



OpenDocument Fellowship

<http://opendocumentfellowship.org/>

OpenDocument Fellowship is a volunteer organisation with members around the world. Our goal is to promote the use and development of the OpenDocument format. We believe that open standards can create a level playing field where all software products can compete fairly.

Our mission

To support the work of community volunteers in promoting, improving and providing user assistance for the OASIS Open Document Format for Office Applications (OpenDocument) and software designed to operate on data in this format.

Contributing

You can contribute in many ways. You do not need to be a member to contribute as a developer or in other ways. You do not even need to be very technical.

- Developers: Join our development projects
- Donors: Fund a project
- Anyone: Maintain the applications page, attend a conference, spread the word

Development projects

We are working on a variety of development projects. Most of the work is done by volunteers, but we have also received two small grants to help fund projects. If you are a developer, please join us! Here are some examples. See the website for details.

- Conversion toolkit, including tools for ODT to HTML, DocBook to ODT, XHTML to ODT, ODS to HTML, ODP to HTML, ODG to SVG, SVG to ODG
- Software Development Kit (SDK)
- ODF Viewers
- Lightweight ODF to PDF converter

Donating

You can donate money to fund development projects through our Targeted Donations Programme, or contribute to a general fund to cover miscellaneous expenses.

Voting membership

We have a type of voting membership. The benefit of membership is that you can vote on major decisions. To be a member you have to be nominated by a current member and approved by the current members.

Contact information

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Why develop for OpenDocument?

Because OpenDocument is...

- **An ISO standard.** OpenDocument is now mandated in government by international treaties. The government is the single largest user of most products.
- **Truly open.** You won't hit artificial barriers imposed by your competitor or your supplier in order to maintain control of the file format.
- **Cross-platform.** OpenDocument was designed as a true cross-platform file format specification.
- **Stable.** Because it is an approved international standard and is required as a unaltered specification in many governmental roles, there are few opportunities for one of your competitors to apply unfair tactics such as embracing, extending and extinguishing the standard.
- **Versatile.** There are no dependencies on the features and APIs of any particular application or operating system. Your developed application can stand alone.
- **Interoperable.** Your application's output can be used by any other ODF-aware application running on any operating system. Finally, the developer community has a truly interoperable rich formatting set of file formats for the creation of rich documents. You are not at the mercy of one of your competitors who will not have your best interests at heart.
- **Microsoft Office-compatible.** Several tools are already available for converting between Open Document and Microsoft Office files. Others are under development, including an Office Open XML-OpenDocument Translator plugin project for Office being sponsored by Microsoft. Several of these tools are already in production use.
- **Modular.** Because there are no application or operating system dependencies, you can achieve greater modularity among multiple applications, either loosely coupled or within a suitable application framework.
- **Popular.** Many developers are already staking out their first-mover advantage with OpenDocument support. See our applications page for a growing but non-comprehensive list of apps supporting ODF. Should you be left behind?
- **Easy to work with.** ODF is XML, written with the goal of maximising ease of understanding. The specification is an easy to read Relax-NG schema, and it builds on existing standards that you may already be familiar with like XLink, MathML, SVG and XForms. When no existing candidate is available, it uses syntax inspired by XHTML.
- **XML.** ODF brings to document production the many advantages of XML:
 - It is inherently extensible. In addition, the OpenDocument specification specifically allows extensions. You can add features to the format to meet particular needs.
 - It can be manipulated by the myriad of standard XML parsers. XML has been in use for 20 years, and is a very mature technology.
 - It is easier to convert between XML formats than between binary ones. For example, we've made a Firefox extension to make it read ODF files. We did this by just converting ODF into HTML.
- **A platform to build on.** ODF will be regularly updated and developers are free to seek needed enhancements through an open standardisation process that favours no vendor. ODF lets developers cooperate where it makes sense to do so.
- **A level playing field.** Because of all the factors discussed above, ODF offers a level playing field. ODF developers can compete based on product utility, quality, and price. The ODF playing field is not tilted by being under the control of a company or consortium that can exclude competitors.