

ODF Alliance Newsletter

14 May 2008

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http://www.odfalliance.org/mail_list.php

ODF BECOMES NATIONAL STANDARD IN BRAZIL, SOUTH AFRICA, & CROATIA

Standards bodies in South Africa, Brazil, and Croatia formally approved ODF as national standards. The South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) approved ODF as a national standard in April following the government's announcement late last year that ODF will be the standard for document exchange between government agencies and the public. The final translated version of ODF was approved by the Brazilian national standards body, ABNT, paving the way for ODF's adoption as a national standard (ABNT NBR ISO/IEC 26300:2008) following the government's decision to adopt ODF as the recommended format for document exchange. The Croatian Standards Institute (Hrvatski zavod za norme, HZN) confirmed that it approved ODF as a national standard, with the official decision expected to be published in the institute's bi-monthly journal later this month.

Brazil - <http://homembit.com/2008/04/odf-is-now-a-brazilian-standard-nbr-isoiec-26300.html>

South Africa - <http://www.tectonic.co.za/?p=2365>

Croatia - <http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/7563/469>

EU INSTITUTIONS CALLED ON TO OPEN DOORS TO INTEROPERABILITY, OPEN STANDARDS

Seventy representatives from government, the software industry, and scientific and consumer groups participated in the April 17th conference held in the European Parliament in support of the launch of the Open Parliament Petition. The petition calls on governments to ensure that citizens and stakeholder groups should not have to use the software of a single company in order to communicate with their elected officials or participate in the legislative process. The conference was organized by MEP David Hammerstein and his colleagues with the support of Open Forum Europe.

<http://www.openparliament.eu>

UK GOVERNMENT EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY BODY REFERS OOXML COMPLAINT TO EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Becta, the United Kingdom Government's lead agency for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in education, raised concerns last year regarding the interoperability difficulties caused by Microsoft's decision to offer native "out of the box" support for its own OOXML format, while refusing to offer equivalent support for the ISO-approved Open Document Format (ODF). Becta filed a complaint with the UK competition authorities last year and has now referred its interoperability complaint and supporting evidence to the European Commission. Following ISO's vote on OOXML, Becta had advised educational institutions in the UK against widespread deployment of Office 2007 until schools and colleges are sure that they have in place mechanisms to deal with interoperability and potential digital divide issues, and to avoid saving any files in OOXML. Due to limitations in Microsoft's implementation of ODF, Becta also advised Microsoft Office users to continue to save files in the more widely adopted .doc, .xls and .ppt formats.

<http://news.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?resID=36594&page=1657&catID=1632>

ODF ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES APPROVED BY OASIS

The Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS), which maintains and improves the ODF specification, approved guidelines for ODF v1.1 implementation that will help people with disabilities gain access to computers and information. The guidelines describes the things that an ODF 1.1 implementation must do in order to ensure that users with disabilities are equally able to read, create, and edit documents - with full access to all of the meaning and intent - as their mainstream colleagues.

<http://docs.oasis-open.org/office/office-accessibility/v1.0/cs01/>

NEW OR IMPROVED ODF APPLICATIONS SUPPORT

KOffice 2.0 Alpha 7, a technology preview of the upcoming version 2.0, offers improved support for ODF and is the first to see results from the ODF test suite being imported into KOffice.

<http://dot.kde.org/1210273570/>

OpenOffice.org 3.0 beta is now available and ready for testing. OOo 3.0 beta will support the upcoming ODF v1.2 standard, which will include support for extensible metadata, formula, and digital signatures, among other enhancements. It also provides interoperability with the Macintosh's VoiceOver screen reader, providing blind users of the Mac with access to an office suite that enables them to read and write office documents and spreadsheets in ODF.

<http://marketing.openoffice.org/3.0/announcementbeta.html>

Corel's WordPerfect Office X4 allows you to open and view ODF files.

<http://www.corel.com/servlet/Satellite/us/en/Content/1153321430604?pressId=1208292544667>

IBM's aDesigner, a disability simulator that helps web designers ensure that their content and applications are accessible and usable by the visually impaired, has added support for ODF.

http://www.alphaworks.ibm.com/tech/adesigner?open&S_TACT=105AGX59&S_CMP=GRsite-lnxw07&ca=dgr-lnxw07awadesigner

ODFTrans 0.7.2, free software which can be used as a central service for bi-directional conversion between proprietary office formats and ODF, now supports the conversion of spreadsheets and presentations, in addition to text documents.

http://www.hwd-online.de/ODFTrans_EN.html

ODFDOM 0.6 is the name of the upcoming free ODF framework designed to provide an API for easily reading, writing and manipulating ODF documents.

<http://wiki.services.openoffice.org/wiki/ODFDOM>

EuroOffice Dictionary Professional 1.6 was released adding several new features and was updated for compatibility with OpenOffice.org 2.4.

<http://www.multiracio.com/eurooffice/news/eurooffice-dictionary-professional-1.6-released>

UDNdigital's U-Portable-Platform 2.0 (UPP2.0), a mobile, ODF-supporting open source platform popular in Taiwan, was officially released.

<http://www.5680.tw/>

NEW ALLIANCE MEMBERS

Please welcome the following new members: National HPCC Software Exchange (USA); Students for Free Culture (USA); Activesoft Ltd (Hungary); and Drumev Development Studio (Bulgaria).

EVENTS CALENDAR

ODF Workshop [14 May 2008 - Utrecht, The Netherlands]

<http://www.odfworkshop.nl/>

ODF Seminar for Municipalities [19 May 2008 - Schoten, Belgium]

<http://www.v-ict-or.be/content/events/record.php?ID=125>

IDABC Common Assessment Method for Standards and Specifications Info Day [28 May 2008 - Brussels, Belgium]

<http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/7572>

Red Hat Summit [18-20 June 2008 - Boston, MA]

<http://www.redhat.com/promo/summit/2008/>

OpenOffice.org Conference (OOoCon 2008)[5-7 Nov 2008 - Beijing, China]

<http://marketing.openoffice.org/ooocon2008/>

ODF IN THE NEWS

OpenOffice 3.0 beta natively supports Mac OS X [Tim Conneally, BetaNews]

http://www.betanews.com/article/OpenOffice_30_beta_natively_supports_Mac_OS_X/1210261432

Is Office the new Netscape? [Nicholas Carr, Rough Type]

http://www.rough.type.com/archives/2008/05/one_of_the_corn.php

British IT watchdog complains to EU about Microsoft's OOXML format [The Economic Times-India]

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/British_IT_watchdog_complains_to_EU_about_Microsofts_OOXML_format/articleshow/3036501.cms

BE, NL: governments will not use ISO OOXML [IDABC Open Source News]

<http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/7562>

Office Open XML: Sounds Great, Less Fulfilling [Dave Methvin, Information Week]

http://www.informationweek.com/blog/main/archives/2008/04/office_open_xml.html

Norwegians protest OOXML, quote SA minister [tectonic]

<http://www.tectonic.co.za/?p=2340>

Geeks take to the street against Microsoft standard [Catherine Stein, Aftenposten, Norway]

<http://www.aftenposten.no/english/article2360806.ece>

Microsoft's Great Besmirching [Glyn Moody, Linux Journal]

<http://www.linuxjournal.com/content/microsofts-great-besmirching>

OOXML a No-No for Some Countries, Anyway [Glyn Moody]

<http://opendotdotdot.blogspot.com/2008/04/ooxml-no-no-for-some-countries-anyway.html>

Unix beardies get legal over OOXML [Mark Ballard, The Inquirer]

<http://www.theinquirer.net/gb/inquirer/news/2008/04/09/unix-beardies-legal-ooxml>

EC Investigates OOXML 'Process' [Stuart J. Johnston, InternetNews.com]

<http://www.internetnews.com/government/article.php/3739206/EC+Investigates+OOXML+Process.htm>

The Dueling Interoperability Standards Dilemma [Loraine Lawson, ITBusinessEdge]
<http://www.itbusinessedge.com/blogs/mia/?p=352>

Emerging markets reject OOXML [Candice Jones, ITWeb]
<http://www.itweb.co.za/sections/software/2008/0804041100.asp?A=LIN&S=Open%20Source&O=FPLEAD>

Ars tests Microsoft's ODF add-in for Office [Ryan Paul, Ars Technica]
<http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20080307-microsofts-odf-add-in-for-office-still-not-good-enough.html>

Microsoft Office 2007 fails OOXML conformance test [Peter Judge, ZDNet]
http://news.zdnet.com/2424-3515_22-198109.html

Microsoft confirms testing of 'Albany' low-cost Office suite [Elizabeth Montalbano, InfoWorld]
http://www.infoworld.com/article/08/04/18/Microsoft-confirms-testing-of-Albany-low-cost-Office-suite_1.html

ISO Fantasy [Tim Bray]
<http://www.tbray.org/ongoing/When/200x/2008/04/15/OOXML>

Kenya: Microsoft Denies Threatening to Withdraw Funding [Rebecca Wanjiku, IDG News Service]
http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/144898/microsoft_denies_threatening_to_withdraw_funding.html

Eurocrats study Microsoft OOXML under procurement rules [Mark Ballard, The Inquirer]
<http://www.theinquirer.net/gb/inquirer/news/2008/04/24/eurocrats-study-microsoft-ooxml>

Immature file formats should be kept inside [Tim Anderson, IT Week]
<http://www.whatpc.co.uk/itweek/comment/2215287/immature-file-formats-should-3964416>

When is a Standard Not a Standard? [Glyn Moody, ComputerWorld UK]
<http://www.computerworlduk.com/community/blogs/index.cfm?entryid=756&blogid=14>

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