of these other components together to make one beautiful solution under the openDesk banner."

Michael Meeks – General Manager, Collabora Productivity

Collabora Online provides the document editing functionality at the heart of openDesk, and in the initial period of the openDesk project, we have worked closely with our partners to make any necessary changes to align our offering more fully with the German government's requirements. Building on decades of interoperability experience, and now the largest single contributor to the LibreOffice codebase, Collabora Online can seamlessly integrate into existing IT ecosystems. Our dedication to providing a fully-functional document editor, with industry-standard interoperability, positions Collabora Online as the go-to solution for public or private sector entities looking to secure their digital infrastructure without compromise.

"The ability to collaboratively edit documents, spreadsheets, presentations in a browser is of course at the core of an alternative to Microsoft 365. Without Collabora that would not have been possible and we see Collabora as a very supportive very flexible very open partner which is fun to work with."

Peter Ganten – CEO and Founder, Univention

A European Solution

"It's truly European, it's not only German open-source vendors but there are also open-source vendors from other European countries like France or England [...] I think Collabora is one of the key components of openDesk and I really look forward to fostering the collaboration with Collabora."

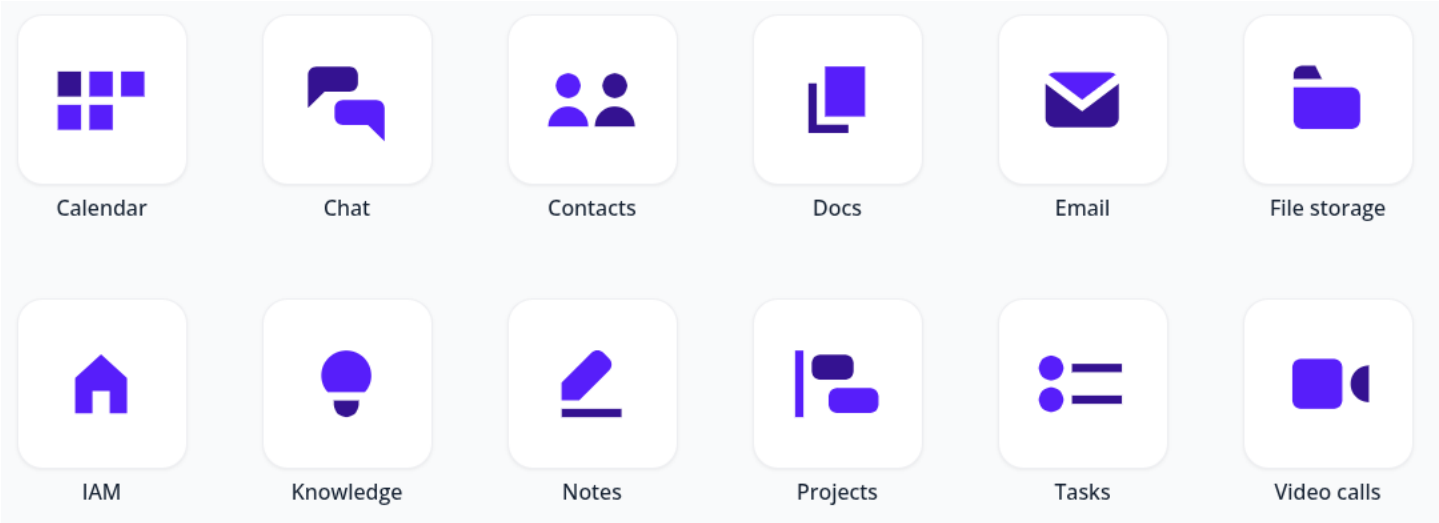
Niels Lindenthal – CEO and Founder, OpenProject

openDesk stands as a European solution, with an emphasis on empowering governmental bodies across Europe to retain control of their and their citizens' data. openDesk champions the principle that data management should not be outsourced any further than necessary, either keeping the data management on premise, or with a trusted local partner. This approach aligns with the growing need for autonomy and independence, allowing European governments to maintain control over their digital infrastructure and protect sensitive information from external influences. This remains something that is simply not an option with the current document editor industry leaders.

Nextcloud

"If you care where your data is located, who controls it, GDPR compliance and so on, our combined products are the best choice. Most of the classic SAAS solutions are actually not compliant."

Frank Karlitschek - Founder and CEO, Nextcloud



At the centre of the openDesk project lies the powerful concept of open-source solutions. Unlike proprietary alternatives, open-source solutions like Collabora Online offer unmatched flexibility, allowing governments to tailor and customize the software to meet their unique needs. Furthermore, the absence of vendor lock-in ensures that governments are not beholden to a specific provider, granting them the freedom to choose and control their digital tools. With open source, transparency reigns supreme, providing to the underlying code, fostering a collaborative ecosystem where innovation and security thrive. This approach not only enhances the adaptability of the software but also safeguards against potential risks associated with closed, opaque systems.

Nextcloud

"A solution like ours together it gives you more flexibility if you really want to do a special setup configuration in some way, this might not be possible with other solutions. And also you don't have vendor lock in - you don't have surprises that someone suddenly is doubling the prices or something, you really have a lot of flexibility and are really in control of your digital strategy."

Frank Karlitschek - Founder and CEO, Nextcloud

A Powerful Solution

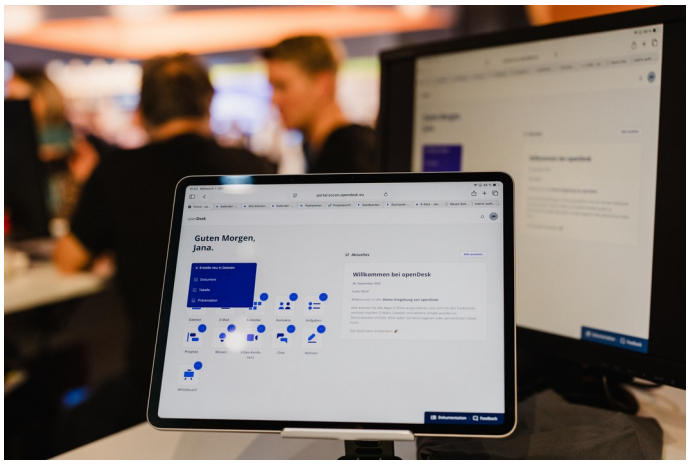
OX

"The beauty is that you can grow, you can extend, you can even add other functionalities to it and you're not only the user, you can also be a creator as well."

Goetz Wohlberg - Project Manager, Open Xchange

Conclusion

Having collaborated closely with the many other contributors to the openDesk project and the German government, Collabora Online emerges as a testament to adaptability and reliability. The principles of this initiative underscores our commitment to empowering any sector to foster digital sovereignty. Whether it be government, education, healthcare, manufacturing, military or more, Collabora Online stands as a versatile and resilient choice. The openDesk project exemplifies the trust placed in our capabilities to redevelop data management. We invite industries worldwide to experience the transformative potential of Collabora Online — a solution at the forefront of security, adaptability, and collaboration.



Try Collabora Office products today and embark on a journey of safe, powerful and flexible document editing.

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