



**(U//FOUO) Taking Full Advantage of Open-Source Information**

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*(U//FOUO) An Agency team is looking into ways to better exploit open-source info (i.e. info that's openly available, such as press reports, material posted on the Internet, etc.).*

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(U//FOUO) On 1 November 2005, Ambassador Negroponte, the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), established the Open-Source Center. (See the [DNI message](#).) It is the centerpiece of his response to the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission's recommendations calling for the Intelligence Community to devote more attention and resources to exploiting openly available information.

(U//FOUO) NSA, too, must address this issue. Many of our adversaries plan, operate, and communicate in the world of open-source information and media - and to be effective, we must operate in this same "battle space" as our enemies.

(S//REL) Each of NSA's core missions (SIGINT, Netwarfare, and Information Assurance) require significant use of open-source information. Open-source information plays a key role in enriching analysis, owning the Net, leveraging technology trends, assisting access, and performing target development.

(U//FOUO) **To jump-start the open-source effort, I have asked a process team to examine this issue.** This team will have participation from many places in the Enterprise in order to scope open-source issues to a degree not previously documented -- including a thorough legal and policy review. The team will also provide a recommendation for a suitable structure to implement changes needed to fully exploit this information.

(U//FOUO) The importance of open source to our missions is critical and timely; therefore, **be prepared, if asked, to describe your role in the acquisition, use or processing of open-source information.** I have requested that the team report back to SID leadership in 30 days and recommend a way ahead.

(U//FOUO) If you have questions, please send your email to the DL S\_Opensource alias.

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