

# Open Standards

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# Definition (Wikipedia)

An open standard is a standard that is publicly available and has various rights to use associated with it.

Various Rights ?

# Various Rights

The term "open" is usually restricted to royalty-free technologies.

The term "standard" is sometimes restricted to technologies approved by formalized committees.

# Fees

Sometimes, a fee is paid to use a certain standard.

Some countries and organisations forbid asking a fee for using a standard.

# Open Standards

Let's define it:

Open Standards are publicly available, royalty-free specifications that have been accepted by a democratic process which all can participate.

# Examples

ISA: Industry Standard Architecture

PCI: Peripheral Component Interconnect

AGP: Accelerated Graphics Port

IP: Internet Protocol

TCP: Transmission Control Protocol

SMTP, POP3, IMAP, SMTP

SGML, XML, HTML, CSS, XHTML

ODF: Open Document Format

PDF: Portable Document Format

OOXML ?

DOC ?

# Why Open Standards?

## Interoperability

Word 2003 can NOT read Word 2007 files.  
W2003 can not interoperate with W2007.

OpenOffice can read W97,W2003,W2007 files, even tough they are NOT standards.

Word (any version) can NOT read ODF,  
but ODF is a standard!

# Why Open Standards?

## Durability

Can you still read .wri files? (Wordpad?)

Can you still read .wp5 files? (WP5)

.3D2 .ACE .ACS .ALM .AMFF .ANI .ASF

[www.wotsit.org](http://www.wotsit.org)

Look in your computer for files from 1990-1995. Any of these files are readable without the original program ?

Fortunately, many import filters exist.

# Why Open Standards?

## Intellectual Property

But what if some file format comes with a license that says that the file may **ONLY** be read with this special program?

Will you need to buy an updated version for your 128-core 256bit Pentium ?

What if the company disappears?  
Who owns your data?

# Conclusion

Open Standards help development,  
in hardware, software, medicine, etc etc.

Why not specify a 'curacao house' format?  
And if you stick to the specs, the building-  
permit is automatically granted?