



*Boundaryless
Information Flow*

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Open Standards - Open Source

The Business, Legal, and Technical Challenges Ahead

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In association with



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Open Standards – Open Source Technical Panel

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Who am I?

- **SGML/XML since 1991**
- **Participated in and chaired DocBook**
- **XML, XSLT**
- **Sun's XML standards lead:**
 - **Coordinate participation**
 - **Sun's AC representative to W3C**
 - **Chair of OASIS TAB**
- **PPWG (kinda)**
- **Chair of UBL's Context Methodology SC**

Note: in what follows, Open Source stands not only for Linux, but also for OO, ebXMLrr, JXTA, etc.

Is Open Source robust, scalable, portable, interoperable enough to support an enterprise?

- **It can be, but it is not always.**
- **Obstacles:**
 - **Developers' lack of experience with enterprises**
 - Lack of familiarity with requirements
 - Lack of familiarity with acceptable solutions
 - **Developers' lack of testing facilities**
 - For interoperability
 - For testing
 - **Developers' perceptions:**
 - Testing is boring
 - Bug fixing is not as creative as developing something new

Is Open Source usable for SME's?

- **Assumption: SME = No IT resources**
- **There must be a support solution for a reasonable fee.**
- **There must be a supported version of the software.**
- **There must be reasonably readable documentation for essential areas such as installation.**

What Open Source technologies are coming down the road?

- **Hard to see a lot of infrastructure/platform being open sourced, sometimes simply because of existing claims**
- **Other than that: almost every functionality may be open sourced in the not too distant future**
- **There is money to be made in support**
- **Danger: too much trash out in the street...**

My question: This is Open Standards – Open Source. Why are we not talking about Open Standards?

- **Standards are in danger of being corrupted**
- **Rampant confusion between standard and specification**
- **Proprietary specifications are being called standards by press, analysts, public**
- **There is a clear and urgent need to make sure that the value of open standards is recognized (again).**

Open Standards definition

- Open Standards are:
 - specifications that are reliable,
 - free from the threat of legal encumbrances,
 - able to work across development and deployment environments,
 - subject to peer review and input throughout most of their lifecycle, as well as aligned with general industry and customer needs
- Standards are:
 - developed in recognized standards-setting organizations.
- Standards are not:
 - specifications developed by one or two or three companies,
 - published in their web sites and left there for months or years,
 - with no legal terms for their use,
 - while the companies involved develop products based on the specification which they proclaim to be a standard.

Thanks!