

The Belgian open standards directive

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> Outline: ODF in Belgium

- > This *is* the demo
(ODF in MS Office with Sun ODF plug-in)
- > What was decided ?
- > Which open standard ?
- > Why ?
- > How ?
- > Future
- > Conclusions

What was decided ?

- > on the Belgian federal level
- > open standards for:
 - exchange of
 - editable documents
(text, presentation, spreadsheet)
 - between federal administrations
- > ODF, depending on impact study showing
 - quality operation, also in MS Office
 - on 1 March 2007 ==> 1 Sept 2007 read-only
 - on 1 March 2008 ==> 1 Sept 2008 read-write

Which open standard ?

- > ISO standard (or W3C, IETF, ...)
- > mutiple qualitative implementations
- > needs to be interoperable with other chosen standards
- > OOXML may be considered when meeting these 3 conditions

> Why ?

- > increasing interactions (e.g. in e-gov)
- > more heterogeneous applications
- > “top-down” decision difficult
- > interoperability: define exchange standard, but as non-intrusive as possible
- > a proprietary standard cannot be enforced
- > enforce “open standards”
- > neutral, leaves implementation freedom to local administration

> How ?

- > unanimous agreement with all federal administrations and federal government
- > limited to what we control (federal admin.)
- > only document exchange format is standardized (not internal processing)
- > implementation left to local administrations
- > quality interaction with MS Office required
- > no “big-bang” approach
- > first everyone must be able to **read**
- > next, everyone must **exchange** in standard

- > continue testing, pilots, deployments
 - Fedict : quality testing
 - Min. Finance : deployment
 - Min. Justice : deployment
 - Economy : deployment
 - Police : pilots
 - Social Security : quality testing
- > make MS Office 2007 upgrades depend on better integrated ODF support
- > 2008 : full exchange between federal adm.

- > Barcelona ODF Camp started interop group
- > Opendocument Format (ODF) +
 - MS Office + Sun plug-in
 - OO.o / StarOffice
 - IBM Notes/Symphony ...
 - Google Docs / Google Pack
 - KOffice

promises better interoperability and document lifetime for editable document exchange than any other combination