

ODF Alliance Newsletter
3 March 2008

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http://www.odfalliance.org/mail_list.php.

ISO BALLOT RESOLUTION MEETING ON OOXML CONCLUDES WITHOUT DISCUSSION ON OVER 80% OF COMMENTS

Commending the spirit of cooperation that prevailed among the participants from the 32 national delegations, the ODF Alliance said in a statement that "despite the hard work by the many national standards bodies and ISO/IEC, the results fell far short of fixing the most important errors and omissions in OOXML. More than 80 percent of the comments from national bodies were not discussed. It has again been demonstrated that the standardization of OOXML in a fast-track process was entirely inappropriate." Noting that OOXML was proposed for standardization before it was shipped in a single product, the Alliance recommended that the normal ISO procedures be used for a specification of this scope and size. The 87 national standards bodies that voted in the September 2 ballot will now have 30 days – until 29 March 2008 – to examine the revisions made and to reconsider their vote if they wish.

ODF Alliance Statement - <http://www.odfalliance.org/press/Release20080303.pdf>

ConsortiumInfo.org -
<http://www.consortiuminfo.org/standardsblog/article.php?story=20080229055319727>

MARCH 26 IS DOCUMENT FREEDOM DAY. SIGN UP YOUR TEAM TODAY!

A broad coalition of international supporters of open documents announced Document Freedom Day (DFD), to be celebrated on March 26, 2008. The first-of-its-kind event is dedicated to document liberation through international grassroots action. DFD 2008 was initiated and is supported by a group of international organizations and companies including the Free Software Foundation Europe, Google, IBM, ODF Alliance, OpenDoc Society, OpenForum Europe, Red Hat, Stichting NLnet, and Sun Microsystems. DFD 2008 will give participants the chance to rally behind document freedom -- the right to freely create, edit exchange, and store documents -- at events organized by local teams around

the world. Register your team, or join one of the 128 teams that have already been formed in 47 countries.

http://documentfreedom.org/Main_Page

ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP REACHES 500!

The ODF Alliance celebrated its second birthday on March 3. In that time we have grown to include 517 member organizations in 57 countries. Congratulations on your work bringing document freedom that much closer to reality.

Please welcome the following new members who joined this month: Open Slate Project (USA); udnDigital (Chinese Taipei); UNE - União Nacional dos Estudantes (Brazil); The Open Learning Centre (UK); Executiva Nacional dos Estudantes de Computação - ENEC (Brazil); Mantis Technology Solutions (Panama); Whizman Software Solutions (USA); ARsT Design / Stephane Rodriguez (France); Silverfish Design (UK); Natural Concepts (USA); Middle East - Institute of Certified E-Commerce Consultants (Jordan); Hrvatska Udruga Linux Korisnika / Croatian Linux Users Group (Croatia); Emergen Consulting (Pakistan); Linux Pakistan; Xnet Solutions (Pakistan); GNUCHILE FOUNDATION (Chile); Copyleft Solutions (Pakistan); Firelead Affiliate Network (USA); Freestore Tecnologia (Brazil); Dynamic Engineering (United Arab Emirates); Linec Soluciones Informáticas (Ecuador); Open Source Resource Center - Ministry of Information Technology (Pakistan); Expertos (Ecuador); COMPARTA (Ecuador); Eruditum (Ecuador); SasLibre (Ecuador); KBT Information (Sweden); Pineberry (Sweden); Magicomm (USA); Free Knowledge Institute (The Netherlands); and Huang IT Solutions AG (Switzerland).

LATVIAN COALITION LAUNCHED PROMOTING OPEN ICT SOLUTIONS, ODF

A new organization, the Latvian Open Technologies Association (LATA), was launched to help Latvian ICT companies and customers (private, commercial and public) to fully benefit from open standards and open-source based solutions. The coalition comprises 19 entities, including IT vendors, banks, and universities, and several individuals.

<http://lata.org.lv/>

NEW OR IMPROVED ODF APPLICATIONS SUPPORT

The Alliance is happy to highlight new or improved applications support for ODF, so please keep us informed of any product announcements.

-[Arcor](http://www.portel.de/nc/nachricht/artikel/17457-arcor-cebit-preview-bei-telefonkonferenz-live-dokumente-abgleichen/12/) is introducing a new phone and web conferencing which includes support for ODF document sharing.

<http://www.portel.de/nc/nachricht/artikel/17457-arcor-cebit-preview-bei-telefonkonferenz-live-dokumente-abgleichen/12/>

ODF IN THE NEWS

Weak ISO support for changes to Open XML throws shadow over final approval (Eric Lai, Computerworld)

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9065958&intsrc=hm_list

Rules altered in OOXML standardization process (John Fontana, Network World)

<http://www.pcworld.idg.com.au/index.php/id;619140964>

Declaration for open standards in the internet passed (heise online)

<http://www.heise.de/english/newsticker/news/104270>

Of DVDs and documents (Jeremy Allison, ZDnet News)

http://news.zdnet.com/2424-9595_22-189389.html

Open Standards, Open Source, Open Access to IP, and Open Dialog (On the Record, Sun Microsystems)

http://blogs.sun.com/ontherecord/entry/open_standards_open_source_open

Strike One Against Microsoft (Michael Cunningham, Red Hat News)

<http://www.press.redhat.com/2008/03/03/strike-one-against-microsoft/>

Promises, Promises from Microsoft. Again.(Groklaw)

<http://www.groklaw.net/article.php?story=20080221184924826>

Why you should care about Microsoft's open-source move (Peter Judge, ZDNet.co.uk)

<http://resources.zdnet.co.uk/articles/faq/0,1000001997,39336528,00.htm?r=2>

EU looks into Microsoft's influence on ISO standardization process (heise online)

<http://www.heise.de/english/newsticker/news/103201>

OOXML — The Apple Headache (Martin Bekkelund, Thoughts From Up North)

<http://notebook.bekkelund.net/2008/02/13/ooxml-%E2%80%94-the-apple-headache/>

Microsoft pledges (yet again) that it wants to be interoperable (Mary Jo Foley, ZD Net)
<http://blogs.zdnet.com/microsoft/?p=1207>

Microsoft's 'Openness' Pledge A Potential Patent Trap, Gartner Warns (Paul McDougall, InformationWeek)
<http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=206900525>

Will Office Open XML Slam The Door On Accessibility? (Matthew McKenzie, bMighty.com)
http://www.bmighty.com/blog/main/archives/2008/02/will_office_ope.html

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