

# Microsoft Office File Formats Readme

---

Microsoft is implementing four new interoperability principles and corresponding actions across its high-volume business products: (1) ensuring open connections; (2) promoting data portability; (3) enhancing support for industry standards; and (4) fostering more open engagement with customers and the industry, including open source communities.

Read the full Microsoft PressPass article:

<http://www.microsoft.com/presspass/press/2008/feb08/02-21ExpandInteroperabilityPR.mspix>

## Microsoft Office File Formats Introduction

<http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=119248>

Microsoft makes available information about protocols, binary file formats, and other specifications for a number of its most popular products, including various versions of Windows and Windows Server, Microsoft SQL Server, Microsoft Office, Microsoft Exchange Server, and Microsoft Office SharePoint Server. These technical specifications enable and encourage a vibrant development community, resulting in smarter, interoperable products.

## Important notes about the documentation

- **“Copy Code” button does not currently work in Firefox.** It is a known issue that the “Copy Code” button that appears on code samples in an Open Specification does not copy code to the clipboard when the specification is viewed in the Firefox Web browser. Instead of using the button, highlight the code and copy it.
- **Download all interoperability-related PDF documents to the same directory to retain links.** If you use the PDF versions of the Open Specifications, be sure to download all of the documents to the same directory. Hyperlinks between specifications require the documents to be in the same directory to work. Note that if you download additional protocol documents from Microsoft, they should also be stored in the same directory to enable linking.
- **Adobe Reader 8.0 provides best readability for documents.** For optimal readability of the PDF documents, it is recommended that they be opened and viewed by using Adobe Reader 8.0. Earlier versions of Adobe Reader might not provide the same reading quality.
- **Technical documentation links don’t resolve in Adobe Reader 9.** This is a change introduced by Adobe, which has altered the default setting for view mode in Adobe Reader 9. In order to access links, users need to change their settings so that the document is not in view mode.
  1. In Adobe Reader 9, go to the **Edit** menu and click **Preferences**. In the **Categories** list, click **Documents**.
  2. Under **PDF/A View Mode**, change the selection from **Only for PDF/A documents** to **Never**, and click **OK**.

Additional details on changing the setting can be located on the Adobe help site:

[http://help.adobe.com/en\\_US/Acrobat/9.0/Standard/WS3E0E8467-B787-4020-A1D3-6BC762A42DF2.w.html](http://help.adobe.com/en_US/Acrobat/9.0/Standard/WS3E0E8467-B787-4020-A1D3-6BC762A42DF2.w.html)

## Documentation Roadmap and Forum Information

To navigate the documentation set, follow these guidelines:

- Go directly to the protocol specification(s) in which you are interested.

Reference	Details
<b>Microsoft Office File Formats on MSDN</b> <a href="http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=119248">http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=119248</a>	Click to view this content online
<b>Microsoft Office File Formats .zip file</b> <a href="http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=119249">http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=119249</a>	Download all documents in a single (large) ZIP file
<b>Find downloads to specific, individual Microsoft Office File Formats .pdf files</b> <a href="http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=119247">http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=119247</a>	Details page from where you can download individual files

- For more support, see the following forums:

Reference	Details
<b>Open Specifications Forum Group:</b> <a href="http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=111125">http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=111125</a>	Participate in the top-level forum group.
<b>Using the Open Specifications:</b> <a href="http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=111122">http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=111122</a>	Ask questions about the Open Specifications documents, their organization, language conventions, and references.
<b>Windows Protocols:</b> <a href="http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=111123">http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=111123</a>	Discuss technical content and implementation of the Windows protocols described in the Open Specifications.
<b>File Services:</b> <a href="http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=111124">http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=111124</a>	Discuss technical content and implementation of Server Message Block (SMB) protocols described in the Open Specifications.
<b>Using the Office Open Specifications:</b> <a href="http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=112502">http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=112502</a>	Discuss technical content and implementation of the Office protocols described in the Open Specifications.
<b>Using the Exchange Server Protocols:</b> <a href="http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=113883">http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=113883</a>	Discuss technical content and implementation of the Exchange Server and Outlook protocols described in the Open Specifications.
<b>Using the SharePoint Products and Technologies Protocols:</b> <a href="http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=115477">http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=115477</a>	Discuss technical content and implementation of the SharePoint Products and Technologies protocols described in the Open Specifications.
<b>Office Binary File Formats:</b> <a href="http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=117117">http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=117117</a>	Discuss technical content and implementation of the Office binary file formats described in the Open Specifications.
<b>Using the Microsoft SQL Server Protocols:</b> <a href="http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=115249">http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=115249</a>	Discuss technical content and implementation of the Microsoft SQL Server protocols described in the Open Specifications.
<b>Using the Microsoft VBA Language specifications:</b> <a href="http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=121751">http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=121751</a>	Discuss technical content and implementation of the Microsoft VBA language specifications described in the Open Specifications.

Reference	Details
<b>Documentation on Standards:</b> <a href="http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=129153">http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=129153</a>	Discuss technical content and implementation of certain standards as they are implemented in Microsoft's high-volume products.
<b>Office Open Document Format Implementation:</b> <a href="http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=140401">http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=140401</a>	Discuss technical content and implementation of the Office implementation of the ODF 1.1 standard.
<b>Interoperability Scenarios: Technical Questions:</b> <a href="http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=146298">http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=146298</a>	Discuss implementation of technical scenarios around interoperability.