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Improving US Department of Defense Technology Acquisition & Development with Open Source

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In late 2008, DISA (Defense Information Systems Agency), the global IT arm of the US Department of Defense, embarked upon a project to create an internal collaboration and software application lifecycle management system. Beyond simply fielding yet another tool, the Forge.mil effort was designed to fundamentally change the way the DoD developed and acquired software technology and systems. The method of this change was the application of Open Source principles inside of the larger DoD community, including ideas such as: meritocracy, code sharing, as well as Agile and collaborative software development. This workshop will explore where the program has succeeded, as well as areas that need to be improved. It is hoped that participants will be able to bring perspectives from their work in the external Open Source world to this discussion.