

TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS AND INTEROPERABILITY IN SOFTWARE: Future of Innovation?

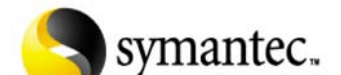
Seow Hiong GOH
Director, Software Policy (Asia)
Business Software Alliance
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Changing Environment

Technology Standards a cornerstone of hardware and software development

- Fosters healthy and competitive IT ecosystem
- Understanding nature of standards important to economic growth
- Interoperability, efficiency, functionality, productivity

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Why Standards?

Technology standards:

- Enable products to work together
- Enable suppliers to develop own implementations for consumers to choose
- Create predictability, interoperability and competition, without homogeneity

Market-Driven Standards Development

- Voluntary processes respond best to consumer demands
- Standards developed through range of processes
- Successful standard is one that solves the problem for which it is intended

Issues

Standards and Open Source Software

Open Standards and IP Policies

Patents and Innovation

Government Standards Policies

Standards & Open Source

Government focus on outcome,
not development process of standard

- Open source software clearly distinguished from open standards
- Open standards can be implemented by both proprietary and open source software
- Availability of source code does not make an open standard
- Marketplace best evidence of successful standards adoption

Open Standards & IP Policies

Standards Bodies need IP policies for technologies contributed to standards

- Strong IP encourages industry to voluntarily participate with best technology
- Royalty-free requirements exclude many existing successful open standards
- Most standards bodies provide for reasonable-and-non-discriminatory (RAND) licensing and inclusion of patents; recognizes balance
 - IEEE, ISO, IEC, IETF, ITU, etc.

Patents and Innovation

- Improvements needed in present system
- Critical for company start-ups
- Facilitate development and adoption of standards
- Encourage innovators to contribute leading edge technology
- Protection requires full disclosure, enabling further innovation

Role of Government

To distinguish roles

- As a promoter / incubator
- As a regulator / dispute resolution
- As a user / customer

Government Standards Policy

- Government as customers have legitimate interests in ensuring interoperability
 - Should be pursued based on functional goals within a procurement tender, and not as a one-size-fits-all policy
- Focus on results, not methods or formality
 - Room for emerging solutions to emerge
 - Not preference for standards based on whether adopted by standards setting body
 - Ultimate test – does it solve the problem?

Open Standards & Government

Government plays important role in advancing open standards

- Avoid policies that discourage standards development
- Mandating standards results in
 - Freezing innovation
 - Diminishing incentives
 - Deprive consumers of new features
- Industry encouraged to voluntarily contribute best technology
- Dynamic market-led solutions respond to consumer needs

Conclusion

Standards and Interoperability Important

- Success of standard depends on many factors
- Voluntary efforts and processes most effective
- Understanding essential for healthy marketplace

For more info:

<http://www.bsa.org/asia-eng/policy/upload/Technology-Standards-Interoperability1.pdf>

THANK YOU

Questions? Comments? Clarifications?

Seow Hiong GOH
Email: shgoh@bsa.org