

Pioneering Open Innovation in UK Government ICT Service

```
22 plt.plot(f, P, 1./P, [0, power_max()-1], 'r-', label='True Period: %d(0.00000)' % period)
23 plt.xlabel('Frequency (1/days)')
24 plt.ylabel('Power Peak')
25 plt.axis([0, 0.05, 0, 10])
26 plt.savefig('LombScargleEventest', dpi=100)
27 plt.show
28
29 def MatchTimeToFit(f, f):
30     ValidIndex = np.isnan(f)
31     t = t[~ValidIndex]
32     f = f[~ValidIndex]
33     return t, f
34
35 hdu = fits.open('ic_Per_craa.fits')
36
37
38 #print(hdu[1].columns)
39
40 n = 4 #Star No
41 time = hdu[1].data['tjd'][n]
42 time = time-time(t) #to days
```

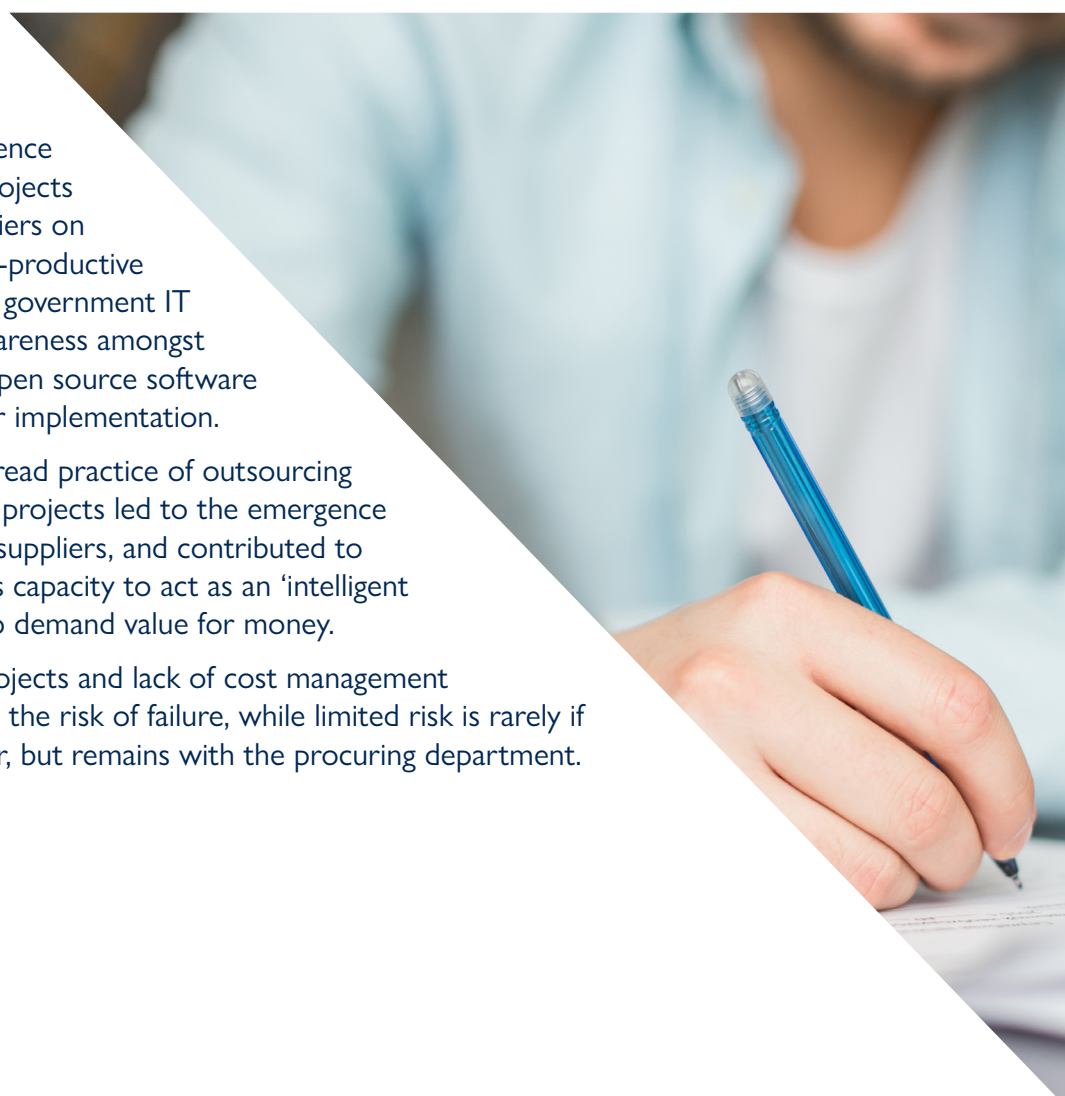
Background

Prof Mark Thompson is recognised as a pioneer of Open Innovation thinking within the UK public sector. He has influenced a major shift in thinking in ICT-driven public service design towards open innovation, with demonstrable impact on public and private sector business models. His 2009 *'Thompson Report': Open Source and Open Standards* for George Osborne launched a seismic change in thinking by government policy-makers, public servants, and private sector service providers. Thompson became a Cabinet Office advisor in 2011, and continues to provide critique and contribution to parliamentary reports and policy documents across government and industry, and support implementation within local government.



Key findings

- Entrenched cultural and institutional barriers within government, including a preference for large scale, top-down IT projects delivered by brand-name suppliers on long-term contracts; a counter-productive culture of secrecy surrounding government IT procurement, and a lack of awareness amongst public sector IT managers of open source software options and the scope for their implementation.
- The UK Government's widespread practice of outsourcing to deliver its programme of IT projects led to the emergence of an 'oligopoly' of IT services suppliers, and contributed to an erosion of the government's capacity to act as an 'intelligent customer' of IT services and to demand value for money.
- The scale of government IT projects and lack of cost management structures significantly increase the risk of failure, while limited risk is rarely if ever transferred to the supplier, but remains with the procuring department.



Policy Outcomes

- Adoption of Thompson's *Better for Less: How to make the government deliver IT savings*, as the 'playbook' for Francis Maude's formation of the Cabinet Office Efficiency & Reform Group, and of *Better for Less*, the *Thompson Report* and other publications in the development of the Cabinet Office Government IT Strategy (2011) and Implementation Plan around Open Standards.
- Enhanced ability of the UK Parliamentary Public Administration Select Committee (PASC) to scrutinise government policies and implementation. The Committee approved the Open Standards approach (based on Thompson's contribution) within their 2012 report *Government and IT – 'a recipe for rip-offs'*: Time for a new approach.
- The Society of Information Technology Management's use of *Digital government, open architecture, and innovation: why public sector IT will never be the same again* as a best practice guide to ICT procurement for local government.

'This was a new message, and at the time was not accepted by everyone'
- Director General of Intellect, the UK's leading technology trade association.

Team

Prof Mark Thompson

Government Areas of Research Interest

Cabinet Office (CO): Public services; Civil Service;
Digital Innovation; Knowledge and Information
Management; BEIS: Smart, Big Data and Computing.





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Get in touch

Send us an email at PolicyEngagement@exeter.ac.uk at any stage of the process for assistance.



Policy at Exeter