

ODEF Workshop

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ODEF Workshop

- One day workshop;
- 100 participants, 21 Member States represented;
- Exchange of view on Open Document Exchange Formats;
- Mainly oriented towards public administrations;
- But main industry players (Adobe, IMB, Microsoft, Sun) present to explain their strategies and to listen to the requirements of public administrations.

ODEF potential

- Free the documents from the software used to create them;
- Enable citizens, business and administrations to select software on the basis of functionality and quality;
- Free the information contained in documents – create a “market” for information mining software;
- Secure the future – keep the documents accessible over long periods of time.

ODEF characteristics

- Defined in an open process in which all stakeholders can participate;
- Can be studied and implemented by anybody, without restrictions, in commercial applications as well as in free (open source) software;
- Considering the importance of the issue, formal standardization, via recognised standardization bodies has been requested.

Administrations

- Documents are the “core material” of public administrations;
- Administrations should not impose the use of specific commercial products on their correspondents;
- Administrations should not depend on commercial companies to have access to their information – the administrations must “own” their documents.

Strategic considerations

- Only products supporting all relevant standards and only standards supported by multiple products;
- No incomplete implementations, no proprietary extensions;
- Insist on conformance testing and document validation possibilities;
- Standardize (internally) on a minimal set of formats (one format for one purpose).
- Handle the legacy.

Industry can help

- Do not involve us in a “war of the formats”;
- Make quality products supporting all relevant standards;
- Allow administrations to choose the format they want to use internally (default format);
- No incomplete implementations (able to open all documents conforming to the standard), no proprietary extensions;
- Standard compliance programmes, document validation.

Coordination

Public administrations can:

- Exchange best practices;
- Coordinate strategies;
- Approach industry together;
- Decide on what formats to use for exchanging documents between themselves;