

OPEN DOCUMENT FORMAT

ODF ALLIANCE

ODF Alliance Newsletter
26 October 2007

You can sign up to receive the free newsletter and download a pdf version:
http://www.odfalliance.org/mail_list.php.

SOUTH AFRICA ENDORSES ODF FOR DOCUMENT EXCHANGE IN GOVERNMENT

South Africa's Minister of Public Service and Administration, Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, signed the Minimum Interoperability Standards V4.1 (MIOS V4.1), which requires the use of ODF for exchange of data and information between government agencies and with citizens and other external entities. The MIOS comprises the technical principles and standards required to achieve interoperability. MIOS standards are mandated on all new systems that fall within the scope of this type of information and data exchange. For systems that fall outside the scope and mandate, the MIOS is recommended in all public sector procurements and major upgrades.

http://www.oss.gov.za/MIOS_V4.1_final.pdf

THE NETHERLANDS ANNOUNCES PLANS TO MOVE TO ODF

Frank Heemskerck, State Secretary for Economic Affairs, announced a plan that will require use of ODF by all governmental organizations for reading, publishing and information exchange purposes. ODF will be introduced gradually but must be supported by government organizations by January 2009 at the latest. The action plan will be discussed with Parliament late this year.

<http://minez.nl/content.jsp?objectid=153176&rid=home> (nl)

PUBLIC REVIEW OF ODF v1.1 ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES v1.0

The OASIS OpenDocument TC has recently approved for public review ODF v1.1 Accessibility Guidelines Version 1.0. The public review starts 22 October 2007 and ends 21 December 2007. OASIS encourages feedback from potential users, developers and others, whether OASIS members or not.

Editable Source:

http://docs.oasis-open.org/office/office-accessibility/v1.0/cd01/ODF_Accessibility_Guidelines-v1.0.odt

PDF:

http://docs.oasis-open.org/office/office-accessibility/v1.0/cd01/ODF_Accessibility_Guidelines-v1.0.pdf

METADATA SUPPORT FOR ODF

OASIS OpenDocument Technical Committee has approved an extensible metadata support with the upcoming version of the OpenDocument Format 1.2

Svante Schubert:

http://blogs.sun.com/GullFOSS/entry/new_extensible_metadata_support_with

Bruce D'Arcus:

<http://netapps.muohio.edu/blogs/darcusb/darcusb/archives/2007/10/13/pendocuments-new-metadata-system>

Rob Weir:

<http://www.robweir.com/blog/2007/10/odf-enters-semantic-web.html>

RECORD GROWTH IN ODF APPLICATIONS SUPPORT

September and October were record months in terms of announcements of new or improved applications support for ODF, a sign of the expectations of growing demand for ODF in the marketplace. There are now more than two dozen ODF-supporting text, spreadsheet, and presentation applications. An overview of software support can be found at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_applications_supporting_OpenDocument. Highlights of recent announcements include:

*Apple's Leopard, which provides reading and writing support for ODF in its TextEdit word processor.
<http://www.apple.com/macosx/features/300.html#textedit>

*IBM's Lotus Symphony includes an ODF-supporting word processor, a spreadsheet, and a presentation tool.
<http://symphony.lotus.com/software/lotus/symphony/home.jspa>

*OpenOffice.org version 2.3 is an update of its open source office suite that provides native support for ODF and offers security, performance, and database improvements.
<http://development.openoffice.org/releases/2.3.0.html>

*Corel Wordperfect Office Beta allows users to open, view, and edit ODF.
http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/moreoveruk/index.jsp?epi-content=GENERIC&newsId=20071003005854&&newsLang=en&beanID=1153550781&viewID=news_view

*Adobe's Buzzword, an online word processor recently acquired from Virtual Ubiquity, will add support for ODF.
<http://www.adobe.com/special/buzzword/faq.html>

*Softmaker Office 2008 now reads and writes ODF and OpenOffice.org 2.x documents.
<http://www.windowsfordevices.com/news/NS2377292522.html>

*KDE's Koffice 2.0 is expected to be fully compatible with ODF when it is released in the first half of 2008.
<http://linux.slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=07/10/09/2140247>

*SEPT-Solutions Mobile Office v1.1 allows you to read and later on will allow you to edit and create your ODF files on your mobile.
<http://nokia-applications.blogspot.com/2007/10/description-mobile-office-is-office.html>

*Mozilla's Firefox lets you view ODF and other OpenOffice.org formats in your browser.
<http://mozillalinks.org/wp/2007/09/openofficeorg-documents-within-firefox/>

*Odtwriter helps you quickly convert plain text files formatted using reStructured text markup into odt.
<http://www.linux.com/feature/119600>

*Sun ODF Plugin 1.1 for Microsoft Office adds more languages and improves the import and export of ODF files into Microsoft Office, increasing the interoperability of the plugin.
http://www.sun.com/software/star/odf_plugin/

*Docvert 3.3 is web service software that takes multiple word processor files and converts them to ODF, and then optionally to any XML/HTML format. The results are returned in a zip file.
<http://holloway.co.nz/docvert/>

*Primesharing's TeamDrive collaboration product now features full support for ODF.
<http://www.adtmag.com/article.aspx?id=21318>

ODF-RELATED CONFERENCES/EVENTS

Nov 11:

Digital Inclusion: Accelerating Global Participation & Access Through "Open" ICT Standards (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

<http://www.thebolingroup.com/digitalinclusion/index.html>

NEW ODF ALLIANCE MEMBERS

The ODF Alliance now has 464 member organizations in 53 countries. Please welcome the following new members:

JrLinux Informática (Brazil); Klimaanlagen.info (Germany); FLOSSE - Associação de Desenvolvimento Pelo Software Livre (Portugal); vimacon GmbH (Germany); Babya (Australia); Caixa Econômica Federal (Brazil); 4Newbies (Brazil); Serviço Autonomo de Água e Esgoto (Brazil); Cendio Latin (Brazil); HWD IT (Germany); EloquentiX (USA); Ajakiri Golf OÜ (Estonia); s|studios (USA).

ODF IN THE NEWS

South Africa adopts ODF as govt standard

<http://www.tectonic.co.za/view.php?id=1838>

Becta refers Microsoft to the Office of Fair Trading

<http://news.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?resID=34425>

Online Apps Are the Gateway to Widespread ODF Adoption

<http://www.5thwind.com/?p=45>

Why Russia blindly supports Microsoft office standard

<http://eng.cnews.ru/news/top/indexEn.shtml?2007/10/02/268638>

Adobe's Latest Acquisition Creates Buzz Around Office Docs

http://www.wired.com/software/coolapps/news/2007/10/adobe_acquisition

3 challenges raised to Microsoft Office

http://www.baltimoresun.com/technology/bal-bz.pl.himowitz27sep27,0,6859703.column?coll=bal_sports_college_basketball_mens_xpromo

Just how did Microsoft get OOXML support in Eastern Europe?

<http://www.linuxworld.com.au/pp.php?id=1806484531&pp=1&fp=4&fpid=4>

I.B.M. to Offer Office Software Free in Challenge to Microsoft's Line

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/18/technology/18blue.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

ODF: After all this time, I'm still just getting it

<http://www.geniisoft.com/showcase.nsf/archive/20070906-0506>

Google Inks Apps Deal with Capgemini

http://www.cio-today.com/story.xhtml?story_id=022002NPK36Y&nl=5

Shuttleworth Foundation supports ISO decision on Microsoft Computing

<http://mybroadband.co.za/news/Software/1281.html>

Macs on the network: Time to panic?

<http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9035318&pageNumber=1>

XML: Everybody's (Finally) Doing It

<http://www.econtentmag.com/Articles/ArticleReader.aspx?ArticleID=39593&ContextSubtypeID=9>

Office challengers are all business

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20071010.wgtkaplab1011/BNStory/PersonalTech/home>

The X Factor: As the industry battles over XML file formats, what should dev managers focus on

<http://reddevnews.com/features/article.aspx?editorialsid=2356>