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OOXML Bid For ISO Approval Falls Short of Necessary Votes

Microsoft's bid to secure ISO approval of OOXML during the 5-month ballot period failed. Approval required at least 2/3 of the votes cast by national bodies participating in ISO/IEC JTC 1 (so-called P-members) to be positive; and no more than 1/4 of the total number of national body votes cast negative. Neither of these criteria were achieved, with 53% of votes cast by P-members being positive and 26% of national votes cast being negative. During the 5-month ballot period that ended on Sep 2, the ranks of the P-members had swelled to include 12 new members (from 29 to 41), 10 of which ultimately voted for approval, including Jamaica, Malta, Cyprus, Cote D'Ivoire, Lebanon, Pakistan, Venezuela and Turkey. Despite the sudden surge, 15 P members voted to disapprove (with comments) and another 9 voted to abstain. The ballots were accompanied by thousands of pages of comments from national bodies highlighting major concerns with the insufficiency of Microsoft's patent pledge, the undocumented features of OOXML preventing its use by other vendors, dependencies on other Microsoft proprietary products, and technical defects, which will have to be resolved at a Ballot Resolution Meeting (BRM) on February 25-29, 2008 if OOXML is to ultimately achieve ISO approval. ODF was approved unanimously (23-0 among P members, 31-0 overall) as an international standard by ISO in May 2006.

[ISO Press Release](http://www.iso.org/iso/newsandmedia/pressrelease.htm?refid=Ref1070) - <http://www.iso.org/iso/newsandmedia/pressrelease.htm?refid=Ref1070>

[Ballot Results and Vote Map](http://www.nooxml.org/ballotresults) - <http://www.nooxml.org/ballotresults>

[ISO/IEC Voting Process Explained](http://www.consortiuminfo.org/standardsblog/article.php?story=20070831151800414) -

<http://www.consortiuminfo.org/standardsblog/article.php?story=20070831151800414>

[Linux Foundation Statement on OOXML](http://stuff.techwhack.com/archives/2007/08/29/ooxml/) - <http://stuff.techwhack.com/archives/2007/08/29/ooxml/>

OOXML Poses Grave Issues With Respect to Accessibility, University of Toronto White Paper Concludes

Jutta Treviranus, Director of the Adaptive Technology Resource Centre and Dr. Stephen A. Hockema, faculty member of Information Studies - both at the University of Toronto - have published a white paper, "Accessibility Issues with OOXML," describing the accessibility challenges that people with disabilities face with office documents and office formats generally. The paper also addresses the specific issues they have encountered in OOXML. The paper's conclusions cite the "grave issues with respect to the accessibility of Office Open XML as a format and potential standard that should preclude its adoption at present." While noting that "OOXML can be improved to ameliorate some of the more specific technical concerns," the authors state that it is likely too late for the higher-level issues, and

instead recommend that energy be spent on improving the existing ISO-approved ODF standard.

University of Toronto Accessibility White Paper -

http://atrc.utoronto.ca/index.php?option=com_content§ionid=14&task=view&hidemainmenu=1&id=371

Russia, Malaysia Embrace ODF

Following last month's action by Japan, Russia and Malaysia became the latest countries to embrace open standards, including ODF. The "Action Plan on Open Source Software Development and Usage in the Russian Government" envisions legislative requirements to mandate the procurement of software based on how well it adheres to widely used standards. In a statement, Russia's Ministry for IT and Communications said, "Open document standards must be supported on a governmental level. Within the project to form an e-government concept in the Russian Federation, support of ISO/IEC 26300:2006 is planned."....The Malaysian Administration Modernization and Management Planning Unit (MAMPU) issued a tender for a nine-month study that will provide a roadmap for implementing ODF in Malaysia's public sector. The decision to implement ODF follows lengthy consideration by MAMPU of open formats, their importance for the current and future accessibility of government records, and the relative "openness" of the options available.

Alliance Release - http://www.odfalliance.org/press/Release20070828_Russia.pdf

ZD Net Asia - <http://www.zdnetasia.com/news/software/0,39044164,62030781,00.htm>

OpenOffice.org Annual Conference To Feature ODF Interoperability Camp

The OpenOffice.org Conference 2007 program is out, featuring a one-day "ODF Camp" focused on ODF interoperability among implementations. Visit the ODF Camp page below. The conference, which will be held in Barcelona, will extend over three days, Wednesday 19th September to Friday 21st September inclusive.

OpenOffice.org Conference 2007 Program -

<http://marketing.openoffice.org/ooocon2007/programme.html>

ODF Camp - http://marketing.openoffice.org/ooocon2007/programme/odf_camp.html

Sign the Petitions to Add Support for ODF in iWorks, Palm

Apple Support for ODF - <http://www.petitiononline.com/appleodf/petition.html>

Palm ODF Petition - <http://solutionsathand.wordpress.com/2007/08/09/palm-os-freedom-of-choice-is-the-cornerstone/>

ODF Now Available in Spanish

The ODF wishes to thank the regional government of Extremadura (Spain) for translating ODFv1.1 into Spanish. In July 2006 Extremadura made ODF and PDF/A its official formats, requiring their use for document exchange between public administrations.

ODF v1.1 (in Spanish) - <http://62.175.249.88/linexsp/>

New Applications Support for ODF

1) Zoho Viewer, an online office application, now includes support for ODF.

<http://blog.wired.com/monkeybites/2007/08/zoho-viewer-spa.html>

2) Sun Microsystem's ODF-supporting StarOffice software suite will now be distributed through Google Pack, giving users free access to an enterprise-strength office application.

<http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/prnewswire/AQW15815082007-1.htm>

3) IBM's Lotus Notes & Domino 8 was released incorporating ODF-supporting productivity tools.

<http://www-03.ibm.com/press/us/en/pressrelease/22169.wss>

4) Babya E-Type 2008 (version 5.0) will be the first Babya to support the ODF via a new file conversion utility, powered by OpenOffice.org.

<http://www.pr.com/press-release/48217>

New Alliance Members

Please welcome the following new members: Except (Argentina); Sílice S.A. (Argentina); Xtech (Argentina); Openware (Argentina); Menttes (Argentina); The OSS Movement (Bangladesh); Sharif FarsiWeb, Inc. (Iran); Power Management Concepts, LLC (USA); City of Schwaebisch Hall (Germany); Ext.Net (Ukraine); Edujini Labs Pvt Ltd (India); HollandOpen (Netherlands); Fundación Vía Libre (Argentina); Tenth Planet Technologies (India); Philippine Linux Users' Group; Wescom GmbH Informatik Luzern (Switzerland); Afro.nu webdesign (Sweden); Asociación de Usuarios de GNIX - AGNIX (Spain); Espírito Livre (Brazil); GFU Cyrus AG (Germany); extranet internet creator (Poland); Gubro-PR (Brazil); OLPC Nepal (Nepal); sbVB (Brazil); Secretária Municipal de Educação de Cariacia (Brazil).

ODF-Related Conferences/Events

Sep. 19-21, 2007

OpenOffice.org Annual International Conference (OOoCon 2007)e , Barcelona, Spain

<http://marketing.openoffice.org/ooocon2007/>

Oct. 15-16, 2007

Government Open Source Conference (GOSCON 2007), Portland, Oregon

<http://goscon.org/>

Oct 22-25, 2007

Cascon 2007, Toronto, Canada

<https://www-927.ibm.com/ibm/cas/cascon/>

Nov. 12-15, 2007

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

<http://www.igfbrazil2007.br/index.htm>

ODF In the News

Open Office XML standardisation bid falters

By Stephen Withers; Itwire; Wednesday, 05 September 2007

<http://www.itwire.com/content/view/14319/53/>

Microsoft's bid for 'open' document format is unexpectedly rebuffed

IHT; By Kevin J. O'Brien; Published: September 4, 2007

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/09/04/technology/msft.php>

Why Microsoft deserved to lose the OOXML standards vote

ZD Net; September 4th, 2007; Posted by Mary Jo Foley @ 8:32 am

<http://blogs.zdnet.com/microsoft/?p=694>

Microsoft FUD Watch: OOXML Edition

By Joe Wilcox; September 4, 2007 1:40 PM

<http://www.microsoft->

[watch.com/content/business_applications/microsoft_fud_watch_ooxml_edition.html](http://www.microsoft-watch.com/content/business_applications/microsoft_fud_watch_ooxml_edition.html)

Microsoft Office XML Formats? Defective By Design

<http://ooxmlisdefectivebydesign.blogspot.com/>

Microsoft Pressed Swedish Partners to Vote for Open XML

Daniel Goldberg, Computer-Sweden Thursday, August 30, 2007 7:00 AM PDT

<http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,136599-c,companynews/article.html>

Evidence of Microsoft Influencing OOXML Votes in Nordic States

By Scott M. Fulton, III, BetaNews; August 28, 2007, 5:12 PM

http://www.betanews.com/article/Evidence_of_Microsoft_Influencing_OOXML_Votes_in_Nordic_States/1188335569

Higher-education bodies warned over XML transition

Published: 09 Aug 2007 17:17 BST

<http://news.zdnet.co.uk/software/0,1000000121,39288492,00.htm>

Guest Commentary: The converter hoax

Heise open, 7/16/07

<http://www.heise.de/open/artikel/92735>

Analyst: Apple embarrasses Microsoft with iWork '08

MacDaily News; Friday, August 10, 2007 - 05:00 PM EDT

http://www.macdailynews.com/index.php/weblog/comments/analyst_apple_embarrasses_microsoft_with_iwork_08/

Another update on ODF vs. OOXML file counts

Genii Weblog; Mon 13 Aug 2007, 12:01 AM

<http://www.geniisoft.com/showcase.nsf/archive/20070813-1201>

New York To Examine Effectiveness Of E-Documents

By K.C. Jones; InformationWeek; August 13, 2007 10:21 AM

<http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=201500056&subSection=News>

Governments Aren't Open to New Technologies

By Jin Rapoza; eWeek; Monday, August 13, 2007 3:10 PM/EST

http://etech.eweek.com/content/linux_open_source/governments_arent_open_to_new_technologies.html

Emerging Consensus In Favour of a Unified Document Format Standard

By Mark Shuttleworth

<http://www.markshuttleworth.com/archives/132>

Microsoft 'Monopoly' Comes Under Fire

BeijingReview.com; August-8-2007

http://www.bjreview.com.cn/headline/txt/2007-08/08/content_71829.htm

What Is the TCO of Office 2007?

Terminally Incoherent; Aug 16, 2007

<http://www.terminally-incoherent.com/blog/2007/08/16/what-is-the-tco-of-office-2007/>

OOXML, ODF and UOF: What's Up in China?

ConsortiumInfo.org; Friday, August 17 2007 @ 07:04 AM PDT

<http://www.consortiuminfo.org/standardsblog/article.php?story=20070817070419313>

Adobe may launch Office rival

Richard Thurston ZDNet UK; Published: 15 Aug 2007 17:46 BST

<http://news.zdnet.co.uk/software/0,1000000121,39288562,00.htm>

Microsoft and Open Standards: Can Other Vendors Implement Microsoft's Office Open XML?

15 August 2007

<http://holloway.co.nz/can-other-vendors-implement-ooxml.html>

Poll: What Tool Do You Use For Word Processing?

Read/WriteWeb; Written by Richard MacManus / August 27, 2007

http://www.readwriteweb.com/archives/poll_what_tool_do_you_use_for_word_processing.php

The world's fastest-growing economies reject Microsoft

Posted by Matt Asay

http://news.com.com/8301-10784_3-9765759-7.html?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1_3-0-20

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