
From: "IRD" <ird@bis.org.in>
To: <litd@bis.org.in>
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2007 9:39 AM
Subject: Fw: Proposed voting at ISO for the ISO DIS 29500 (OOXML format)

----- Original Message -----

From: [S Gopalakrishnan](#)
To: ird@bis.org.in
Sent: Saturday, July 07, 2007 10:23 PM
Subject: Proposed voting at ISO for the ISO DIS 29500 (OOXML format)

To
Bureau of Indian Standards
New Delhi.

Dear Sirs,

This is in reference to the proposed voting at ISO for ISO DIS 29500 -OOXML format specification.

I request that BIS to vote "NO" in the ballot of ISO DIS 29500 (Office OpenXML or OOXML format) for the following reasons:

1. There is **already a standard ISO26300 named Open Document Format (ODF)**: a dual standard adds costs, uncertainty and confusion to industry, government and citizens;
2. There is **no provable implementation of the OOXML specification**: Microsoft Office 2007 produces a special version of OOXML, not a file format which complies with the OOXML specification;
3. There is **missing information from the specification** document, for example how to do a **autoSpaceLikeWord95** or **useWord97LineBreakRules**;
4. More than **10% of the examples mentioned in the proposed standard do not validate** as XML;
5. There is **no guarantee that anybody can write a software** that fully or partially implements the OOXML specification **without being liable to patent damages or patent license fees by Microsoft**;
6. This **standard proposal conflicts with other ISO standards**, such as ISO 8601 (Representation of dates and times), ISO 639 (Codes for the Representation of Names and Languages) or ISO/IEC 10118-3 (cryptographic hash);
7. There is **a bug in the spreadsheet file format which forbids to enter any date before the year 1900**: such bugs affects the OOXML specification as well as software versions such as Microsoft Excel 2000, XP, 2003 or 2007.
8. This **standard proposal has not been created by bringing together the experience and expertise of all interested parties** (such as the producers, sellers, buyers, users and regulators), but by Microsoft alone.

Regards

S Gopalakrishnan
Mumbai
India.