Open Community
(Or, why you can’t just buy a digital preservation solution)
Open-source

Commercial

?
Open-source \rightarrow Commercial
Digital preservation

• The system implementation is only one part
• Ultimately, digital preservation is about repositioning the organisation for the 21stC
• This requires investment in skills...
Digital preservation

• Even if you plan to buy a system, you’ll need to think about: policy, procurement, implementation, configuration—what do you want to do and how will you know if you’ve succeeded?

• Any system (commercial or open-source) can’t tell you this!

...(this is where community comes in...)
Open-community

• Sharing understanding, case studies, requirements, and policies
• Communicating about skills development and organisational positioning
• Connecting with research and development (best practice)
Open-source

Community

Commercial

User groups
Open-source

• Is a viable approach
  • Tools and solutions do exist, you can test them now
  • There are strong communities (OPF is one)
• Requires a certain organisational attitude
  • Willingness to work collaboratively
  • Investment in technical skills rather than contracts
  (but don’t imagine that commercial solutions mean you don’t have to invest in skills...)
Open Planets Foundation

• Community
  • currently national/large institutions (but not all…)
  • strong technical community (practitioners becoming more involved, e.g. through SPRUCE)

• Sustainable tools
  • PLANETS / SCAPE outputs

• Future
  • Move from technology to deployable solutions
  • Re-articulate the value proposition, esp. for smaller members
  • Position the organisation in context of the emerging market
Final thoughts

(you’ll be glad to hear, lunch is next...)

• Open-source and commercial solutions aren’t necessarily in conflict
• Community engagement is unavoidable, regardless of system implementation
• Digital preservation is still not a solved problem—collaboration (including public/private partnership) remains paramount