

France Interoperability Guidelines Recommend ODF -- Comments Due June 15

France's Direction Générale de la Modernisation de l'État (DGME) has issued a call for comments due no later than 15 June 2006 on the Référentiel Général d'Interopérabilité, or RGI (Interoperability Guidelines). Under the current draft, it is: 1) recommended for public administrations to use document formats based on XML, where the publications are open and royalty free, for office applications (text, charts, presentations); 2) recommended to use Open Document for office applications (text, charts, presentations); 3) mandatory to accept all documents in Open Document Format for office applications; and 4) prohibited to migrate to a format currently used by one organization, other than Open Document Format. The Alliance submission will be posted shortly to the front page of our website. In the meantime, I encourage you to submit comments in French, if possible, at Bienvenue sur le WIKI:

<http://www.adele.gouv.fr/wiki/index.php/Accueil>.

Denmark Opts for Open Standards By 2008

In a major advance for interoperability and open standards, on 2 June 2006 the Folketing (Danish Parliament) adopted unanimously a decision that imposes on the government a duty to ensure before 1 January 2008 that the public sector's use of IT is based on open standards and that all digital information and data that the authorities exchange with citizens, companies and institutions, are available in formats that are based on open standards. The roadmap for implementing the decision is expected to be considered later this summer. <http://gotze.eu/2006/06/openize-denmark-parliament-orders.html>

ODF Special Interest Group Formed in Malaysia

The Malaysian National Computer Confederation (MNCC) ODF Special Interest Group was recently formed. Membership in MNCC ODF SIG is open to individuals who are interested in supporting and promoting ODF and open standards in Malaysia.

http://www.openmalaysiablog.com/2006/06/odf_special_int.html

Accessibility: OASIS Subcommittee Submits Report and Recommendations

The OASIS Accessibility Subcommittee completed its first accessibility evaluation of the OpenDocument v1.0 specification. The report identified 9 accessibility issues in ODF 1.0, and proposes candidate solutions to them. With these changes, the subcommittee believes that ODF will meet or exceed the accessibility support provided in all other office file formats as well as that specified in the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0.

<http://www.oasis-open.org/archives/office/200605/pdf00000.pdf>

New Alliance Members

The Alliance has grown to 210 member organizations from 40 countries. Please welcome the following new members: Thales (France), Instituto Nacional de Tecnologia da Informação (Brazil), Open-Xchange, Inc. (USA), OpenOffice Polska, Beijing Co-Create Open Source Software Co.,Ltd (China), Ux Systems (Poland), uberOffice Inc. (USA), 3BView Ltd (UK), Interunix Networking Solutions Plc (Malaysia), China Standard Software Co.,Ltd. (CS2C), MNCC ODF Special Interest Group (Malaysia), Gordon College (the Philippines), Caixa Mágica Software (Portugal), Skaitmeninio sertifikavimo centras (Lithuania), DLPS Desktop Linux Projects and Services GmbH (Germany), Presto (Czech Republic), Project Kalpa (Russia), QCM (Czech Republic), NC LUG (Russia), Nowe Leki (Poland), Centrum Tlumaczen (Poland), Linpro AS (Norway), Virtual Angle B.V. (Netherlands), eZ systems (Norway), and Izy CG (Czech Republic).

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

Watch out, Adobe: Microsoft wants to reformat your files

Jack Schofield The Guardian, 8 June 2006

<http://technology.guardian.co.uk/weekly/story/0,,1792119,00.html>

Adobe Forces Microsoft To Drop PDF From Office 2007

By Gregg Keizer, TechWeb News

<http://www.techweb.com/wire/software/188701275>

Google Office: it's about file formats, not MS Office

6/7/2006 11:23:44 AM, by Ken Fisher

<http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20060607-7005.html>

National Archives Sidesteps Obsolescence

<http://www.idm.net.au/story.asp?id=7220>

A view of ODF from the other side

By Edward Macnaghten Online on: 01/06/2006

<http://www.freesoftwaremagazine.com/node/1569>

Why Redmond feels so threatened by ODF

By Neil McAllister, San Francisco

<http://computerworld.co.nz/news.nsf/PrintDoc/CBE417F838EAB4A0CC25717A001A0EC9>

Stockholm Considers Move to OpenOffice

<http://computersweden.idg.se/2.139/1.47174>

Knowledge/Information centricty vs document centricty

By David Berlind May 26, 2006

<http://blogs.zdnet.com/BTL/?p=3112>

Banco do Brasil Completes XP Migration to Open Source

TMCnet, 30 May 2006

<http://www.tmcnet.com/usubmit/2006/05/30/1662778.htm>

Why ODF Is ImportantAbility Magazine

<http://www.abilitymagazine.org.uk/pages/news-oldeditions-whyopendocumentisimportant>

Microsoft claims ODF is "too slow" for use

By Justin Mann, TechSpot.com

<http://www.techspot.com/news/21726-microsoft-claims-odf-is-too-slow-for-use.html>

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