

# Spotting OpenDocument Supporters

It looks like there is a lot of confusion about what an OpenDocument supporter looks like. Maybe a short guide to OpenDocument supporters would help journalists and others to identify them:

**Location:** Usually seen on ODF committee/subcommittee discussion lists and blogs detailing how to do things with OpenDocument or with the development of the standard.

**Activities:** An extensive range of activities known to include:

1. Proofing ODF 1.2 drafts
2. Verifying formula functions
3. Writing articles on using OpenDocument in commercial settings
4. Presenting at conferences on OpenDocument
5. Implementing OpenDocument based applications and work flows
6. Contributing to OpenOffice.org
7. Membership in OpenDocument TC (OASIS)

Note: Some members of the press have confused OpenDocument supporters with people who write for NOOXML blogs and websites, or that bash OpenXML, Microsoft, ISO, JTC 1, SC 34, etc. Those are not activities that support OpenDocument.

**Range:** Found from OASIS to ISO, in government, industry and academic environments.

If you haven't read the OpenDocument standard, it is a standard for a document format that was developed in OASIS and has been passed as an ISO standard. We are in the process of finalizing the next version that will appear in ISO.

OpenDocument has a very clever and extensible structure for the representation of office documents. It relies on other well known standards so you can leverage your knowledge of other XML based standards when learning OpenDocument. In its latest version, we add definitions of formulas and enhanced metadata capabilities.

OpenDocument supporters support OpenDocument. They are too busy installing OpenDocument based applications, teaching others about OpenDocument and extending and adapting it to real use cases to spend time trash talking about other standards.

Covington 17 April 2008

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PS: Every keystroke for a negative message about some other standard, corporation or process is a keystroke taken away from promotion of OpenDocument. If enough such keystrokes fall, so will OpenDocument. It's your choice.