

Comparison Shopping: Evaluating Open Source Wikis and VLEs

Randy Metcalfe

OSS Watch

© University of Oxford

This document is licensed under

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/uk/>

Comparison
Shopping:
Evaluating
Open Source
Wikis and
VLEs

Randy
Metcalf

wikis and
VLEs

initial criteria

evaluation
frameworks

Open
Business
Readiness
Rating

Open Source
Maturity
Model

deciding for
yourself

further
resources

- 1 wikis and VLEs
- 2 initial criteria
- 3 evaluation frameworks
- 4 Open Business Readiness Rating
- 5 Open Source Maturity Model
- 6 deciding for yourself
- 7 further resources

- A *wiki* is a website that allows visitors to add, remove, edit, and change its content.
- A *Virtual Learning Environment* is any organised online system that supports learning in a directed fashion.

are there open source options?

Comparison
Shopping:
Evaluating
Open Source
Wikis and
VLEs

Randy
Metcalfe

wikis and
VLEs

initial criteria

evaluation
frameworks

Open
Business
Readiness
Rating

Open Source
Maturity
Model

deciding for
yourself

further
resources

open source wikis

- Mediawiki
- MoinMoin
- Kwiki
- TikiWiki
- PHPWiki
- and at least 50 others

super resource WikiMatrix <http://www.wikimatrix.org/>

are there open source options?

Comparison
Shopping:
Evaluating
Open Source
Wikis and
VLEs

Randy
Metcalf

wikis and
VLEs

initial criteria

evaluation
frameworks

Open
Business
Readiness
Rating

Open Source
Maturity
Model

deciding for
yourself

further
resources

open source VLEs

- Moodle
- Bodington
- Claroline
- ATutor
- Sakai

- tendering may inadvertently exclude open source solutions
- division between project and support businesses (in some cases)
- few open source projects have *marketing* staff with a budget who can come visit you

Open source solutions challenge institutions to fully *engage* with their open source communities.

Comparison
Shopping:
Evaluating
Open Source
Wikis and
VLEs

Randy
Metcalfe

wikis and
VLEs

initial criteria

evaluation
frameworks

Open
Business
Readiness
Rating

Open Source
Maturity
Model

deciding for
yourself

further
resources

Task:

In pairs, choose *either* wikis or VLEs and identify 5 criteria that you would use in your procurement process

what groupings do the criteria fall into?

Here are some possible groupings...

- functionality - what do you actually need the system to do?
- technical skill set - what skills will your IT staff need in order to deploy and maintain the new system?
- migration - getting current data (if any) in to the new system
- training - **all** new systems will require training of staff
- exit strategy - getting your data out of the system

An evaluation framework provides a neutral standpoint from which to make comparisons.

Two frameworks that are currently widely used:

- Open Business Readiness Rating
- Open Source Maturity Model

The BRR assessment has four phases:

- 1 quick assessment filter
- 2 target usage assessment
- 3 data collection and processing
- 4 data translation

The OSMM also has four phases:

- 1 shortlisting
- 2 assigning weighting factors
- 3 scoring each item
- 4 multiplying initial score by weighting

In the end you have to decide for yourself

No one will be able to tell you what to choose; and no one will be able to tell you you've made the right choice.

And the **success or failure** of your decision and its implementation **may have nothing to do with the criteria you used** in your procurement process

- OSS Watch <http://www.oss-watch.ac.uk/>
- Business Readiness Rating
<http://www.openbrr.org/wiki/index.php/Home>
- Navic Open Source Maturity Model
<http://www.navicasoft.com/pages/osmm.htm>
- QSOS <http://www.qsos.org/>