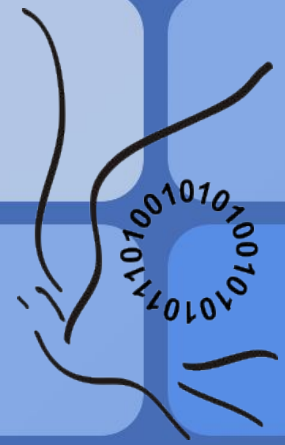


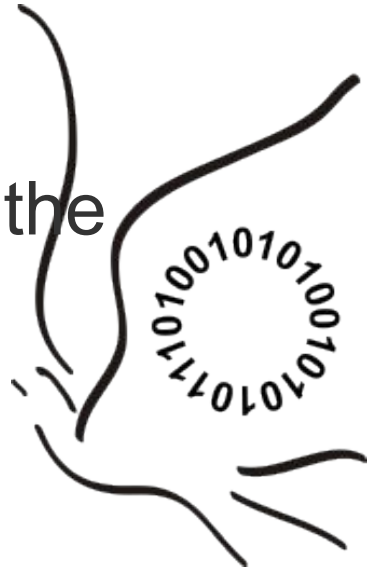
Why use open standards in government and education

10/24/06

Igor Stamatovski **Free Software Macedonia**

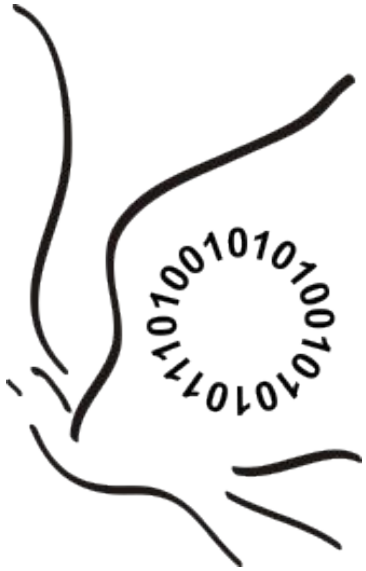
An Open ICT Eco System

- An ICT eco-system encompasses the
  - Policies,
  - Strategies,
  - Processes,
  - Information,
  - Technologies,
  - Applications and
  - Stakeholders

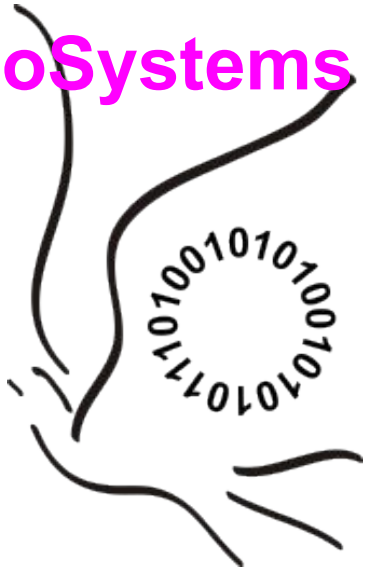


Technology environment

- a country,
- government or
- an enterprise.



Guiding principles of Open ICT EcoSystems



- Iteroperable
- User-Centric
- Collaborative
- Sustainable
- Flexible

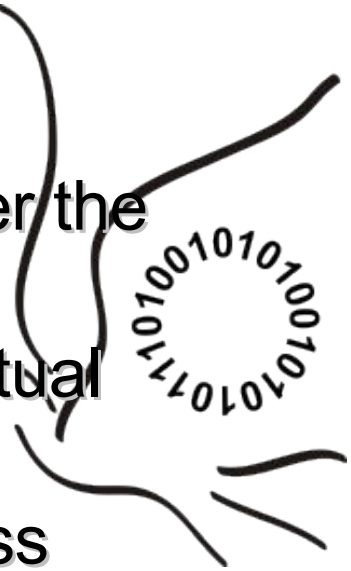
Interoperability

Interoperability refers to the ability to efficiently transfer and use information uniformly across organizations, systems or components.

Barriers to interoperability 1/2

- legal and privacy restrictions on sharing information;
- organizational barriers between agencies that operate as separate silos;
- incomplete grasp of what services exist, which are needed and how they
- governed;
- legal and management constraints on cross-agency service agreements;
- resistance to perceived loss of control over information and processes;

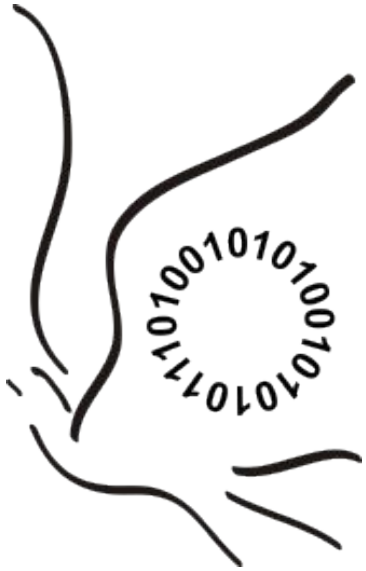
Barriers to interoperability 2/2



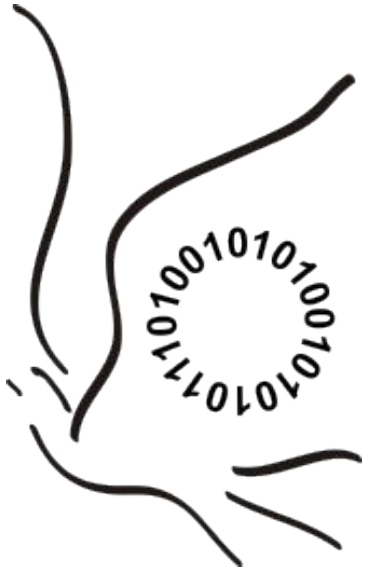
- absence of business managers to steer the development of interoperability;
- resistance to perceived loss of intellectual property;
- resistance to perceived loss of business opportunities;
- fear of fierce competition; and
- security considerations.

Interoperability

- Open Standards
- Free and Open Source Software
- Service Orientation
- Open Document formats

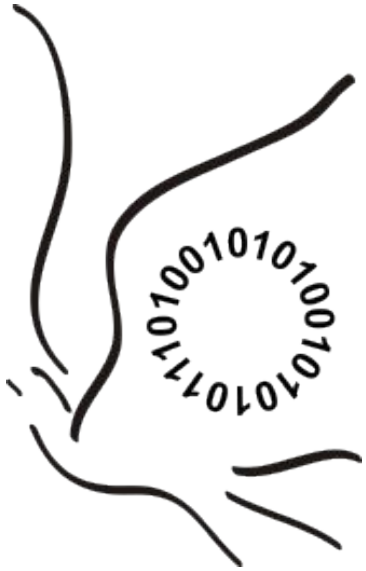


Open Standards 1/6



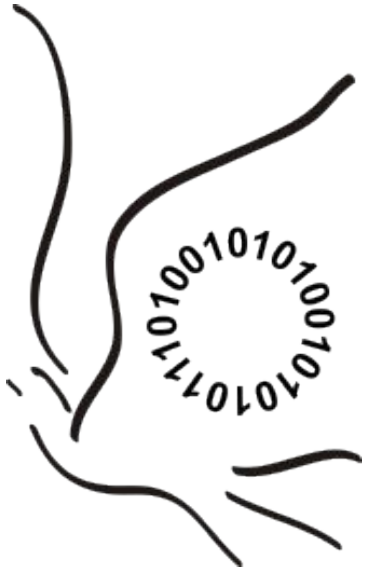
cannot be controlled by any single person or entity with any vested interests;

Open Standards 2/6



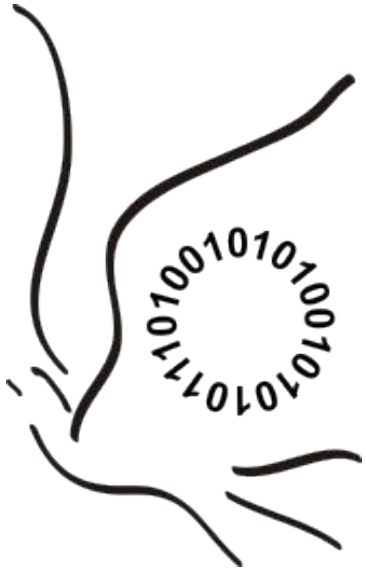
evolved and managed in a transparent process open to all interested parties;

Open Standards 3/6



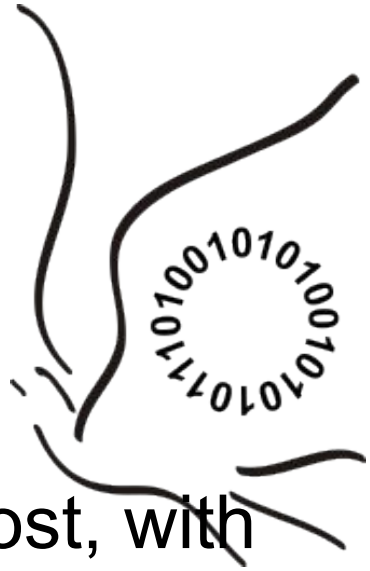
platform independent, vendor neutral and usable for multiple implementations;

Open Standards 4/6



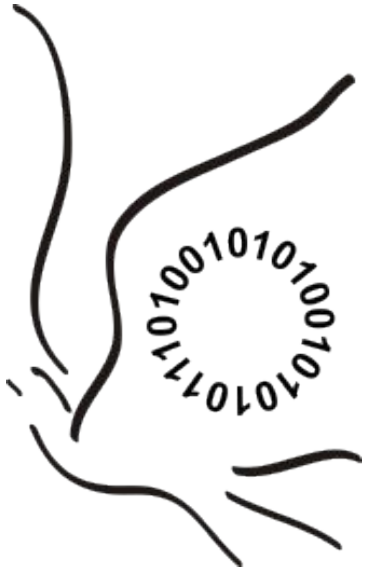
openly published (including availability of specifications and supporting material);

Open Standards 5/6



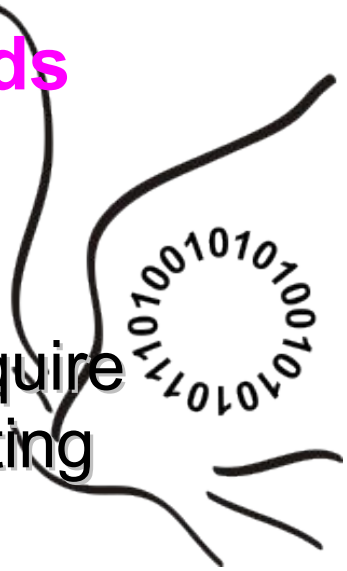
available royalty free or at minimal cost, with other restrictions (such as field of use and defensive suspension) offered on reasonable and non-discriminatory terms; and

Open Standards 6/6



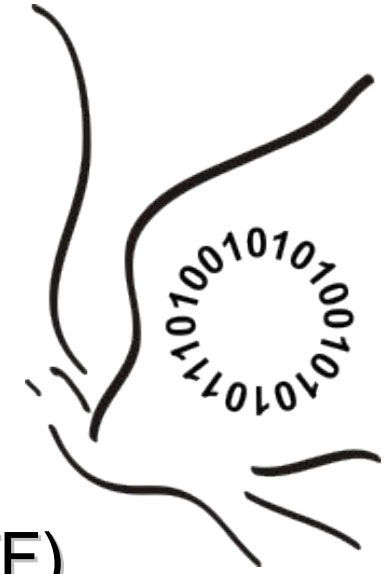
approved through due process by rough consensus among participants.

Governments role in open standards



- Open standards do not necessarily require government input in the standards-setting process.
- can participate in community-controlled standards-setting
- can provide important user feedback, especially when access to specifications and documentation is most needed.
- play a critical role in the adoption and endorsement of open standards.

Standards governing bodies



- Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF),
- World Wide Web Consortium (W3C),
- Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS),
- American National Stan-dards Institute (ANSI)
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

Free and Open source software 1/3

- collaborative development,
- accessibility of code
- and distribution models.

Free and Open source software 2/3

- For example, the GNU General Public License (GPL) enables free, non-discriminatory use, modification, copying and distribution.
  - GPL compatible free software licenses
  - Non-GPL compatible free software licenses
  - Non-free software

Free and Open source software 3/3

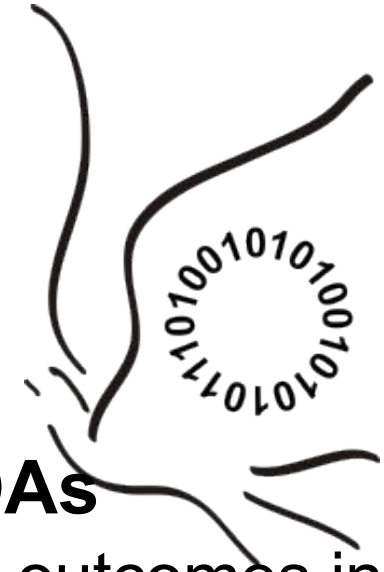
The Gnu project

http://www.fsf.org/licensing/licenses/

The Open source iniciative

http://www.opensource.org/docs/definition.php

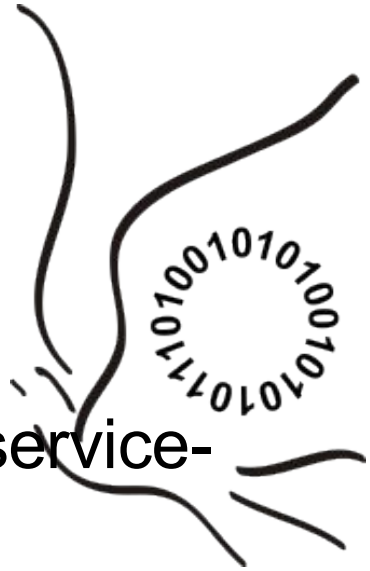
Service orientation 1/2



Service oriented architectures SOAs

A service orientation defines needs and outcomes in terms of services, independent of the technology (the hardware platform, operating system, and programming language) that implements them.

Service orientation 2/2

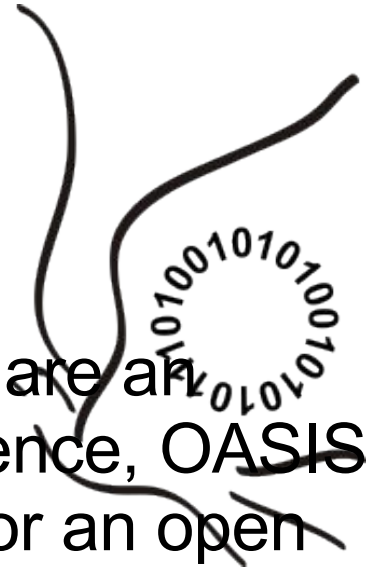


Open standards are the backbone of a service-based approach.

They ensure that criteria and decisions are service oriented and technology neutral.

Open standards add the flexibility needed for a service-oriented approach.

Open document formats



Open document (or file or data) formats are an example of an open standard. For reference, OASIS has approved a technical specification for an open document format standard.

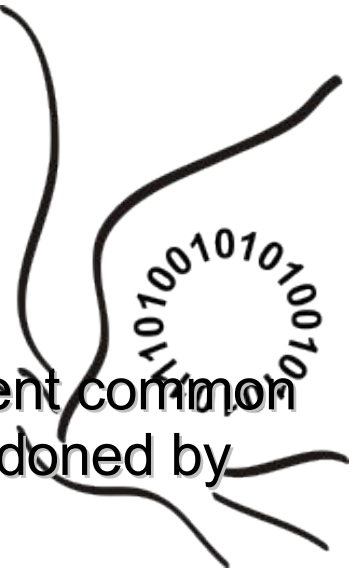
Designed to provide an open format for desktop systems, this standard will help drive information interoperability as more users move to SOAs and paper records become web-based.

OASIS Open document format

What is the Open Document Format for Office Applications (OpenDocument) OASIS Standard?

The OpenDocument OASIS Standard is an XML-based file format suitable for office applications. It covers the features required by text, spreadsheets, charts, and graphical documents.

Why Would a Government Choose OpenDocument?

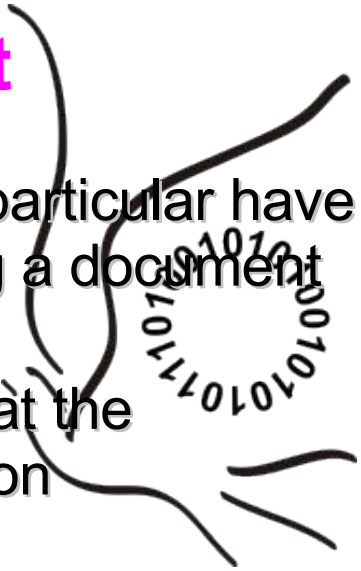


- What are the curent choices?
  - **Microsoft Office binary format**, the current common interchange format. But this is being abandoned by Microsoft
  - Going with **Microsoft Office XML**, which as shown below, doesn't meet government minimum requirements such as allowing any supplier to implement it.
  - **OpenDocument**, the only official standard. It's already implemented by multiple vendors (including some at no cost), and it's the only one that really meets government needs... and with a massive lead time to boot.

Typical requirements for a modern office format

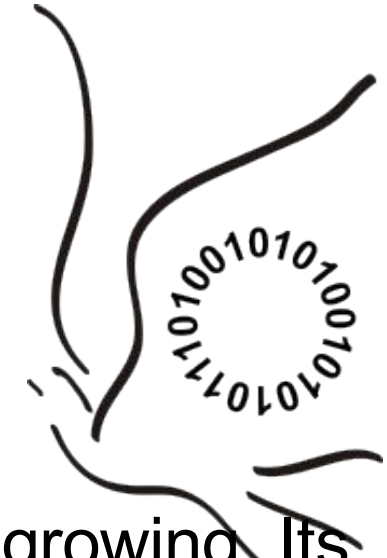
- An XML-based format
- A specification.
- Neutral specification maintainer, preferably a respected pre-existing standards body
- Multi-vendor/customer development.
- Multiple implementations
- Anyone can implement the specification
- Low-cost implementations
- Support is already available for OpenDocument

Who is going with Open document



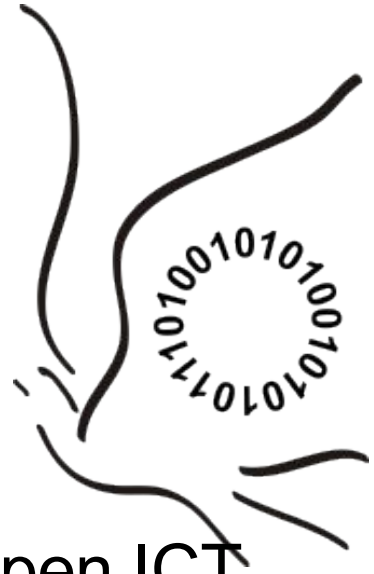
- **The Commonwealth of Massachusetts** in particular have been examining the ramifications of selecting a document format.
- It was also announced on 31 March, 2006 that the **National Archives of Australia** had settled on OpenDocument as their choice for a crossplatform/application document format.
- In October 2006, a report commissioned by the French prime minister Dominique de Villepin recommends that all **French government publications** be made available in OpenDocument Format
- **The Belgian federal administration** plans to exchange all documents in ODF from September 2008. All federal administrations should be able to read ODF documents one year earlier.

Conclusions 1/2



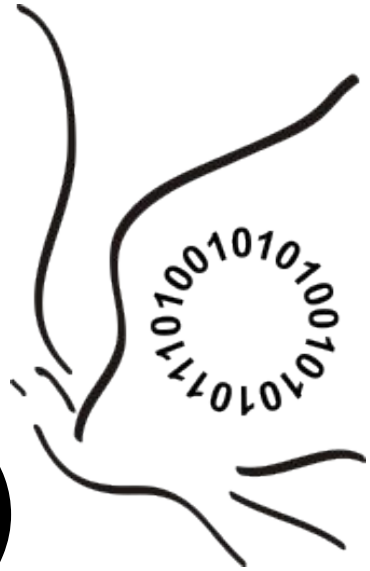
The promise and power of openness is growing. Its combination with technology en-ables agencies, companies and economies to face the challenges of a customer centric, on-demand world. Increasing an ICT ecosystem's capacity for openness can yield efficiency, growth, and innovation in government and across society.

Conclusions 2/2



More than just technology solution, an open ICT ecosystem empowers change in policies, strategies, processes, information, applications and people.

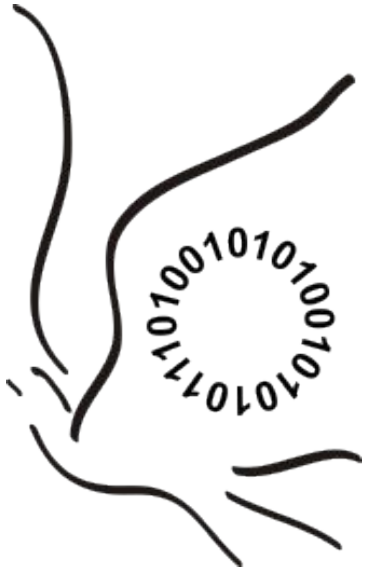
Thank you for your attention



Q&A time :-)

http://www.freesoftware.org.mk/workshop/

Resources



The Roadmap for Open ICT Ecosystems:
http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/epolicy/

http://www.dwheeler.com/essays/why-opendocument-won.html
http://www.groklaw.net/article.php?story=20060209093903413
http://www.groklaw.net/articlebasic.php?story=20060209093903413
http://business.newsforge.com/article.pl?sid=06/04/05/2046210&from=rss
http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/office/faq.php
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OpenDocument
http://www.groklaw.net/article.php?story=20050130002908154
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OpenDocument_vs._Microsoft_Office_Open_XML_licensing