



# Open Document Format It's Your Information ... Make the Choice to Ensure It Stays That Way

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## Openness is critical for digital inclusion...

- **Open Standards**
- **Open Source**
- **Open Document Format**

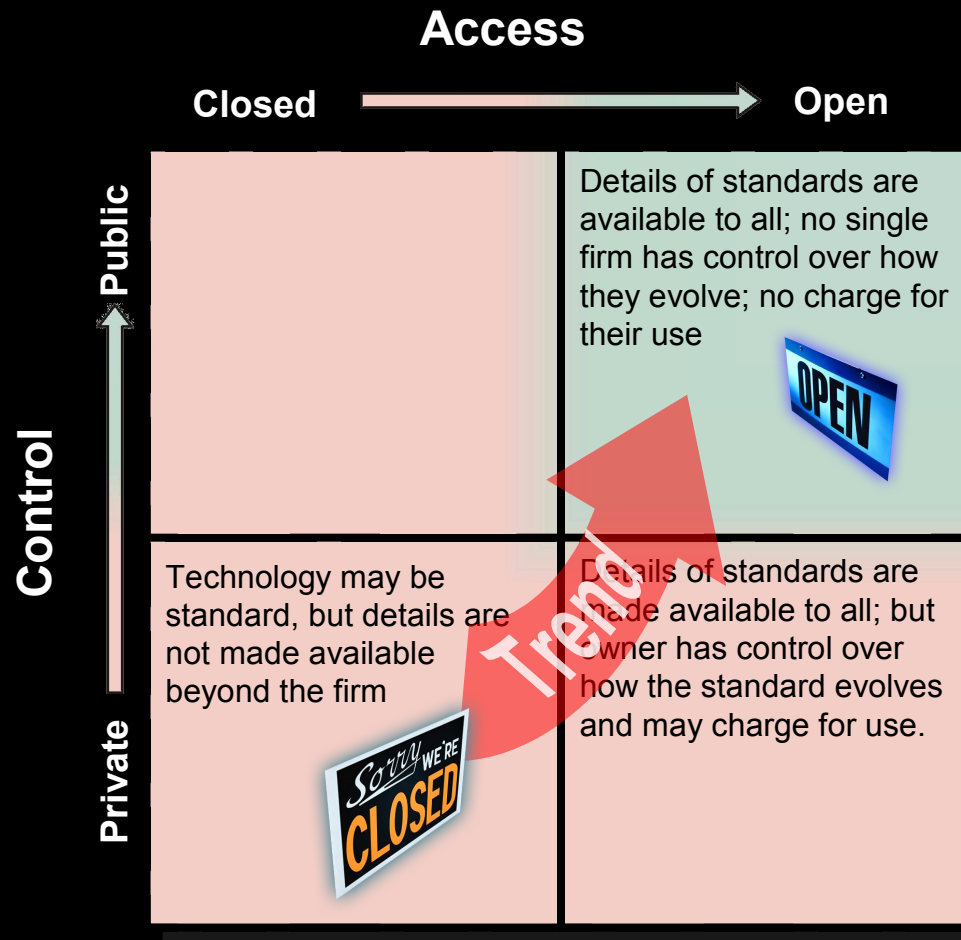
# Governments & Society have document “pain points”

## Imagine if...

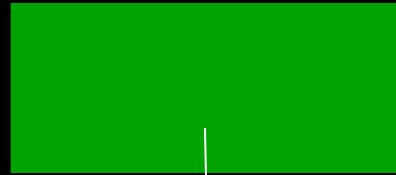
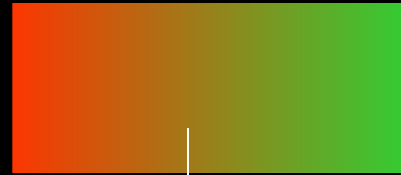
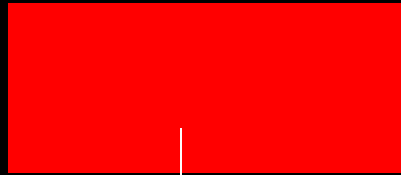
- You are forced to buy a word processor from a specific vendor so that you could interact with other people/government electronically,
- Important historical documents were no longer readable because the vendor whose software created them arbitrarily changed the format used to save the documents to disk, or
- In times of emergencies, communities & government agencies could not communicate efficiently because they used different word processors that used proprietary, non-standard formats or a format dictated by one vendor.

**These are some examples, in a society context,  
for the obvious need for vendor-neutral standards for  
*open document formats.***

# What does 'open' mean?



# Evolution to an Open Standard



**Customer need for technical solution to known problem**

**Lack of industry accepted technical solution**

**May be competing technical approaches or single proprietary solution**

**Lack of interoperability**

**A company, individual or group of companies or individuals agree to address issue**

**Resources devoted to developing best technical solution, often in collaborative fashion**

**Interested parties publish specifications**

**Specifications publicly available sufficient to enable implementation, interoperability**

**Can be implemented with little or no restrictions; IPR either RAND or Royalty free.**

**Developers may create reference or commercial implementation**

**Developers declare intent to have solution accepted as standard**

**Standards body reviews technical solution, adopts as standard**

**Specifications publicly available are sufficient to enable implementation, interoperability**

**Can be implemented with little or no restrictions; IPR either RAND or royalty-free.**

**Standards body open to broad participation, open decision making process**

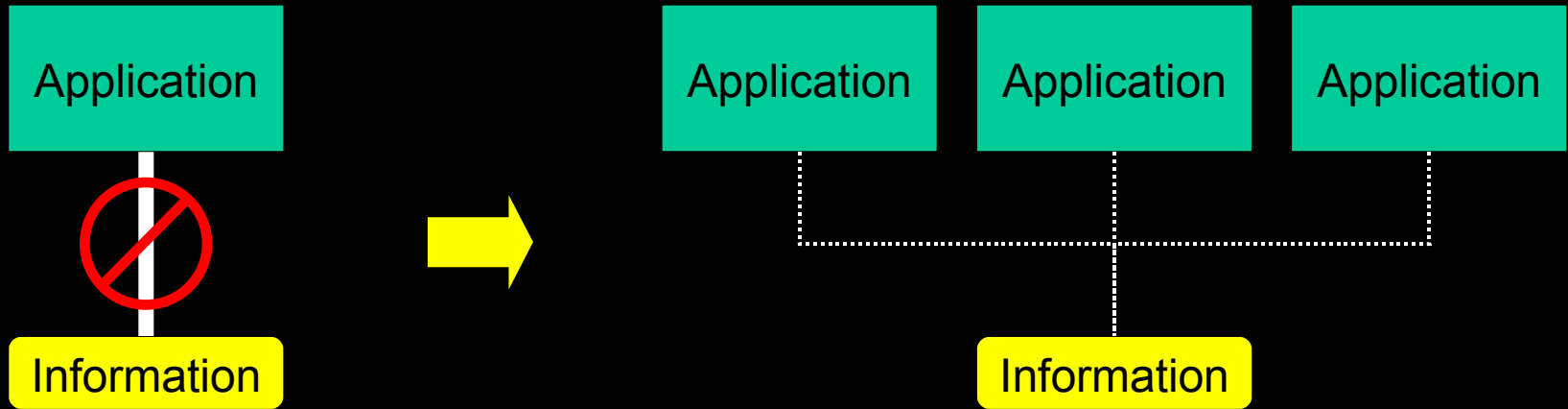
**Standard implemented in competing IT products by multiple vendors.**

# What is ODF, the OpenDocument Format?

- An XML-based specification describing the content and formatting of a document.
- The open standard developed by a multi-vendor committee at OASIS and an ISO standard.
- The standard that meets the most complete common test for openness.
- The default document format in several software packages.
- The open standard adopted by many vendors.
- The option that gives you the **most choices** for interoperability and future-proofing your information.



# ODF is an example of a bigger change



## Old Style

Information is closely linked to the application that created it.

Control is with the software developer *not* the customer.

## New Style

Information is represented using a real open standard not under the control of a single vendor, and multiple applications can create and access it interchangeably.

Control is with the customer *not* the software provider.

# ODF Alliance : mission and objectives



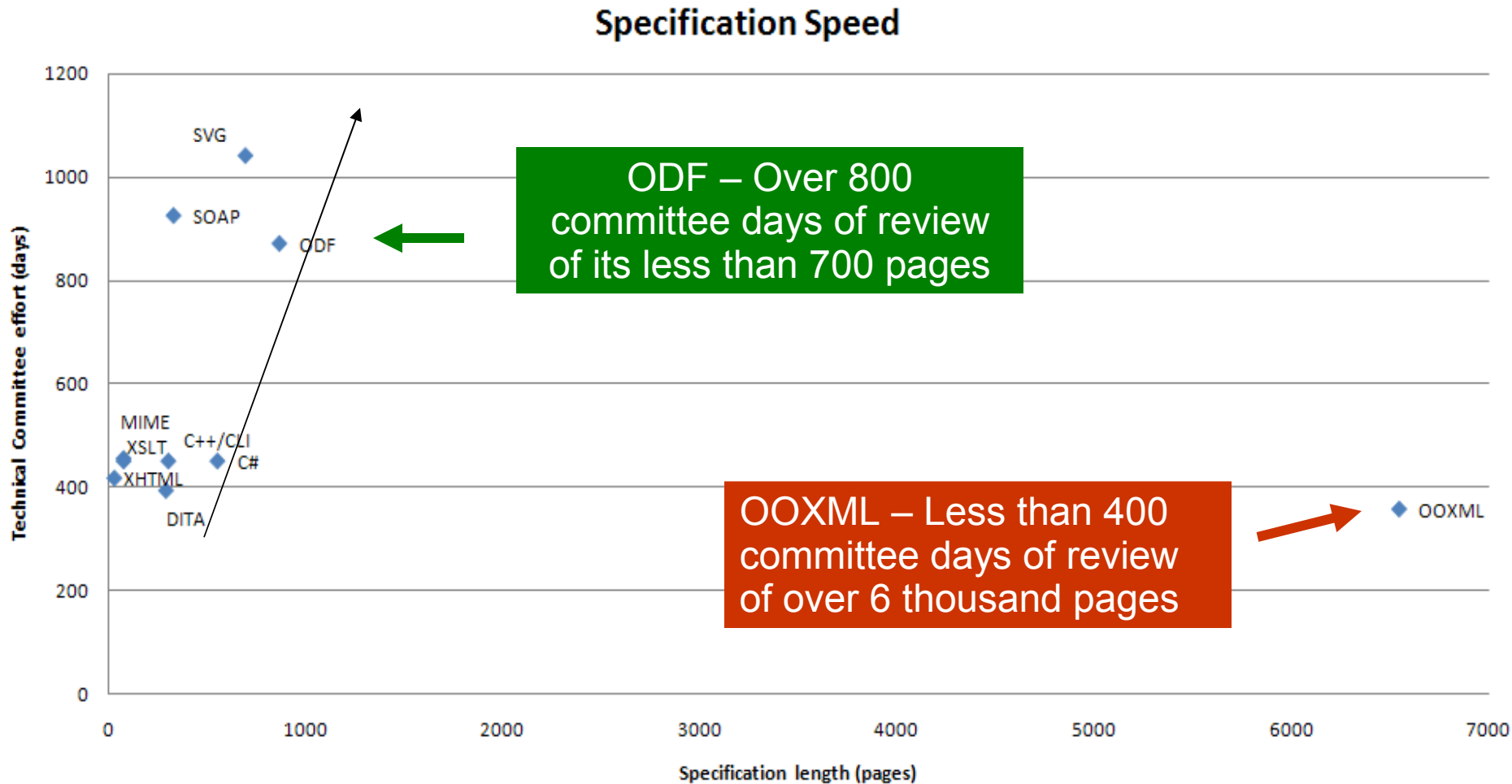
OPEN DOCUMENT FORMAT  
**ODF ALLIANCE**

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As documents and services are increasingly transformed from paper to electronic form, there is a growing problem that governments and their constituents may not be able to access, retrieve and use critical records, information and documents in the future. To enable the public sector to have greater control over and direct management of their own records, information and documents, the ODF Alliance seeks to promote and advance the use of OpenDocument Format (ODF).

The alliance works globally to educate policymakers, IT administrators and the public on the benefits and opportunities of the OpenDocument Format, to help ensure that government information, records and documents are accessible across platforms and applications, even as technologies change today and in the future.

# OpenXML: a rushed standard



# Two standards: A very bad idea

- Someone has said that we need two standards. This is a bad idea.
- Should we have two standards for the web, thereby requiring browsers and content providers to do redundant work?
- Two standards would help no one but OpenXML proponent and would lead to increased expense, complexity, lack of interoperability, and consumer inconvenience.
- We need one standard—ODF—and many, many applications that support it in a first class way.



# Summary

- **Governments should insist on openness.**
- **The standard creation process must be open and “not rushed”**
- **Governments needs to be pragmatic and focused on the goals, making decisions that maximize digital inclusion.**
- **Standardizing file formats is important.**
- **Document management is important.**

# Thank you for your time and attention

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