What is OpenDocument?

OpenDocument is an open standard file format for office documents. It was designed and is maintained by experts from several organizations with a stake in electronic document management. When a standard such as OpenDocument becomes widely adopted, the result is better software, lower costs, more competition, and an easier life for users.

What is an open standard?

An open standard is defined internationally as follows:

- It must be controlled by a not-for-profit organization, and its ongoing development must occur on the basis of an open decision-making procedure available to all interested parties.
- It must be published and the specification must be available for anyone to implement without legal restrictions, hence allowing free competition on the basis of merit.

Benefits of open standards

- No one else holds the keys to your data. You control your data.
- Wide use of open standards creates a free market, with more innovation and competition.
- Files created today will be accessible in the future: increasingly a legal necessity.
- Software writers can concentrate on creating great software rather than reverse engineering competitors' formats.
- You can choose software based on quality, knowing it can open your old files and those you receive from others.
- You will not be locked in to any one vendor's products.

Who is using OpenDocument?

- OpenDocument is supported by many applications including OpenOffice.org, StarOffice, IBM Workplace, KOffice, AbiWord and Writely.
- OpenOffice.org and KOffice now use the format natively. These applications are used by tens of millions of users.
- The state of Massachusetts has mandated the use of OpenDocument starting in 2007.
- The European Union endorses use of OpenDocument.
- The National Archives of Australia.
- The Society for Biblical Literature.
- Major companies like Boeing, IBM, Sun, Intel, and others.
- The OASIS standards group and soon ISO as well.

Where can I learn more?

Come by our booth and ask us.

Visit our website: *http://opendocumentfellowship.org*

Email our California contact, Ryan Singer, *ryan.singer@ opendocumentfellowship.org*

About us

We are a volunteer group with members around the world. Our aim is to support the work of community volunteers in promoting and improving OpenDocument and software designed to operate on it.

What do I do to benefit from OpenDocument?

- Give it a try! Try an application that supports ODF. Come by our booth and buy a CD or download an application for free from *http://openoffice.org* or *http://koffice.org*.
- Ask your political representatives how much is being spent on office software and how much could be saved if there were a genuine choice among products.
- Ask your CTO the same questions.
- Support the OpenDocument Fellowship.

Technical notes

"OpenDocument" is the *OASIS Open Document Format for Office Applications*.

It is an XML file format specification approved by OASIS and submitted by OASIS to ISO for approval as an ISO standard.