Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls...” - Jeremiah 6:16
Why OO.o is so important

· The price gradient:
  - 'Normal' people using it today
  - runs on Win32
  - N x millions of users
  - big deployments...

· Developer bang for buck
  - where is Freedom best served ?
  - what Free software do people see 1st ?

· Novell as an example:
  - all have OO.o; 80% of ~6000 “as their main office suite”
  - Saved $1M in MS Office license fees. Each year.
Some trends ?....
Spot the Value .... ! (you know you it is somewhere ...) 

OpenOffice.org
6 million lines
200+ man years

ODF
700 pages
5? man years

StarOffice 5.2

OpenOffice 1.0 ...

Open Source, not Open Standards
• Where is the disruption ?
• OO.o without ODF ? ODF without OO.o
Why Interop. is so important ....

- OO.o Market share
  - [http://wiki.services.openoffice.org/wiki/Market_Share_Analysis](http://wiki.services.openoffice.org/wiki/Market_Share_Analysis)
  - Main site downloads: 80million, + Spanish/India x2 -> 8.5million
  - Oct 05 – Yankee Group: 19% of SME ...

- Microsoft Market share:
  - 400 million Office users worldwide
  - 1.1bn Internet Users (Global Reach)

- Good news ...

- But Document share is different:
  - ODF is -very- new, .DOC is -very- old ...
  - There are a huge number of documents out there
Why interop is hard ...

A simple chart?
Why interop is hard (2) ...

· Different models:
  - Word Processing:
    › Fields, red-lining (change tracking), Tables, Bullets/Numbering etc. ...
    › Ultimately: important to lawyers, tolerable for others:
      › Different paper sizes / fonts / devices wreck layout anyhow.
  - Spreadsheets
    › Why do we hear much less here?
    › **Much** more critical:
      › If your formula computes to a different value – you throw it away immediately.
      › If your layout isn't quite right, you quickly tweak it
    › In-line arrays, computation semantics, different behaviors, missing type

· Compatibility hacks are sometimes necessary:
  - eg. 1900 date-base system: Lotus 123 – IBM ...vs. (1904 ...)
OpenDocument vs. Office Open XML

[ get some mental dissonance? 'Office Open XML' !? ]

- Structure: Non-mixed

  MS OpenXML
  <w:r>
  <w:rPr>
  <w:b />
  </w:rPr>
  <w:t>this is bold</w:t>
  </w:r>

- Or mixed ...

  OpenDocument
  <text:span text:style-name="Strong_20_Emphasis">
    this is bold
  </text:span>

  XHTML
  <b>this is bold</b>

- Tag names not a huge issue
- Layout not specified by either side
- The good thing about standards is ...
- MS have very different design constraints
OdfConverter.sf.net ...

- A highly 'interesting' MS strategy ....
  - “Add ODF support to MS Office”

- Unfortunately:
  - XSLT requires fast/native OpenXML support installed 1st
  - OdfConverter: extremely slow for large set of document

- Better than nothing: we ship it (RSN)

- Sun's solution way better:

```
MS Office (XP...)  RTF  (CleverAge) OpenXML  XSLT.Net  ODF
```

```
MS Office (XP...)  RTF  OpenOffice.org .doc filter  Native export  ODF
```
Another interesting tech. trend ...
Lame odf-converter demo time
So what is Novell doing?

- Novell participates in odf-converter:
  - Mono port, 64bit port, improved packaging / bundling / QA etc.

- Novell has announced OpenXML support
  - Need to do it right too ...
  - Resourcing up a team to do -great- built-in OpenXML support
    - with **Sun** – already working on import
    - Florian Reuter, Fridrich Strba, Kohei Yoshida, Travis Hansen...
      - <more on their way>
  - Code re-use is king:
    - internal filter logic can get a little twisted:
    - share it between .doc / RTF / OpenXML
Novell's position on ODF / OpenXML

- Novell's *technical* opinion is that OpenXML is a fine standard.
- Novell's *business* opinion is that there should be one open standard and that standard is ODF.

**Principles**

- XML-based file formats are superior to binary file formats.
- Open standard file formats are superior to non-standard file formats.
- Novell has worked in Ecma to interactively draft the OpenXML specification.
- Novell is implementing support for OpenXML in OpenOffice.org (though this is not yet completed) for interoperability purposes.
- Novell primarily supports the ODF file format. ODF is our default file format, and ODF is the file format that we recommend to all our customers.
- Novell believes that ODF is a sufficient format and that standards bodies need not ratify additional document file formats.
VBA interoperability

• Typical VBA macro:

```vba
Range("A1").Select
Application.CutCopyMode = False
Sheets("Benefits Summary").Select
ActiveSheet.Unprotect Password:=PW
Rows("43:47").Select
Selection.EntireRow...
```

• Like all 80/20 cases:
  - Good data critical
  - Please send your tangled Excel macros to us.
  - we can provide tools to strip just VBA out

http://go-oo.org/ooo-build/test/macro/hypocycloid-demo.xls
VBA: the competition ...

- Microsoft Office: dropping VBA support on OS/X
  - Office12 OS/X – 9 months later...
  - http://www.schwieb.com/blog/2006/08/08/saying-goodbye-to-visual

The removal of VB means that existing macros in Office documents will be round-tripped across file open and save, but you will not be able to edit them and you will not be able to run them on the Mac. ... The MacBU is very aware of the pain this decision will cause for users, consultants, and enterprise organizations. I’ve personally seen the phrases “apoplectic with rage” and “absolutely livid” in two emails that crossed my inbox. ... As I mentioned in an earlier post, GCC is very picky about code meeting the current standards and the VBE code most certainly does not. ... VBA, on the other hand, is incredibly difficult to port to Intel ... Lastly, we have Forms. Forms is also C++, but is backed by several thousand lines of gnarly custom assembly. This assembly ‘allows’ the C++ code to swap object virtual function tables and individual member function pointers between objects on the fly, to essentially do very fast object morphing. ...
Conclusion

OpenXML
- Not a uniformly bad thing
- No need for a 2\textsuperscript{nd} ISO standard

OpenDocument
- Not a uniformly good thing: distracts advocacy ...
- an ISO standard.

Focus on Free Software – not document formats

Novell are hiring ... [ see me ]

Hacking on the beast:
http://wiki.services.openoffice.org/wiki

Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock for ever! I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And though this body has been destroyed yet in my flesh I will see God, I myself will see him, with my own eyes - I and not another. How my heart yearns within me. - Job 19: 23-27