OSF in a Nutshell

— Explanation —

The Open Show Notes format, or short OSF is a format which simplifies the creation of show notes for podcasts.

— Word definition —

The following statements has to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119.

— Basics —

Important basics of the Open Show Notes format (OSF) are:

- each line is its own separate item (related information **shall not** be separated by `\n`)
- blank lines are ignored
- each item **may** contain a time specification
- Times are to specify as UNIX timestamps or in `HH:MM:SS` format (if the Showpad is used to write show notes, these times can be made by `###` followed by a whitespace)
- after the time (or at the beginning of the line if no time is specified), a level of hierarchy can be set with `-`. The more `-` the deeper the item is nested.
- don't use to much hierarchies
- each item **must** contain a text, it can contain most of UTF-8 characters, but to avoid problems, it would make sense to limit themselves to ISO-8859-15
- Items **should** begin with a capital letter, unless it is a subitems or a half-sentences
- Punctuation marks at the end of items **should** be avoided
- Don't write language specific quotation marks, use `"`, they will be converted automatically by the parser
- each item **may** contain **one** URL, this URL has to beginn with `<` and end with `>`
- each item **may** contain **multiple** tags, they have to start with `#`
- There are also tags with predefined properties:
  - `#chapter` (`#c`) identifies an item as the beginning of a new chapter
  - `#topic` (`#t`) identifies an item as an important part of the show notes
  - `#video` (`#v`), `#audio` (`#a`) and `#image` (`#i`) and can be used to refer to media files
  - `#quote` (`#q`) marks quotes, it should also be given the name of the person who said it
    - All persons mentioned in the show notes (whether in citations or references) should also be specified in the header (FAMOUS)
  - `#shopping` links can be marked for online shops
  - `#prediction` is used to highlight predictions that need to be checked later
  - Links with further and descriptive content, which was not directly discussed in the podcast can be marked with `#glossary`
  - Links that have been directly mentioned in the podcast, have to be marked with `#link`
  - unfinished items should be marked with `#revision` (`#r`), so they wan't appear in the parsed output
  - in addition to any item that contains a link, the top and second level domain are attached as a tag (e.g.: `#googlecom`)
  - more tags can also be used, but have no immediate impact on the result (for some tags exists icons: BitmapWebIcons)

— Tools —

- ShowPad is an extension to Etherpad lite with user management, time management, a nice interface, and import and export functions
- tinyOSF.js is a reference implementation of the OSF parser in JavaScript
- OpenShownotesFormat is the first implementation of the OSF standards (written in PHP). A freely usable installation of this tool is available at tools.shownot.es/parsersuite
- wp-osf-shownotes (at wordpress.org) is a WordPress Plugin (also available as PPP Module), which allows the conversion of OSF to HTML directly in the blog
- ep_insertTimestamp extends EPL installations by an automated date / time input
- EtherpadBookmarklets are bookmarklets which were used by the Shownot.es Team before moving to Etherpad Lite
- ParseTime.js can parse Timedefinitions in Show notes
- XMPP Notification Service