

NEWSLETTER

19 January 2007

You can download a PDF version of the newsletter:

http://www.odfalliance.org/mail_list.php. Please feel free to forward to whom it may be of interest.

OOXML Under ISO/IEC Review For “Contradictions” With Other Standards

On 5 January 2007, Ecma submitted Office Open XML (OOXML) to the Joint Technical Committee 1 of the International Organization for Standardization and International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC JTC1), triggering an initial 30-day period during which the National Bodies to JTC1 will review OOXML for any “evident contradiction” with other ISO/IEC standards.

The Contradictory Nature of OOXML -

<http://www.consortiuminfo.org/standardsblog/article.php?story=20070117145745854>

Find and Log In Contradictions -

http://www.grokdoc.net/index.php/EOOXML_objections

OOXML Fact Sheet -

<http://www.odfalliance.org/resources/OfficeOpenXMLFactSheet.pdf>

ODF Takes Hold In Argentina

Misiones, a province in the northeast of Argentina, became the first regional government in Latin America to adopt ODF. According to the resolution that took effect one day after its publication in the province's official journal on 21 December 2006, all documents created and exchanged between public administrations must be in ODF for documents in which the recipient needs to make edits; for documents in public circulation and where read-only access is needed, PDF/A must be used. Proprietary formats, including .doc, .ppt., .xls, RTF, and WordPerfect are explicitly not permitted under the resolution.

Province of Misiones Resolution (esp) -

http://www.misiones.gov.ar/egov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=133&Itemid=26

UK Educational Body Recommends Native Support for ODF in Office 2007 By Mid-Year To Ensure Interoperability With Other Major Suites

The British Education Communications and Technology Association (BECTA), an advisory body that works with industry to ensure that the UK has the right technology in place for education, issued an interim report on VISTA and Office 2007. The report recommends that Microsoft provide native support for ODF in Office 2007, and that UK schools and colleges only consider deploying Office 2007 when its interoperability with alternative products is satisfactory. The report notes that Microsoft's current support for ODF is limited (opening and saving ODF documents in Word through a translator), and concludes that using the default file format of Microsoft Office 2007 (OOXML) "therefore has the potential to exacerbate the 'digital divide'." BECTA recommends that the issue be kept under observation until the final report comes out at end of 2007.

[BECTA Interim Report on VISTA and Office 2007 -](http://publications.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?resID=28199&page=1835)
<http://publications.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?resID=28199&page=1835>

Open Standards Coalition Launched in Poland

A group of companies and organizations active in the Polish IT market announced the launch of a coalition, the Koalicja na Rzecz Otwartych Standardów (KROS), to promote open technological standards in Poland. Citing the inconveniences to citizens and higher costs for companies due to the failure to use open standards, the new group, consisting of both domestic and foreign companies operating in Poland, promises to launch educational campaigns on the progress of IT standardization, especially in those areas under government control.

[KROS Website - www.standardy.org](http://www.standardy.org)

[Jacek Łęgiewicz Blog - http://www.standardy.org/blog/18](http://www.standardy.org/blog/18)

UNDP, Oracle, IBM To Help East-Asia Create Blueprints for eGovernment

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), IBM and Oracle announced a joint research initiative to help Asia-Pacific countries share and create strategies, blueprints and policies for adopting the right blend of open standards and technology services. The research will spur the development of Government Interoperability Frameworks (GIFs) that ensure countries in the region obtain maximum benefits from their investment in ICT and deliver real benefits to citizens.

[UNDP Release - http://www.apdip.net/projects/gif/launch](http://www.apdip.net/projects/gif/launch)

[Project Description - http://www.apdip.net/projects/gif/project](http://www.apdip.net/projects/gif/project)

China: ODF-UOF Converter Developed

The Open Standards Lab of Peking University announced the release of software that converts office documents between ODF and China's own national, XML-based file format called UOF. Text, presentations, and spreadsheets can be opened and displayed correctly with corresponding ODF and UOF supporting productivity suites. A 150-page

report (in English and Chinese) called "A Comparison Between ODF and UOF" compares the two standards feature-by-feature and explains how to map data between the two.

ODF-UOF Converter - <http://odf-to-uof.sourceforge.net/index.html>

Rob Weir: An Antic Disposition - <http://www.robweir.com/blog/2006/12/and-then-there-were-three.html#links>

Tamil Nadu (India) Goes FOSS; France's Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Adopts OpenOffice

Citing support for ODF as a significant factor in its decision, the Indian state of Tamil Nadu announced it will deploy OpenOffice/Linux on 32,000 desktops....France's Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has decided to migrate to OpenOffice. The cost of renewing licenses for 15,000 workstations for MS Office was €2.7m versus €1.5m for OpenOffice, a savings of €1.2m (\$1.6m) over three years. Notably, the possibility of generating files in ODF is proposed in conformance with France's interoperability guidelines (RGI) of 8 December 2005.

Tamil Nadu - <http://www.solidoffice.com/archives/438>

Linux France - <http://linuxfr.org/2007/01/11/21901.html>

ODF Applications Support Update: 1) OpenDocument Viewer Beta 1; 2) CraneXLS2ODSMacro

OpenDocument Viewer Beta 1 is a cross-platform viewer for ODF text documents, spreadsheets, and presentations. Support for drawings and spreadsheet charts is planned for a future release...With the Crane XLS2ODS OpenOffice.org macro, you can invoke the automated conversion of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet into an ODF spreadsheet in an unattended method from invocation arguments.

OpenDocument Viewer Beta 1 -

http://freshmeat.net/projects/odfviewer/?branch_id=67797&release_id=243877

CraneXLS2ODSMacro - <http://www.cranesoftwrights.com/resources/index.htm>

Upcoming Conferences/Events With ODF Tracks:

Workshop on Open Document Exchange Formats [28 February 2007 – Berlin, Germany]

<http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/6469/251>

BostonPHP January User Group: ODF what's in it for you? [4 April 2007 – Boston, MA]

http://www.bostonphp.org/component/option,com_gigcal/task,details/gigcal_gigs_id,23/

OASIS Symposium 2007 – eBusiness and Open Standards: Understanding the Facts, Fiction, and Future [15-18 April 2007 – San Diego, CA]

<http://www.oasis-open.org/events/symposium/2007/call-for-participation.php>

New Members

For a list of all 362 member organizations, see:

<http://www.odfalliance.org/memberlist.php>. Please welcome the following new members: Linux User Group of Novi Sad (Serbia); Angulo Sólido (Portugal); Bhagnari & Co (India); Silver Strand Solutions (USA); Digitar Soluções (Brazil); and Access Foundation (USA)

*****ODF IN THE NEWS*****

Six Thousand Pages, One Month, No Chance

ZDNet.co.uk

by Rupert Goodwins

18 January 2007 2:41pm

<http://community.zdnet.co.uk/blog/0,1000000567,10004805o-2000331777b,00.htm>

U.K. schools advised to hold off on Vista, Office 2007

ComputerWorld, January 12, 2007

by Jeremy Kirk

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9007903&source=rss_news10

MS Fights to Own Your Office Docs

Wired News, 02:00 AM Jan, 05, 2007

By Scott Gilbertson

http://www.wired.com/news/technology/software/0,72403-0.html?tw=wn_technology_4

OpenOffice ODF.odt compared to Microsoft Word.doc

3Monkeys

<http://3monkeyweb.com/3monkeys/2006/12/29/openoffice-odfodt-compared-to-microsoft-word-doc/>

Amsterdam Looks To Open Source Solutions

CIO News Alerts, Dec 28, 2006

By Peter Sayer, IDG News Service (Paris Bureau)

http://www.cio.com/blog_view.html?CID=27755

My Public and Open University

Handyfloss - Iñaki Silanes, December 20, 2006

<http://isilanes.blogspot.com/2006/12/my-public-and-open-university.html>