Open Formats ODF vs OOXML

Italo Vignoli

De Jure vs De Facto Standards

- A de facto standard refers to a significant market share
- A de jure standard is based on a collective agreement
- As such they are innately different, as are their value and effect on the market
- De jure standards for document formats
 - Foster interoperability, create network externalities, prevent lock-in, cut transaction costs, create a transparent market and reduce variety
- De facto standards for document formats
 - Tend to be the exact opposite, to increase supplierdependence and create an obfuscated market



- Promotes a healthy competitive market (the existence of Open Standards reduces the risk and cost of market entry, and so encourages multiple suppliers)
- Reduces the risk to an organisation of being technologically locked-in
- Is a basis for interoperability, which supports systems heterogeneity, thereby increasing options for organisations
- Offers a basis for long-term access and reuse of digital assets, and in particular when supported by Open Source Reference Implementations

FOSS and Open Standards

- Support open standards wherever possible
 - When given an alternative, prefer the most open standard that solves the problem
- Use open standards in every project activity
- Get involved in standards committees
- Help to develop and promote new standards

Open Format

- Independent from a single product: anyone can write a software that handles an open format
- Interoperable: allows the transparent sharing of data between heterogeneous systems
- Neutral: it does not force the user to adopt and often buy

 a specific product, but leaves a wide choice based on quality/price ratio
- Perennial: protects user developed contents from the "evolution" based obsolescence of technology

Proprietary Format

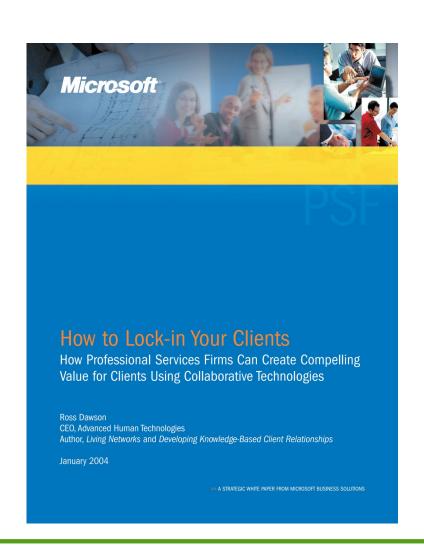
- Designed to be manipulated by a single software
- Evolves over the years based on commercial strategies and not on user needs
- Often, a direct serialization of data structures in memory
- The software is the format!
- Users borrow content from vendors through the format End User License Agreement (EULA)

Lock In

WE CANNIT READ YELLS

DECUMENT FREEDEM. ERG

Manual for Professionals

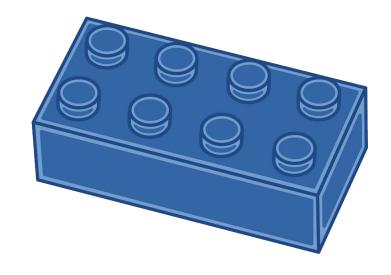


Interoperability

Interoperability

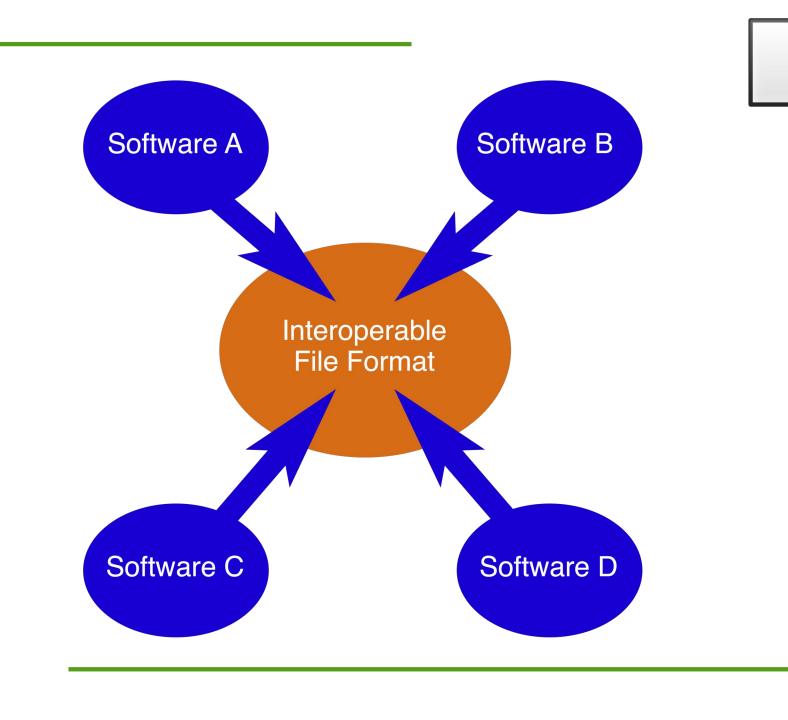
Interoperability means the ability of information and communication technology (ICT) systems, as well as, of the business processes they support in order to exchange data and enable the sharing of information and knowledge.

European Interoperability Framework, IDABC



Legacy Interoperability





Benefits of Interoperability

- FINANCIAL
- Cost savings for users
- Reduced operation costs for owners
- Vendor lock-in avoidance for owners
- Facilitate reuse, sharing & adoption

- TIME
- Owner time savings
- User time savings

- QUALITY
- High service satisfaction for users
- Improved compliance for owners
- Better data quality for owners
- Better data availability for users
- Improved security for owners

- OTHER
- Foster innovation
- Increase transparency
- Protection of user's rights
- Furthering public policy goals
- Reduced CO2 emissions





NIST GCR 04-867



U.S. Department of Commerce Technology Administration National Institute of Standards and Technology

Advanced Technology Program
Information Technology and Electronics Office
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899

Cost Analysis of Inadequate Interoperability in the U.S. Capital Facilities Industry

Michael P. Gallaher, Alan C. O'Connor, John L. Dettbarn, Jr., and Linda T. Gilday

Interoperability Costs (2)

Table 6-5. Costs of Inadequate Interoperability for Architects and Engineers

Life-Cycle Phase	Cost Category	Cost Component	Average Cost per Square Foot	Average Cost per Square Meter	Inadequate Interoperability Cost Estimate (\$Thousands)
Planning, Engineering,		Inefficient business process management costs	0.31	3.37	356,126
and Design		Redundant CAx systems costs	0.0001	0.001	158
		Productivity losses and training costs for redundant CAx systems	0.04	0.45	47,947
		Redundant IT support staffing for CAx systems	0.0004	0.005	501
		Data translation costs	0.002	0.02	2,139
	Avoidance Costs	Interoperability research and development expenditures	0.02	0.21	22,234
	<u> </u>	Manual reentry costs	0.41	4.38	462,734
	Mitigation	Design and construction information verification costs	0.10	1.08	114,342
	Costs	Reworking design files costs	0.0009	0.009	968
	ž.	Avoidance costs	0.38	3.85	429,106
		Mitigation costs	0.51	5.47	578,044
	Subtotal	Subtotal	0.89	9.32	1,007,150

Interoperability Costs (3)

Construction	Avoidance Costs	Inefficient business process management costs	0.04	0.41	43,290
		Redundant CAx systems costs	0.00003	0.0003	28
		Productivity losses and training costs for redundant CAx systems	0.007	0.08	8,461
		Redundant IT support staffing for CAx systems	0.00008	0.0008	88
		Data translation costs	0.0003	0.004	378
		Interoperability research and development expenditures	0.003	0.04	3,924
-		Manual reentry costs	0.024	0.26	27,750
	Mitigation Costs	Design and construction information verification costs	0.006	0.07	7,377
		RFI management costs	0.05	0.53	55,656
	Subtotal	Avoidance costs	0.05	0.49	56,169
		Mitigation costs	80.0	0.86	90,783
		Subtotal	0.13	1.35	146,952
Operations and	Mitigation	Post-construction redundant			
Maintenance	Costs	information transfer costs	0.01	0.15	15,660
Total Cost					1,169,762

Source: RTI estimates; totals may not sum correctly due to rounding.

Summary of Interoperability

TECHNOLOGICAL

hardware and code to allow connections

DATA

ability of interconnected systems to understand each other

INTEROPERABILITY

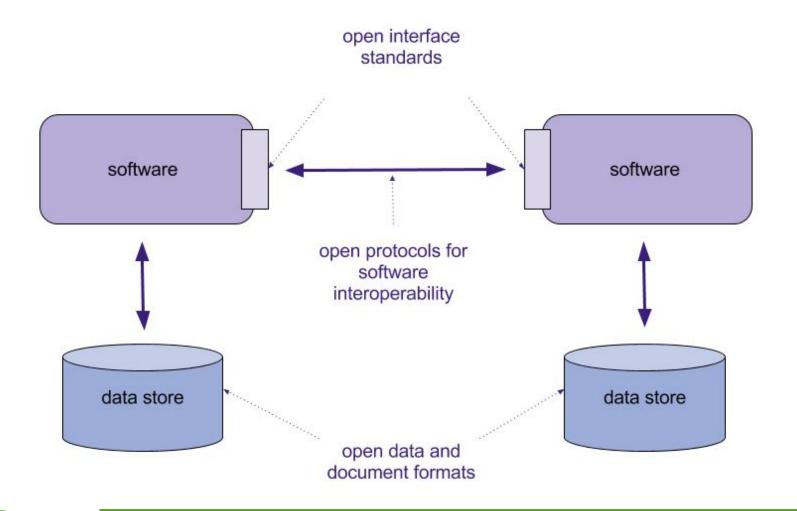
INSTITUTIONAL

effective engagement of societal systems

HUMAN

ability to understand and act on data exchanged

Openness & Interoperability





Open Document Format the true document standard which offers freedom of choice

ODF is an Open Standard

- Open and collaborative development
- Transparent access to the minutes of all meetings
- Ease of implementation in any software
- Freedom from patents and licensing restrictions
- No reliance on proprietary features or single vendor owned technologies
- Interoperability with any system designed to be ODF compatible

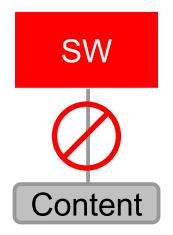
What is ODF? (1)

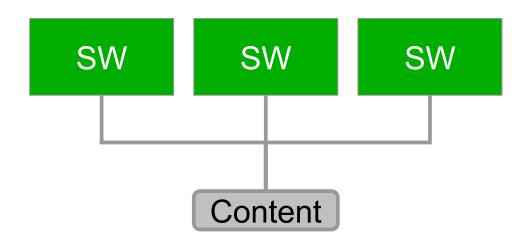
- OpenDocument Format (ISO / IEC 26300)
 - ISO: International Organization for Standardization
 - IEC: International Electrotechnical Commission
- Open file format based on XML, to create, view, edit and store Office documents
 - Text documents, spreadsheets, and presentations

What is ODF? (2)

- Defined with an open and transparent process by OASIS
- Approved by the Joint Technical Committee 1 (JTC 1) of the IEC as International Standard (IS) in May 2006
- Available for deployment and use with no license, royalty payments or other restrictions

ODF Based Interoperability





OLD STYLE

Content closely related to a specific application

Developers and not users control the application

NEW STYLE

Content represented through an open standard which is not controlled by a single vendor, and supported by many applications

Users are in full control of their contents

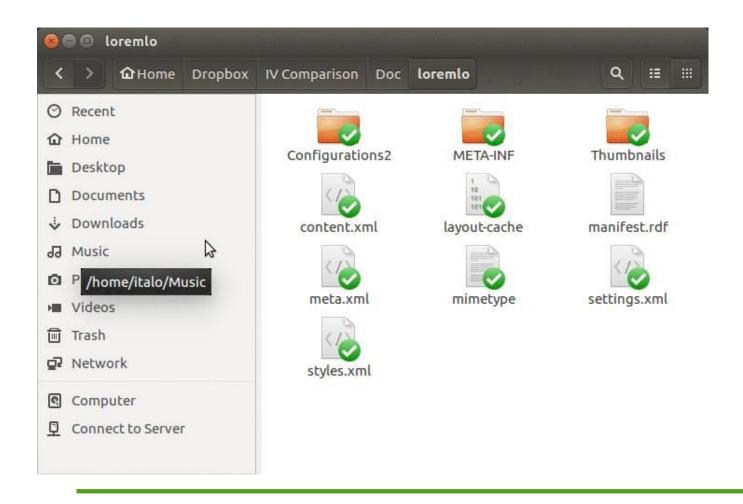
ODF is Standard

- France
- Portugal
- Sweden
- Taiwan
- UK

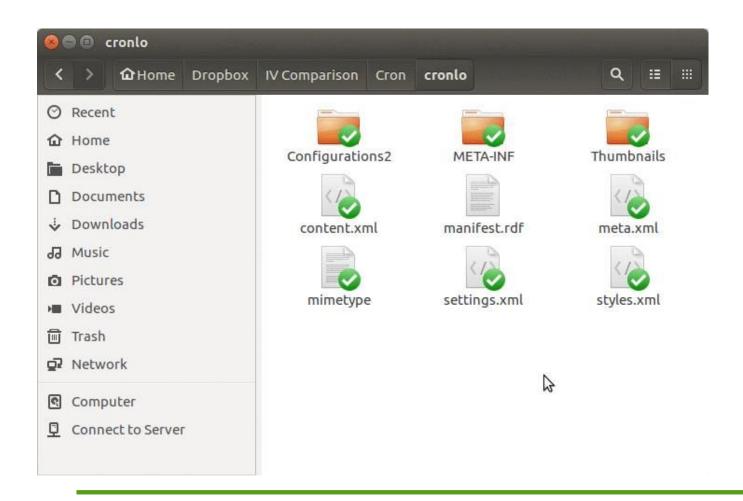
ODF Document Extensions

Document	Extension		
T ext	ODT		
S preadsheet	ODS		
P resentation	ODP		
G raphics	ODG		
Business C hart	ODC		
Image	ODI		
D atabase	ODB		
Math F ormula	ODF		

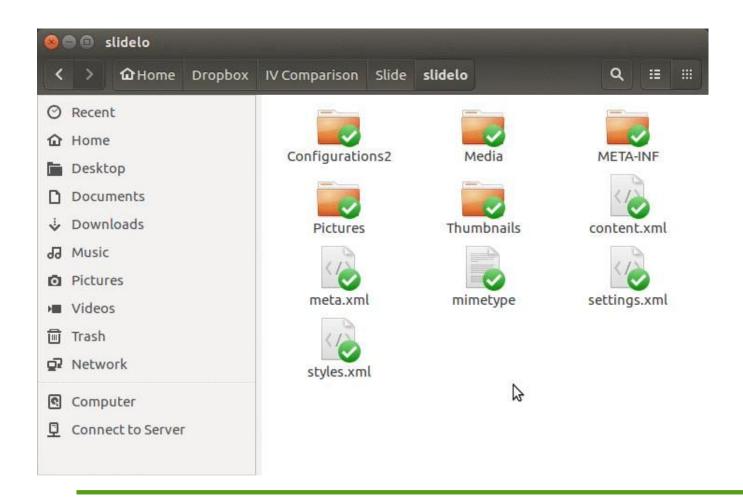
Inside ODT



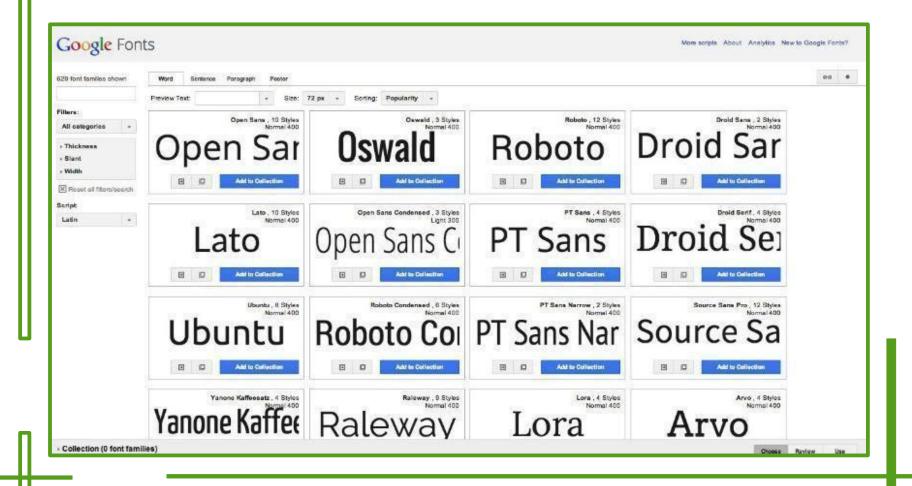
Inside ODS



Inside ODP



Free Fonts



ODF vs OOXML

Battle of 2 Standards





Standardization Process

ODF

- Based on OOo XML format
- Dec 12, 2002: document format presented to OASIS
- May 1, 2005: ODF released by OASIS
- Nov 16, 2005: ODF presented to ISO/IEC JTC1 based on Publicly Available Specification (PAS)
- May 3, 2006: ODF approved as ISO/IEC IS 26300 standard
- Review: 720 paged in 1239 days

OOXML

- Based on Microsoft Office 2003 XML format
- Dec 15, 2005: document format presented to ECMA
- Dec 31, 2006: ECMA standard approved by General Assembly
- Jan 31, 2007: OOXML presented to ISO/IEC JTC1 based on Fast Track
- Mar 31, 2008: OOXML pseudo standard approved
- Review: 7200 pages in 838 days

OOXML: a pseudo-standard

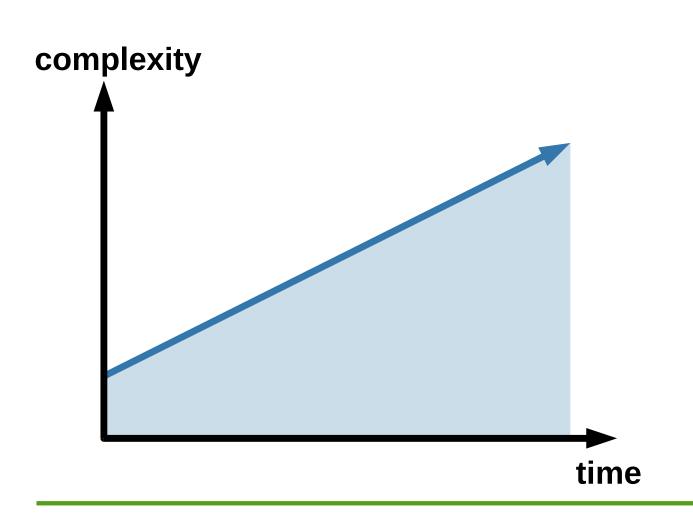
OpenXML was designed from the start to be capable of faithfully representing the pre-existing corpus of word-processing documents, presentations, and spreadsheets encoded in binary formats defined by Microsoft Corporation

Office Open XML Overview ECMA International, December 2006

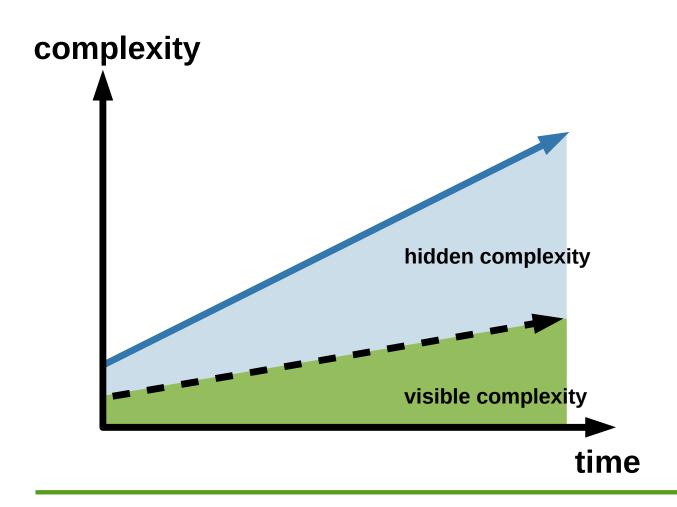
Document Complexity

- OBJECTS Typography, bitmap and outline images, colour, business rules, text, steganography, and much more are used to make up documents, however the management and approval process of these objects are also key to ensuring the correctness, and value of each individual document.
- DATA You need to understand the structure of data, storage locations and techniques, extraction, backup, transmission methods, normalisation, consolidation, translation, manipulation, and sorting, plus security, privacy, and data governance.

Complexity of IT Systems



Hidden Complexity





ODF

- Dublin Core
- XLS:FO
- SVG
- MathML
- XLink
- SMIL
- XForms

OOXML

Dublin Core

Brain and Computer

Brain

Red

Computer

#**FF0000**

Description of Colours

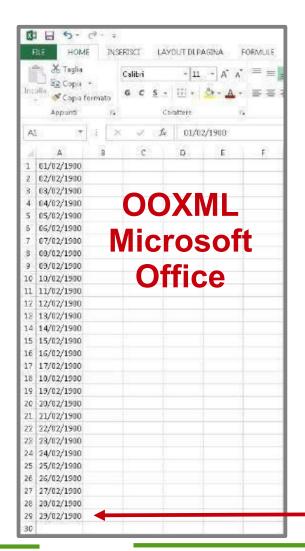
ODF (LibreOffice)

- Writer fo:color="#FF0000"
- Calc fo:color="#FF0000"
- Impress fo:color="#FF0000"

OOXML (MS Office)

- Word w:color w:val="FF0000"
- Excel color rgb="FFF0000"
- PowerPoint a:srgbClr val="FF0000"

Creative Handling of Calendar





Real Dates vs Excel Dates

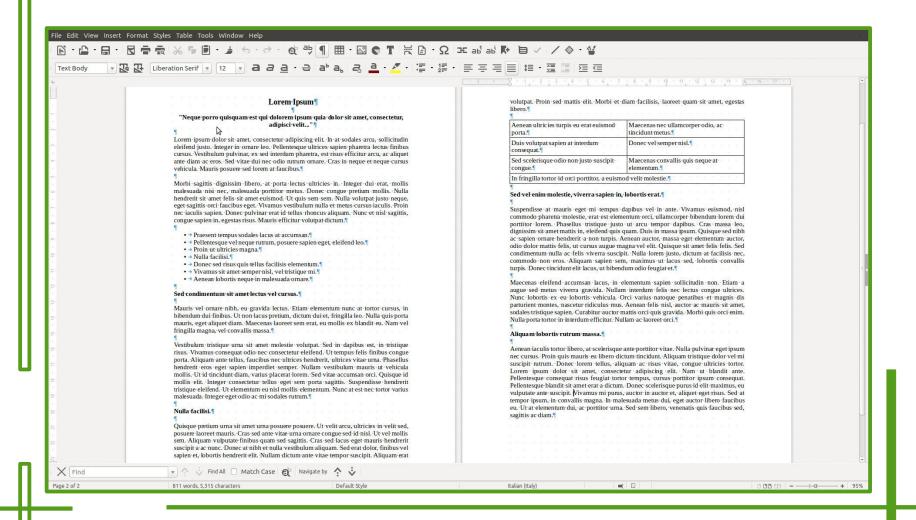
Event	Calc	Excel
Italo Vignoli Birthday	12/08/1954	19948
Italo Vignoli Graduation	19/11/1978	28813
Italo Vignoli First Job	01/10/1981	29860
Italo Vignoli First PC	01/09/1983	30560
Italo Vignoli Wedding	08/09/1984	30933
Italo Vignoli Installs OOo	02/01/2003	37623
Italo Vignoli Launches LibreOffice	28/09/2010	40449

Other OOXML Issues

- OOXML does not consider Jewish and Muslim users, who use a different calendar
- OOXML uses its own proprietary list of numbers instead of the ISO 639 standard for language names (English = EN)
- OOXML adopts the VML vector format, which conflicts with ISO/IEC 8632/W3C SVG standard (VML was deprecated by Microsoft before the development of OOXML)
- OOXML adopts Math for mathematical notation instead of W3C MathML (Math is intentionally incompatible with the standard MathML)

File Comparison ODF vs OOXML

Comparison ODF/OOXML



Length of Content XML

Version	XML Lines
ODF 1.2 (any version of) LibreOffice	222
OOXML 2010 Transitional (MS Office Windows)	1040
OOXML 2011 Transitional (MS Office MacOS)	12854
OOXML 2013 Transitional (MS Office Windows)	1590
OOXML 2016 Transitional (MS Office Windows)	11667
OOXML 2016 Transitional (MS Office MacOS)	11646
OOXML 2019 Transitional (MS Office Windows)	7085

Seasonality of Content XML

Version	XML Lines
Windows OOXML 2013 Transitional Summer 2017	1590
Windows OOXML 2013 Transitional Winter 2018	13515
Windows OOXML 2016 Transitional Summer 2017	11667
Windows OOXML 2016 Transitional Winter 2018	969
Windows OOXML 2016 Transitional Fall 2018	11288
Windows OOXML 2016 Transitional Spring 2019	7085
MacOS OOXML 2016 Transitional Summer 2017	11646
MacOS OOXML 2016 Transitional Fall 2018	854
MacOS OOXML 2016 Transitional Spring 201	7731

ODT by LibreOffice

<start text>To be, or not to be,
this is the question.<end text>

DOCX by Microsoft Office

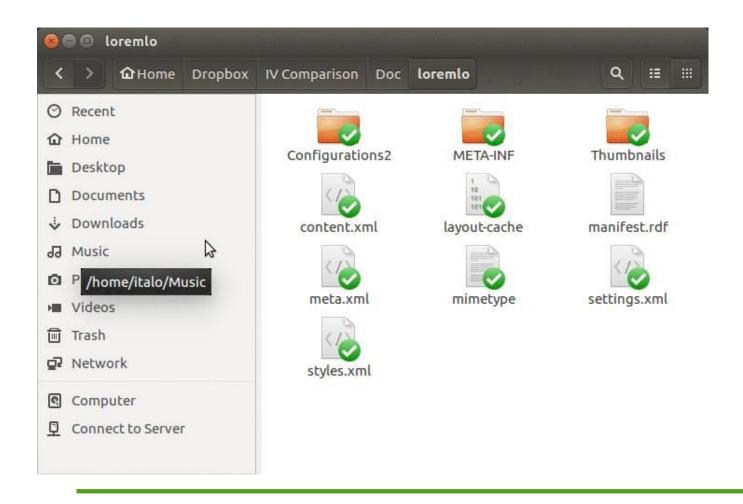
```
<start text>To<end text>
<keep together>
<start text>[space]<end text>
<start text>be<end text>
<start text>,<end text>
<keep together>
<start text>[space]<end text>
<start text>or<end text>
<keep together>
<start text>[space]<end text>
<start text>not<end text>
<keep together>
<start text>[space]<end text>
<start text>to<end text>
<keep together>
<start text>[space]<end text>
```

```
<start text>be<end text>
<keep together>
<start text>,<end text>
<keep together>
<start text>[space]<end text>
<start text>this<end text>
<keep together>
<start text>[space]<end text>
<start text>is<end text>
<keep together>
<start text>[space]<end text>
<start text>the<end text>
<keep together>
<start text>[space]<end text>
<start text>problem<end text>
<start text> <end text>
```

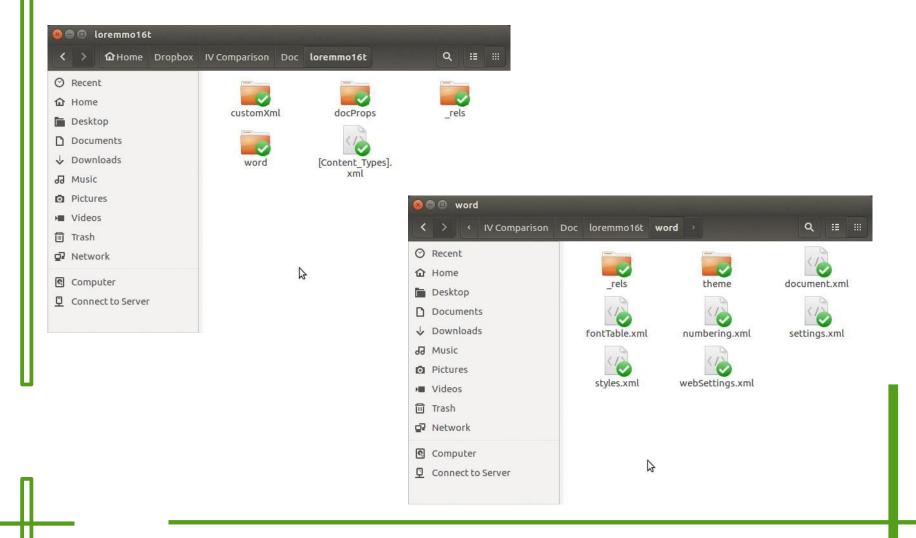
Simplicity vs Hidden Complexity

- ODT by LibreOffice
 - Low or no hidden complexity
 - Same approach when writing OOXML
 - Files are human readable (security)
- OOXML by Microsoft Office
 - Highest option of hidden complexity
 - Same approach when writing ODT
 - Files are not human readable

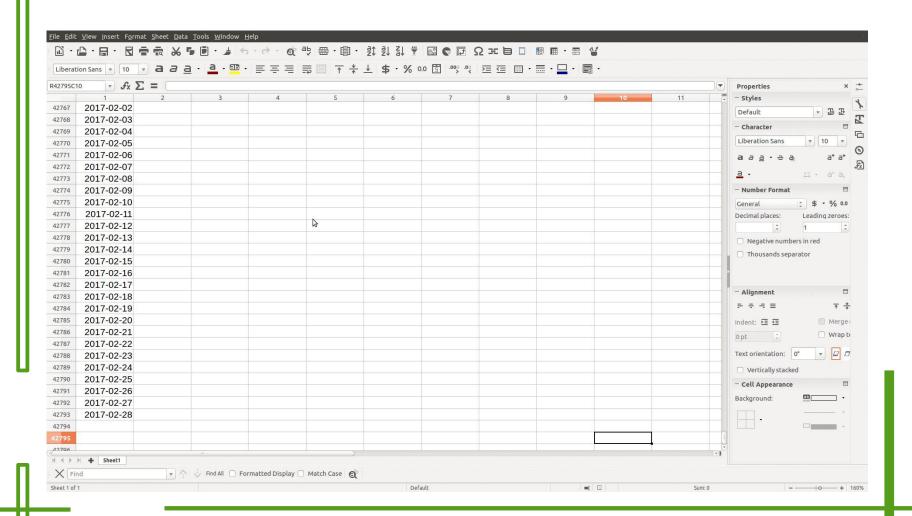
Inside ODT



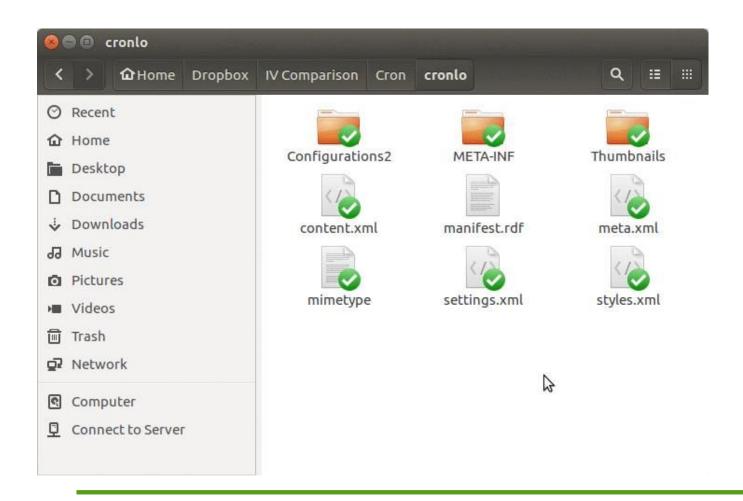
Inside DOCX



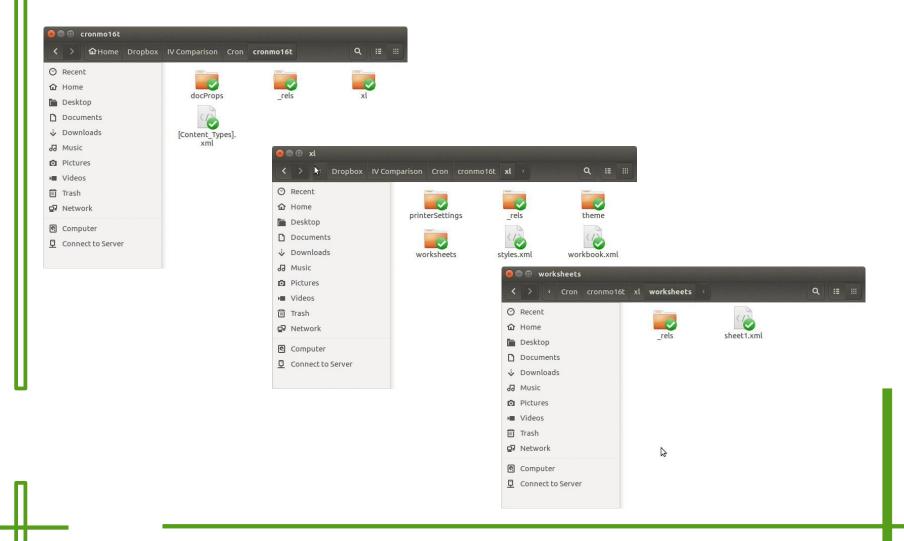




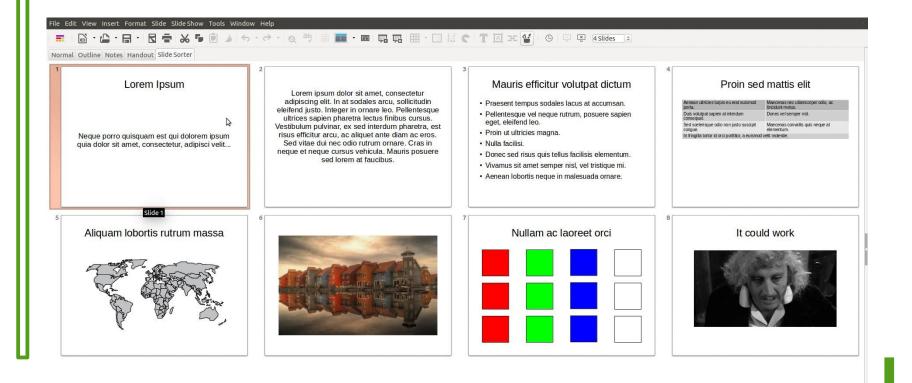
Inside ODS



Inside XLSX

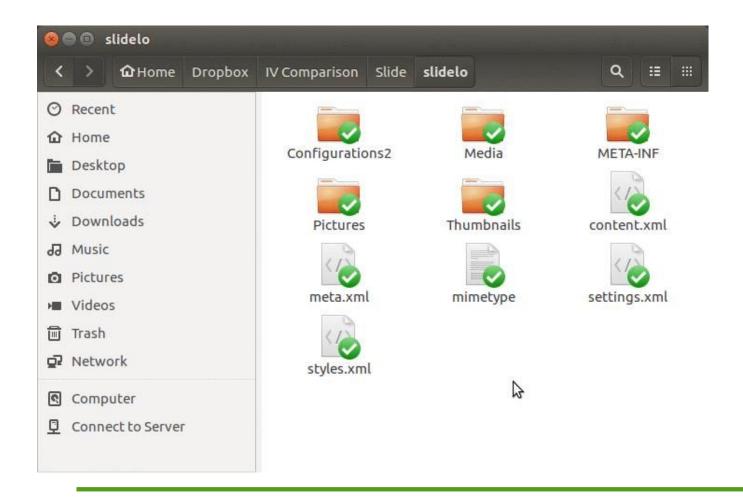


Comparison Presentation

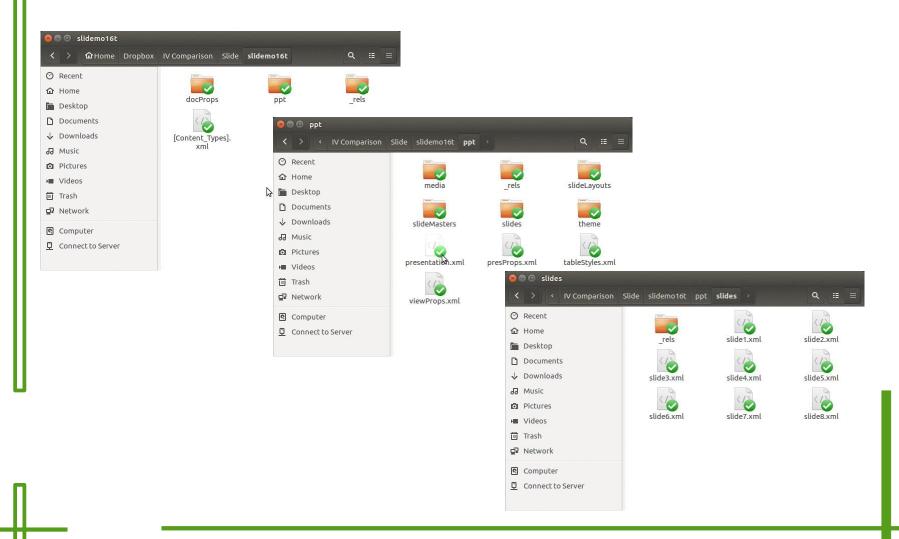




Inside ODP



Inside PPTX



Deductions of a Stupid Me

- LibreOffice developers are a bunch of geniuses
- Microsoft Office developers are a bunch of *****
 unless
- Microsoft Office XML files are artificially stuffed with useless contents to reduce the chances that software other than Microsoft Office can open them properly
- Microsoft has a vested interest in killing standard based interoperability to protect a captive market still valued at over 25 billion dollars

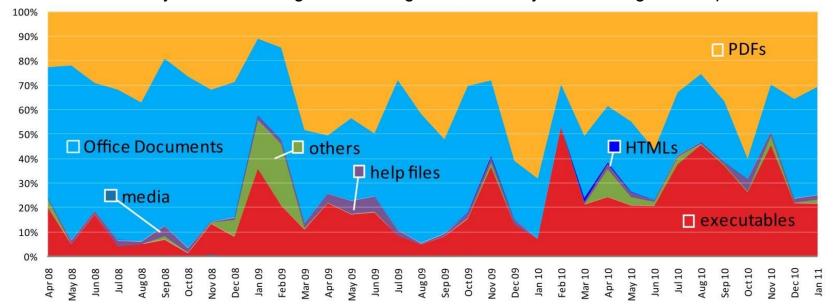
Complexity of Document Formats

Document Format	# Elements
Office Open XML	1792
WordprocessingML	780
OASIS Open Document	530

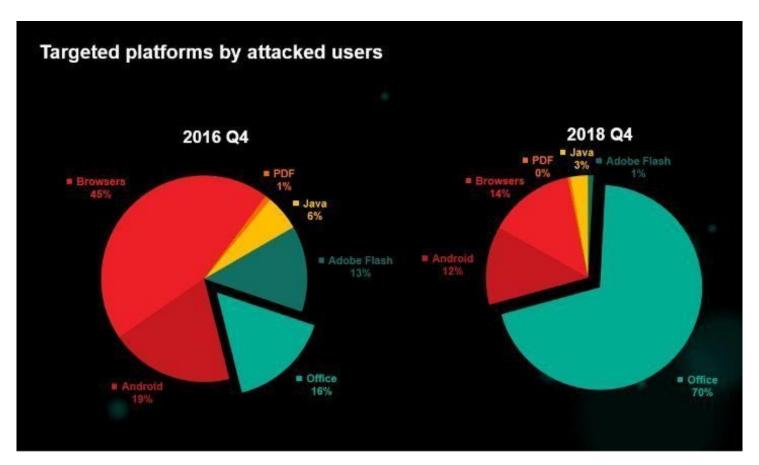
AS OF 2006



Source: Symantec MessageLabs Intelligence, February 2011 Intelligence Report



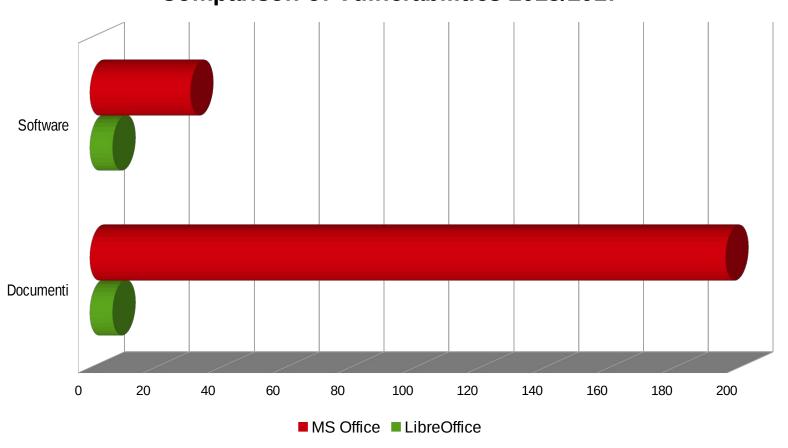
File Types Used in Attacks



Source: Kaspersky Labs, Spring 2019 Worldwide Meeting

LibreOffice vs MS Office

Comparison of Vulnerabilities 2015/2017

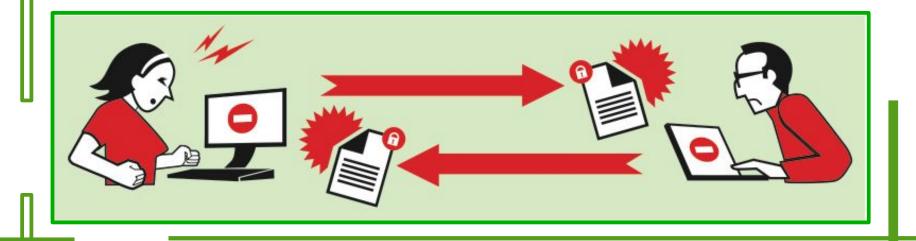


Non Standard: Circa 2000 AC



No Interoperability





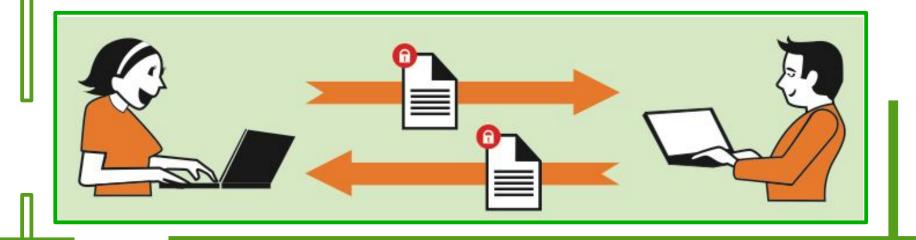
Non Standard: Circa 2000 DC





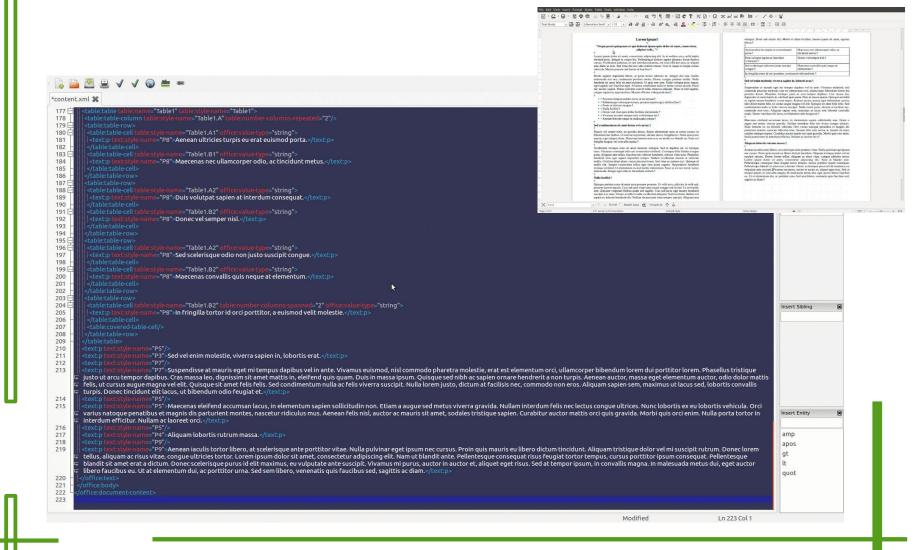
False Interoperability





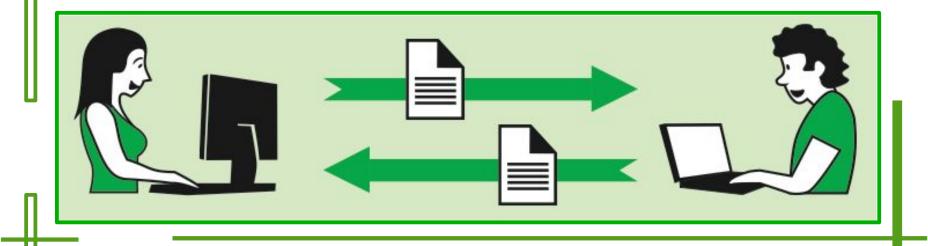
Standard: Circa 2000 DC





True Interoperability





Proprietary Fonts

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