

## **A Global View of ODF Policy**

Less than nine months after its adoption as an international standard, OpenDocument Format (ODF) has achieved growing acceptance as the document format of choice for governments around the world. Below are some examples of policy actions taken by governments to promote the adoption of ODF and ensure the benefits of choice, interoperability and control for all. Government action can be spearheaded by different agencies and branches and generally take the form of laws, executive decisions, interoperability frameworks, or policy statements. In addition to these policy actions, nearly 50 federal agencies and state/local bodies across the globe are using office applications that support ODF (<http://opendocumentfellowship.org/government/precedent>).

For an overview of the growing software support for ODF, see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_applications\\_supporting\\_OpenDocument](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_applications_supporting_OpenDocument).

### **National Government Pro-ODF Policies**

#### **Belgium**

On 23 June 2006, Belgium's Council of Ministers adopted a recommendation which would effectively introduce ODF as the preferred standard within its governmental agencies for the creation and exchange of text, spreadsheets, and presentations. The guidelines state that all documents exchanged within the federal government must be in an open, standard format based on XML and implemented by more than one vendor. The Council is recommending a phased approach in which reading functionality would be implemented in the Belgian public administrations as of 1 Sep 2007, writing functionality by 1 Sep 2008, and document exchange in ODF by 1 Oct 2008.

(FEDICT- [http://www.siiia.net/govt/docs/pub/Belgium\\_FEDICT\\_OpenForumEurope\\_060704.pdf](http://www.siiia.net/govt/docs/pub/Belgium_FEDICT_OpenForumEurope_060704.pdf))

#### **Brazil**

With the publication of version 2.0 of its e-Ping Interoperability Framework, Brazil becomes the first country in South America to officially recommend ODF. The framework states that all .xls, .doc and .ppt files are in transition, meaning they do not comply anymore with its technical policies, and that ODF is now the Brazilian Government's officially recommended format.

(ePING v2.0 –

[http://www.governoeletronico.gov.br/governoeletronico/publicacao/down\\_anexo.wsp?tmp.arquivo=E15\\_677e-PING\\_v2.0\\_17112006\\_LINUX\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.governoeletronico.gov.br/governoeletronico/publicacao/down_anexo.wsp?tmp.arquivo=E15_677e-PING_v2.0_17112006_LINUX_FINAL.pdf))

#### **Croatia**

As part of the Operational Plan for the Implementation of e-Croatia 2007- Program for 2006, state administrative bodies must apply open standards for the recording of electronic documents

([http://www.e-hrvatska.hr/repozitorij/dokumenti/downloads/Open\\_Source\\_Software\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.e-hrvatska.hr/repozitorij/dokumenti/downloads/Open_Source_Software_Policy.pdf))

#### **Denmark**

Denmark's Folketinget (parliament) unanimously decided on 2 June 2006 that by January 2008, all digital information exchanged between authorities and citizens, companies and institutions, should be available in formats based on open standards. Also, all development and purchase of software for use in the public sector should at the latest by 1 January 2008 be based on open standards. The roadmap for implementing the decision is expected to be considered later this year.

(Translation of B103 - [http://itpol.dk/sager/offpol/b103\\_eng](http://itpol.dk/sager/offpol/b103_eng))

## **France**

France's Direction Générale de la Modernisation de l'État (DGME) specifically refers to ODF in its draft Référentiel Général d'Interopérabilité (RGI), or Interoperability Guidelines. Under the RGI, which are generally followed by public administrations throughout France, it is required to be able to accept all documents in ODF, recommended to use ODF for office applications (text, charts, presentations), and prohibited to migrate to a format currently used by only one organization.

(Référentiel Général d'Interopérabilité (RGI) -

[https://www.ateliers.adele.gouv.fr/ministeres/domaines\\_d\\_expertise/architecture\\_fonction/public/rgi/folder\\_contents](https://www.ateliers.adele.gouv.fr/ministeres/domaines_d_expertise/architecture_fonction/public/rgi/folder_contents))

## **Malaysia**

Malaysia's standards body voted to propose ODF as a country standard, following the recognition in May 2006 by the International Organization For Standardization (ISO) of ODF as an international standard. After a public comment period in September, Malaysia's Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation is expected to formally endorse ODF by year's end, recommending the format for use by the public sector.

## **Norway**

June 2005 policy paper "eNorway 2009 – the digital leap" states that by 2009 all new IT and information systems be based on open standards, and that by 2006 a set of administration standards for data and document exchange be established. The Ministry of Government Administration and Reform has created a panel to establish standards for electronic information in the public sector.

(eNorway2009 "The Digital Leap" - [http://odin.dep.no/filarkiv/254956/eNorway\\_2009.pdf](http://odin.dep.no/filarkiv/254956/eNorway_2009.pdf))

## ***Region, State, Local ODF Policy Actions***

### **Extremadura, Spain**

By 25 July 2007, the government approved a motion that all public administrations must use ODF for document exchange and PDF/A "when guaranteed unalterable visualization is required."

Extremadura decided in 2002 to migrate 70,000 desktops to a local version of free, open source Debian software, called gnuLinEx. The government is estimating cost savings of 18 million euros.

(Extremadura Govt Council Agreement –

[http://www.hispalinux.es/files/mocion\\_consejo\\_gobierno\\_english.pdf](http://www.hispalinux.es/files/mocion_consejo_gobierno_english.pdf))

### **Massachusetts, United States**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Enterprise Technical Reference Model of September 2005 states that ODF must be used for documents such as text, presentations, and spreadsheets. It plans to implement ODF in a group of early adopter agencies, including the Massachusetts Office on Disability, by January 1, 2007. Thereafter, it plans to migrate all Executive Department agencies to compliance with ODF, in phases, by June of 2007.

(MA ETRM v 3.5 -

[http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=itdterminal&&L=4&L0=Home&L1=Open+Initiatives&L2=Policies&L3=Enterprise+Technical+Reference+Model+-+Version+3.5&sid=Aitd&b=terminalcontent&f=policies\\_standards\\_ETRMVersion3.5InformationDomain&csid=Aitd#footnote\\_1](http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=itdterminal&&L=4&L0=Home&L1=Open+Initiatives&L2=Policies&L3=Enterprise+Technical+Reference+Model+-+Version+3.5&sid=Aitd&b=terminalcontent&f=policies_standards_ETRMVersion3.5InformationDomain&csid=Aitd#footnote_1) )

MA Mid-Year Statement –

([http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=itdmodulechunk&&L=3&L0=Home&L1=Open+Initiatives&L2=OpenDocument&sid=Aitd&b=terminalcontent&f=accessibility\\_odf\\_accessibility\\_midyear\\_itr&csid=Aitd](http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=itdmodulechunk&&L=3&L0=Home&L1=Open+Initiatives&L2=OpenDocument&sid=Aitd&b=terminalcontent&f=accessibility_odf_accessibility_midyear_itr&csid=Aitd))

## **Misiones, Argentina**

Misiones, a province in the northeast of Argentina, became the first regional government in Latin America to adopt ODF. According to the resolution that took effect one day after its publication in the province's official journal on 21 December 2006, all documents created and exchanged between public administrations must be in ODF for documents in which the recipient needs to make edits; for documents in public circulation and where read-only access is needed, PDF/A must be used.

Proprietary formats, including .doc, .ppt., .xls, RTF, and WordPerfect are explicitly not permitted under the resolution.

Province of Misiones Resolution (esp) -

[http://www.misiones.gov.ar/egov/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=133&Itemid=26](http://www.misiones.gov.ar/egov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=133&Itemid=26))

## ***Other Policy Developments***

**India's** Election Commission has adopted ODF nationally, the state of Kerala has adopted ODF, and the Department of Information Technology (doIT) of the Government of National Capitol Territory (GoNCT) has started training users on ODF. A government order was issued that ODF will be used for the Delhi state government's commercial tax office, and several other government agencies are test-piloting ODF. (<http://www.odfalliance.in/Pics/press9.jpg>). In March 2006 ODF was added to the the **Hong Kong** Government's Interoperability Framework (IF) as a recommended standard (<http://www.ogcio.gov.hk/eng/infra/download/s18.pdf>)