Contributing to the ODF Standard

Understanding the Process at OASIS

Rob Weir
Co-Chair, OASIS ODF TC
robert_weir@us.ibm.com

2011-07-14
Berlin

OASIS: the Organization

- **O**rganization for the **A**dvancement of **S**tructured **I**nformation **S**tandards
  - Founded in 1993
  - Open, Inclusive, Diverse
  - 600 member organization in 100 countries.
  - Liaisons with ISO, IEC, ITI, ISO/IEC, UN/CEFACT, UN/ECE, W3C, etc.

OASIS ODF Activity

- 66 members involved with ODF:
    - ODF Technical Committee
    - ODF Interoperability and Conformance TC
    - ODF Adoption TC

- 17 countries
    - US, China, Canada, South Africa, Ireland, UK, Belgium, Finland, India, Japan, Germany, Czech Republic, Brazil, Norway, Netherlands, Hungary & France

- 26 organizations and 8 individual members
    - IBM, Oracle, Microsoft, Novell, Nokia, Google, Redhat, Belgian Federal ICT Dept (Fedict), DeltaXML, KDE e.V., Ars Aperta, etc.

OASIS Standardization Process

- Contributions

- → Working Draft (WD)

- → Committee Specification Draft (CSD)

  - Majority approval of TC

- → Committee Specification (CS)

  - 2/3 approval of TC

  - Public review

- → Candidate OASIS Standard (COS)

  - 2/3 approval of TC

- → OASIS Standard (OS)

  - Public review

  - 2/3 approval of OASIS members

Full cycle can be from 6-months to multiple years

In practice

- Work is done by:
  - Weekly teleconferences
  - Mailing lists
  - Kavi
  - JIRA
  - Specifications done in ODF
- Subcommittees
  - Advanced Document Collaboration
  - OpenFormula
  - Accessibility
  - Metadata

Decision Making

- By consensus wherever possible

- Voting where required by OASIS process, or where unavoidable

  - One person/one vote

  - Voting rights earned by consistent meeting attendance

  - Have only had only a handful of issues decided by vote in the TC's 5 -year existence

How to Participate

- Public
  - Send comments, defect reports, feature proposals
  - Most useful when done during public review cycles, but can be submitted anytime
- As an OASIS member
  - Various membership categories, from individual to sponsor.
  - You may already be a member via your corporation
- Via participation in ISO/IEC JTC1 SC34/WG6

Increasing the odds of success

- ## The ideal proposal

  - Proposal in the form of specification changes or additions to the specification, with consideration given to internationalization, implementability, interoperability, accessibility, portability and backwards compatibility

  - Commitment for multiple products to implement

- ## The ideal defect report

  - Cites section and line number in the specification

  - States what is wrong and suggests a correction