

## Open standards cheetsheets

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## Open ICT Ecosystems

To define an ICT ecosystem as open when it is capable of incorporating and sustaining interoperability, collaborative development and transparency. Increasing these capacities helps create flexible, service-oriented ICT applications that can be taken apart and recombined to meet changing needs more efficiently and effectively.

## Interoperability

Interoperability refers to the ability to efficiently transfer and use information uniformly across organizations, systems or components. It helps link systems, information and processes within and across enterprises. Open and interoperable, however, are different. Interoperability is possible even within a closed system. Open ICT ecosystems, however, must be interoperable.

## Guiding principles of Open ICT Eco systems

- Inter-Operable – allowing, through the use of Open Standards, the exchange, reuse, interchangeability and interpretation of data across diverse architectures;
- User-Centric – fulfilling the user requirements over perceived hardware or software constraints;
- Collaborative – permitting governments, industry, and other stakeholders to create, grow and reform communities of interested parties that can leverage strengths, solve common problems, innovate and build upon existing efforts;
- Sustainable – maintaining balance and resiliency while addressing organizational, technical, financial and legal issues in a manner that allows an ecosystem to thrive and evolve;
- Flexible – adapting seamlessly and quickly to new information, technologies, protocols and relationships while integrating them as warranted into market-making and government processes.

## Open Standards

Open standards are created by standards-setting organizations including consortia like the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), and the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS), and formal standards bodies such as the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). For these organizations, openness allows any interested party to contribute to proposals and thereby makes it possible to base decisions on a near consensus. Users often emphasize access to documentation and free usage as key features of open standards. Care is needed by these bodies when developing open standards to ensure that they do not build upon or reference a closed proprietary standard. When this happens, the resulting standard is not open.

## Free and Open source software

Open source software (or open source) is a type of software defined by its collaborative development, accessibility of code and distribution models.

For example, the GNU General Public License (GPL) enables free, non-discriminatory use, modification, copying and distribution and is maintained by the **Free Software Foundation**.

We maintain this free software definition to show clearly what must be true about a particular software program for it to be considered free software.

Free software is a matter of liberty, not price. To understand the concept, you should think of free as in free speech, not as in free beer.

Free software is a matter of the users' freedom to run, copy, distribute, study, change and improve the software. More precisely, it refers to four kinds of freedom, for the users of the software:

- The freedom to run the program, for any purpose (freedom 0).
- The freedom to study how the program works, and adapt it to your needs (freedom 1). Access to the source code is a precondition for this.
- The freedom to redistribute copies so you can help your neighbor (freedom 2).
- The freedom to improve the program, and release your improvements to the public, so that the whole community benefits (freedom 3). Access to the source code is a precondition for this.

Open source software is promoted by the **Open Source Initiative**

A more complete definition is available at: [www.opensource.org/docs/definition.php](http://www.opensource.org/docs/definition.php). Implementation of an open standard under an open source development model can sometimes drive or accelerate standards adoption.

## The Roadmap for Open ICT Ecosystems

<http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/epolicy/>

The list of applicable FSF licences can be found on the following address

<http://www.fsf.org/licensing/licenses/>,

<http://www.w3.org/RDF/> Resource Description Framework (RDF)

<http://www.w3.org/TR/CSS21/> This specification defines Cascading Style Sheets, level 2 revision 1

<http://www.w3.org/TR/html401/> This specification defines HTML 4.01, which is a subversion of HTML 4.

<http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/> This specification defines the Second Edition of XHTML 1.0

<http://www.w3.org/TR/xml11/> This specification defines the Second Edition of the Extensible Markup Language (XML) 1.1

<http://www.w3.org/WAI/about.html> The World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) commitment to lead the Web to its full potential includes promoting a high degree of usability for people with disabilities.

## Resource links

Comparative assessment of Open Documents Formats Market Overview (The Valoris report)

<http://europa.eu.int/idabc/servlets/Doc?id=17982>

Why OpenDocument Won (and Microsoft Office Open XML Didn't)- David A. Wheeler, September 2, 2005 (partly updated September 4, 2006)

<http://www.dwheeler.com/essays/why-opendocument-won.html>

Is ODF an Open Standard? - by David A. Wheeler

<http://www.groklaw.net/articlebasic.php?story=20060209093903413>

Open document format alliance

<http://www.odfalliance.org/>

Why open standards matter - Tina Gasperson

<http://business.newsforge.com/article.pl?sid=06/04/05/2046210&from=rss>

FAQ- OASIS Open Document Format for Office Applications (OpenDocument) TC

<http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/office/faq.php>

OpenDocument entry in Wikipedia the Free Encyclopedia

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OpenDocument>

The Future Is Open: What OpenDocument Is And Why You Should Care ~ by Daniel Carrera

<http://www.groklaw.net/article.php?story=20050130002908154>

Official community gathering place and information resource

<http://opendocument.xml.org/>

UNDP-APDIP – Open Regional Dialogue on Internet Governance (ORDIG)

<http://igov.apdip.net/>

Bob Sutor's Blog – IBM VP of Standards and Open Source on open technologies

[http://www-128.ibm.com/developerworks/blogs/dw\\_blog.jspa?blog=384&roll=0](http://www-128.ibm.com/developerworks/blogs/dw_blog.jspa?blog=384&roll=0)

The GNU Project <http://www.gnu.org>

Open Source Initiative (OSI) <http://www.opensource.org>

The Free Software Foundation <http://www.fsf-europe.org>