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From: [REDACTED]@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk]

Sent: 21 September 2011 17:41

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Actions from Meeting 20th September 2011

[REDACTED] thank you for your time yesterday.

To clarify my requests:

* What is Microsoft's position on supporting current and future versions of ODF in its product set – Office, Sharepoint, FAST? Is Microsoft committed to fully supporting ODF 1.2, 1.3, ...

* I asked for references to independent implementations of OOXML that are not dependent on the Microsoft platform (not dependent on proprietary technology) and do not have interoperability issues such as presentation or interaction differences. We know that alternative software attempts to read/write OOXML but these are imperfect implementations – some developers would suggest due to gaps in the OOXML spec.

* OOXML Strict is what the ISO ratified – OOXML Transitional was not to be used for creating new documents. I understand that no MS Office product reads/writes OOXML Strict by default. This means MS Office does not follow the ISO ratified standard for OOXML. Am I wrong?

I'd be interested in your response to this common argument:

If one wants open standards to lower barriers to entry, introduce competitive tension through choice, and encourage innovation – they need to minimise impediments to independent implementation (incl by SMEs and citizens). Some view royalties, patent issues, license costs, technology dependence and IP rights as barriers.

What is Microsoft's response to such arguments?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]microsoft.com]

Sent: 21 September 2011 15:37

To: [REDACTED]cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED] Cabinet Office [REDACTED]@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk); [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk

Subject: Actions from Meeting 20th September 2011

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you all for your time yesterday and for the candid and open discussion. This is a brief note to summarise the actions I noted from our meeting yesterday.

1. SharePoint & FAST – Can they Index and Search ODF attachments?
2. What do Microsoft see as the main ambiguities in the ODF standard that are yet to be resolved and could lead to differences in implementation of the standard?
3. What is Microsoft's rationale behind the Government adopting more than one Open Standard for document formats?
4. [REDACTED] to send a copy of the letter sent to [REDACTED] about Open Standards to [REDACTED]
5. What is Microsoft's view of the Dutch and Danish definitions of "Open Standard"?
6. Microsoft to list the known independent implementations of OOXML.
7. [REDACTED] will introduce [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] at the MOD who is leading the software & solution re-use work across Government.

I am also able to immediately provide answers to two of the above questions with this email.

SharePoint & FAST – Can they Index and Search ODF attachments?

FAST Search: Yes, FAST can index ODF files (Docs, Presentations, Spreadsheets). See here:

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/gg471168.aspx>. (Please note that FAST is not used in SharePoint Online in Office365 at this time.) SharePoint Search and SharePoint Online:

Yes – SharePoint can index ODF files (Docs, Presentations, Spreadsheets). See here:

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/gg405170.aspx>. These features are part of SharePoint 2010.

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[For completeness: The ODF 1.0 standard (ISO/IEC 26300:2006) was finalised on 30 Nov 2006, while Microsoft released SharePoint 2007 on 17 Jan 2007, which means RTM would have been 3-4 months earlier and close of development earlier still in 2006, hence SharePoint 2007 does not index or search ODF [http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc261754\(office.12\).aspx](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc261754(office.12).aspx). However, 3rd party filters are available that enable SharePoint 2007 to index ODF formats. See here: <http://www.ifiltershop.com/staroffice-openoffice-ifilter.html>.]

██████ to send a copy of the letter sent to ██████ about Open Standards to ██████ Please see the attachment “Letter to ██████ on Open Standards 2011-05-20.pdf”. This letter sets out our concerns about “Royalty Free” (RF) and our reasons for preferring FRAND or RAND in any definition of Open Standard.

I would re-iterate what we said yesterday, we would not recommend that the UK Government select a single Open Standard for document formats, whether ODF, OOXML or PDF. We would recommend the UK Government endorse or select a small range of the leading Open Standards, of which OOXML and ODF are the two in most common use.

We have begun work on assembling our responses to the remaining actions assigned to ourselves and I will respond as swiftly as possible, in particular our reasons for supporting multiple standards should be with you in the next day or so.

In addition, we would be most pleased to offer a meeting for [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who is visiting the UK on 27th October. If this is of interest, we'd be more than happy to finalise details in the coming weeks.

Warm regards,

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Microsoft UK Ltd

Contact the NTO Team at uknto@microsoft.com or follow @UKNTO on Twitter

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