

ODF Newsletter - 13th July 2006

Microsoft Announces Development of OpenXML/ODF Translator Tool

According to Microsoft, the tool, which will essentially be installable plug-ins, will provide two additional menu items - "OpenODF" and "SaveODF" - and will be developed by Clever Age (France) and tested by Aztecsoft (India) and Dialogika (Germany). Microsoft will not be contributing code or providing architectural guidance. Microsoft spokespersons stated that the final version of the translator for Word is expected to be available from SourceForge for download by the end of 2006 (prototype linked below), and sometime in 2007 for Excel and PowerPoint. For commentary and analysis on this development, please see the links below.

Groklaw Analysis - <http://www.groklaw.net/article.php?story=20060706064747376>

Bob Sutor's Open Blog - <http://www.sutor.com/newsite/blog-open/?p=783>

Simon Phipps - http://blogs.sun.com/roller/page/webmink?entry=kicking_and_screaming

Sam Hiser - <http://fussnotes.typepad.com/plexnex/>

MS Announcement - <http://www.microsoft.com/presspass/press/2006/jul06/07-06OpenSourceProjectPR.mspx>

SourceForge Prototype - <http://www.sourceforge.net/projects/odf-converter>

OFE, Alliance Co-Host Events In Brussels and London

The ODF Alliance was pleased to partner with OpenForum Europe (OFE) in hosting several events in Europe. The first, held at Scotland House in Brussels on July 4, gave several EU member states a chance to report on progress. Belgium was officially represented by an official from FEDICT, the ICT policy unit at the heart of the Belgian government. Speakers from Denmark and France also discussed what their main concerns were and Simon Phipps of Sun gave his perspective. Florian Reuter of the the OpenDocument Foundation demonstrated a converter. The second event, which took place at the historical venue of the Guildhall in London on July 6, was more focused on the UK, and made all the more interesting by Microsoft's announcement on that day of the project to develop an ODF translator. Bob Sutor, IBM's VP for Standards and Open Source, was one of the two keynote speakers, the other being Gavin Beckett from Bristol City Council (UK), which recently joined the Alliance.

Bristol City Council - <http://www.egovmonitor.com/node/6656>

Massachusetts Holding Tight To January 2007 Target

In an interview with CNET News.com, Massachusetts' CIO Louis Gutierrez said the Commonwealth is sticking to plans to adopt ODF by January 2007. He also said that the mid-year review is expected to be released in late July or early August. A cost analysis of the project is also expected shortly.

http://news.com.com/Mass.+holding+tight+to+OpenDocument/2100-7344_3-6090196.html

New Members (240)

The Alliance is pleased to welcome the following new members: Bull (France), Alka France, Google Inc (USA), Bristol City Council (UK), ChinaSoft Resource Corporation, YACME Srl (Italy), Association Lune Rouge (France), Bangladesh Linux Users Alliance, Genii Software Ltd. (USA), Institute for Information Industry (Taiwan), itemis GmbH & Co. KG (Germany), Parinux (France), SeeOpen (Italy), and Sp-Process SPA (Italy).

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

ODF Alliance Applauds Global Initiatives to Use Software Based on Open Standards

Thursday June 29, 10:21 am ET

<http://www.odfalliance.org/press/AllianceRelease29June06%20final.pdf>

Belgium adopts OpenDocument

Matthew Broersma, Techworld29 June 2006

<http://www.techworld.com/news/index.cfm?newsID=6335&printerfriendly=1>

Belgian gov't moves toward OpenDocument format

Eric Lai, Computerworld27/06/2006

<http://www.cio.com.au/index.php/id:922274800;fp:4;fpid:21>

Open source community wooed by Microsoft

Miya Knights ZDNet UK June 29, 2006, 12:55 BST

<http://news.zdnet.co.uk/software/windows/0,39020396,39277922,00.htm>

Microsoft Falls Back Again: Announces ODF Plugin Project

Thursday, July 06 2006 @ 09:22 AM EDT

<http://www.consortiuminfo.org/standardsblog/article.php?story=20060706092209358&mode=print>

Microsoft Surrenders to Document Interoperability

By Sophia Mayengbam

http://www.sda-asia.com/sda/features/psecom.id,424,srn,2,nodeid,4,_language,Singapore.html

Microsoft to offer open source document format

Financial Times: Published: July 6 2006 11:59 | Last updated: July 6 2006 11:59

By Jonathan Loades-Carter

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/dbbb9ef2-0cd9-11db-84fd-0000779e2340.html>

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