



**NASA**  
**SEWP III**  
[www.sewp.nasa.gov](http://www.sewp.nasa.gov)

# Government Wide Contracts and IT Standards

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# SEWP Scope / Focus



- SEWP Scope: Catalog of commercially available IT products
- Main SEWP Focus: High-end, state-of-the-art IT Products (Hardware and Software)
- Open to all Federal Agencies and their authorized Support Contractors
- Save Gov't time, money and headaches
  - Streamlines decision making
  - Low prices
  - Easy and efficient procurement process





# SEWP by the numbers

**10+** years - track record in high-end acquisitions

**400,000+** IT products

**16** Prime contractors; 10 small businesses

**1,400** Manufacturers

**\$3.8 million** In orders processed per day



# Prime contractors on SEWP





# SEWP Objectives

- Have the most appropriate hardware and software tools continuously available to assist NASA's scientific and engineering core competencies (High-end / State-of-the-art IT Products)
- **Minimize system incompatibilities and facilitate hardware and software standardization across agency and the Government through easy to use commercial contracts**
- Provide a wide range of hardware and software tools to support, interconnect, and enhance computer systems.
- Embrace innovative procurement actions and processes





# SEWP History and Standards

- SEWP I partly in response to de-facto standard (VAX/VMS)
  - Justified quick procurement (limited choices)
  - Reduced incentive for new technology
- SEWP I and II (1990-2000) centered on Open Standards
  - Primarily UNIX
- SEWP III (2001) added emerging / de-facto standards
  - Linux
  - Window
  - But still primarily Unix





# SEWP Future and Standards

## ➤ SEWP IV coming (2005)

- Must be relevant today and still fresh in 5 years

## ➤ OS Standards is in several camps:

- UNIX (pure) appears to have peaked
- Windows-based market domination
- Linux increasingly important in high end computing
- Inexpensive Computer hardware and OS

## ➤ Other technologies are important:

- Peripherals (e.g. mass storage)
- Security
- Information (databases)





# Types of Standards

- **Technical standards (e.g. OpenGroup, ANSI, etc)**
  - Increases choices / flexible solutions
  - Relies on adequacy of the standard and certification process
  - Constantly changing / evolving
- **Industry (de-facto standards) (e.g. Windows, Office)**
  - Limit choices / reduce innovation
  - Certainty
  - Internal consistency
- **Upper Management (CIO) Standards**
  - One size fits all
  - Lower hardware / administration costs
  - Works best in homogeneous environment







# Questions for me and you

## ➤ OS standards

- Is Unix still alive?
- Is Linux standardizable?
  - Does it want to be?
- Does Windows / Intel provide a totally level hardware platform field
  - What distinguishes Dell / HP-Compaq / Brand X

## ➤ What do people really want / need?

- Standards for interoperability
- The latest technology regardless of relevance to past

## ➤ What does high-end IT mean today?

- Computing power
- Network capability
- Applications (databases / web-based / etc. )





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**Thank You!**