

Open Document Alliance Newsletter 19th September 2006

OpenOffice.org Annual Conference Considers ODF's Present and Future

ODF's growing popularity with governments and in commercial applications was showcased at the increasingly popular OpenOffice.org Annual Conference (OOoCon2006) in Lyon on Sep 11-13. The ODF track included a panel discussion on the merits of ODF; the current work and future plans of the OASIS ODF Technical Committee (TC) and its new Accessibility, Formula, and Metadata subcommittees; a comparison of how ODF and OpenXML deal with extensibility, performance, and ease of use; the accessibility features in OpenOffice.org; and a demonstration of how ODF XML can spur innovation.

OOoCon 2006 Presentations -

<http://marketing.openoffice.org/ooocon2006/schedule/wednesday.html>

ORCA Screen Reader Released; Mozilla Foundation Accessibility Funding Available

Version 1.0.0 of Orca - the free, open source, scripting screen reader for UNIX systems that provides access to the graphical desktop via user-customizable combinations of speech, braille, and/or magnification - has been officially released. Development of Orca was led by Sun's Accessibility Program Office, and the 1.0.0 release includes many contributions from the open source community and disability organizations. Version 1.0.0 supports the GNOME desktop, yelp, gedit, gnome-terminal, evolution, gaim, OpenOffice Writer & Calc, and StarOffice Writer & Calc. Separately, the Mozilla Foundation announced that it is funding grants for individuals to work on Mozilla accessibility projects.

ORCA Live! - <http://live.gnome.org/Orca>

Announcing ORCA v1.0.0 - <http://mail.gnome.org/archives/gnome-announce-list/2006-September/msg00008.html>

Mozilla Accessibility Grants -

http://groups.google.com/group/mozilla.dev.accessibility/browse_thread/thread/a16f8a242037626b/4ea34c2b1b1bbfb6#4ea34c2b1b1bbfb6

OASIS Launches OpenDocument XML.org

The community-driven site linking implementers with users is intended to be the official gathering place and information resource for the OpenDocument Format standard (ISO/IEC 26300). The site supports a wiki interface, blogs, forums, and other interactive methods of communication. The pages are accessible to the public, which is encouraged to contribute content. OpenDocument XML.org is sponsored by IBM, Intel, and Sun Microsystems, Inc.

OpenDocument XML.org - <http://opendocument.xml.org/>

OASIS Release - <http://www.oasis-open.org/news/oasis-news-2006-09-12.php>

ODF Application Support Update: 1) KOffice 1.6 To Offer Enhanced Support for ODF; 2) Google Spreadsheet Now Exports and Imports To/From ODF; 3) Alfresco's Record Manager Features Automatic Conversion to Long-Term Vendor Neutral Formats Such as ODF

KDE announced the release of KOffice 1.6beta1. Among the new features is a formula editor that now supports ODF and uses it as its default file format. Google's new version of its spreadsheet application, v1.1.5g, now exports and imports spreadsheets to and from ODF and is compatible with applications that support ODF. Alfresco Software Inc., which provides an open source enterprise content management solution, announced the availability of the Alfresco Records Manager preview release whose functionality includes automatic conversion from proprietary office formats to long-term vendor neutral formats

such as ODF and PDF.

KOffice 1.6 beta 1 - <http://www.koffice.org/announcements/changelog-1.6beta1.php>

Google Spreadsheets v1.1.5g -

<http://www.google.com/googlespreadsheets/whatsnew.html>

Alfresco's Record Manager Preview Release -

<http://www.alfresco.com/media/releases/content/index.php/2e15c3a4-44b1-11db-8dbc-ebd7a694e2cf>

UN Discusses ODF, Open Standards and Open Source

The August 29 United Nations' Symposium on ICT Policy Issues for Development focused on "A Look at Free Open Source Software (FOSS)." IBM, Novell and RedHat were among those that took part in a morning panel discussion moderated by New York Times Reporter David Pogue. The message from the wide variety of participants and presenters, including Carlos Castro, General Director, Government of Extremadura, Spain (a new ODF Alliance Member) was that only through the support, development and use of open standards will the increasing availability of FOSS lead to the kinds of rapid economic improvements that -- in this case -- the United Nations seeks through its Millennium Development Goals. ODF was discussed in numerous presentations that are available on the site's webpage.

UN ICT Symposium - http://www.unitary.org/en/symposium_materials.html

Business Week -

http://www.businessweek.com/the_thread/techbeat/archives/2006/08/ibm_and_microso.html?chan=search

Internet Society Nederland Awards 2006 Features ODF

Ken Wasch, President of the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) and one of the founding members of the ODF Alliance, delivered the keynote address at the Internet Society Nederlands Annual Awards dinner in Eindhoven, The Netherlands, on Sep 12. Of greatest interest to the audience, which included developers, government IT leaders, and other parties interested in open standards, was the realization that separating documents from the applications that created them will spur the development of new applications. Wasch noted that software innovation has occurred everywhere but the desktop over the past fifteen years, and that the movement to open standards was already encouraging the development of new applications, which will spur competition and ultimately benefit consumers. Participants urged the ODF Alliance to continue to spread the word that file formats matter, and that the sooner the general population of computer users adopts ODF, the sooner they will realize the benefits of innovation, lower cost, and easy access to their own information (whether new or archived).

Internet Society Nederland Awards 2006 - <http://www.isoc.nl/activ/2006-awards.htm#Programma>

New Members

Please welcome the following new members: ATR, Inc. (USA); Alfresco (UK); Tetra Information Services Pvt. Ltd (India); Asia OSPA Forum (India); Junta de Extremadura(Spain); NOVOVIA (France); and Integra Soluciones Avanzadas, S.L. (Spain).

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

Microsoft releases PDF add-on

The OpenDocument Foundation may release its ODF plug-in, too — with strings attached

Matthew Broersma

ZDNet UK

September 13, 2006, 13:40 BST

<http://news.zdnet.co.uk/software/applications/0,39020384,39283260,00.htm>

Update on the MS Office ODF plugin

Linuxwatch, Sep 11, 2006

<http://www.linux-watch.com/news/NS5693053677.html>

Adobe v Microsoft: The Next Move

PlanetPDF

Sep 8, 2006

Richard Crocker, Editor

http://www.planetpdf.com/enterprise/article.asp?ContentID=adobe_microsoft_the_next_move&gid=7379

Welsh schools adopt open source email

ZDNet UK

Tom Espiner

September 04, 2006, 14:35 BST

<http://news.zdnet.co.uk/software/linuxunix/0,39020390,39282552,00.htm>

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