Question No: 161

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Page 22, 30/11/15

Topic: Open Sourced Software Providers

Senator Ludlam, Scott asked:

Senator LUDLAM: And if they go out of business, you are buggered?
Mr Pendleton: We have a contract in place in relation to access to the software. If the company went belly up, then we have contractual remedies in terms of access to the application into the future.
Senator LUDLAM: Yes, but they are going to stop patching it and developing it is my point, whereas an open source platform is less likely to go extinct underneath you—if you choose a good one. I am just wondering how you weigh up—this is something that any company or anybody with a big content farm is going to need to make these decisions about. Did you at any time give any serious consideration to using an open source platform?
Mr Pendleton: I do not think—I would have to check, but I am not sure that we actually looked at open sourced software providers.

Answer:

Yes. The ABC had assessed a number of options regarding third-party vendors or open source solutions, and in-house development. The ABC identified 48 open source Content Management Systems, however most had not been deployed into organisations of similar size and type as the ABC, lacked documentation or adequate support. On review, the ABC decided to source a Web Content Management System from the market.