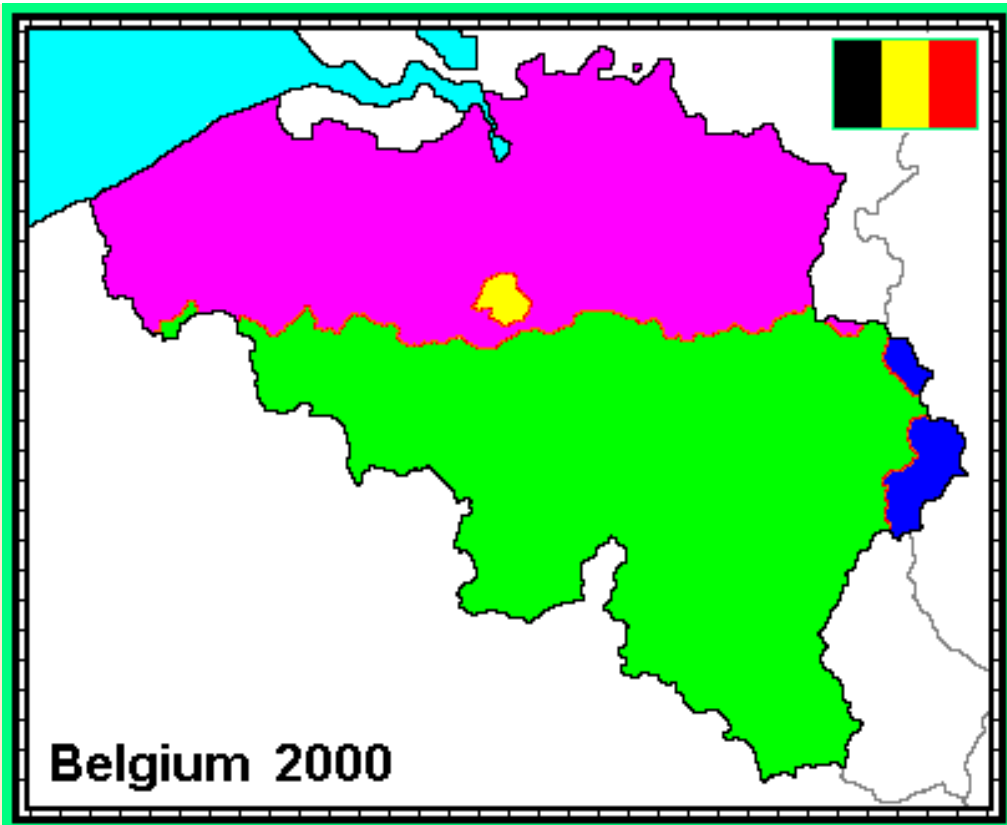


Open standards and ODF in Belgium

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Berlin 29/10/2007*



- ▶ Context
- ▶ Interoperability
- ▶ Open Standards
- ▶ ODF Directive
- ▶ Implementation
- ▶ Summary



Belgium Administrative since 1993

-  Flemish-speaking Community
-  French-speaking Community
-  German-speaking Community
-  Region Flanders
-  Region Wallonia
-  Capital Region of Brussels

for more information :
<http://belgium.fgov.be/>

Federal/Communities/Regions/10 Provinces/589 municipalities

Federal Government has little direct interaction with its customers (citizens, enterprises) except for Social Security, Finance (Taxes) and Justice/Police

- > Total Solution requires interoperability
 - information exchange between federal agencies
 - information exchange between governments (federal/regional/local)
- > Technical interoperability
 - via single-vendor solution
 - Lock-in situation (no competition/less flexibility)
 - Gov. can not impose products on its customers
 - Via de facto standard
 - Strong dependencies on market leader
 - Via open standards

> Cost reduction and open standards

- TCO (purchase+operational+exit cost)
 - no vendor lock-in (cost-based pricing)
 - skills/competencies widely available
 - lower barriers to exit

> Technical Interoperability + IT cost reduction via open standards



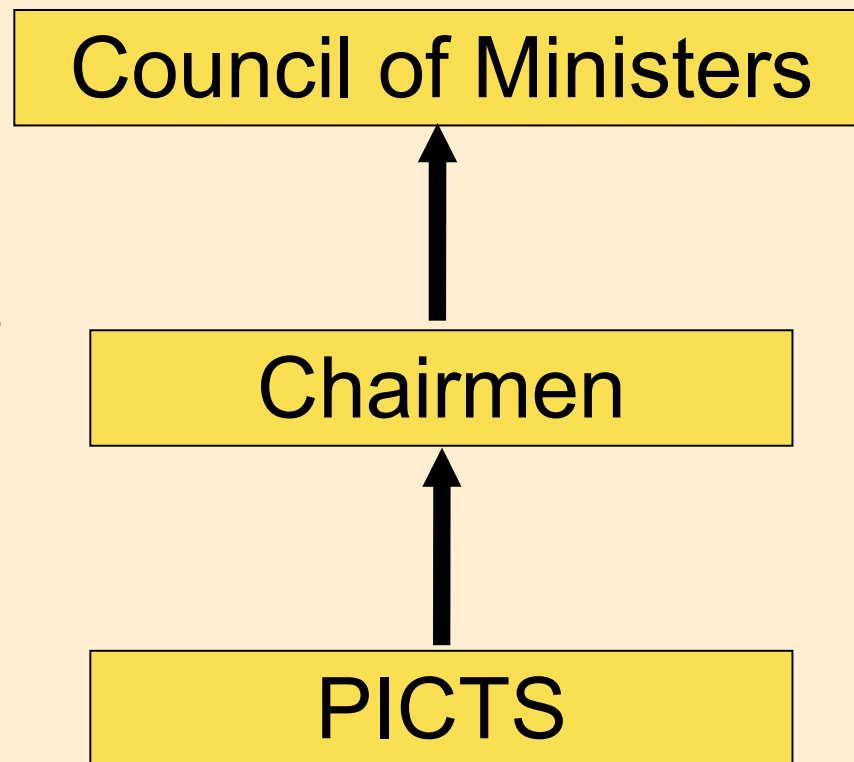
- > Framework (Foundation for BELGIF)
- > Council of Ministers (June 2004)
- > Open Specification
 - publicly available at no or nominal cost
 - Detailed enough to create full implementation
- > Free Specification
 - license should not inhibit commercial or open-source implementations (no preference stated !)
- > Open Standard
 - recognized by international standards body (implying “open” process to adopt/change, without exclusion of parties)

- > Exchanging documents between Belgian federal government agencies (June 2006)
 - Scope: exchanging “editable”/”revisable” documents (collaboration)
 - ODF is chosen standard (not exclusive)
 - read ODF documents (September 2007)
 - exchange ODF documents (September 2008)
 - Other standards possible BUT requirements are:
 - ISO standard
 - multiple implementations (avoid vendor lock-in)
 - compatibility with previous standard(s) (ie. ODF)

- unanimous agreement with all federal administrations and federal government
- limited to what we control (federal admin.)
- only document exchange format is standardized (not internal processing)
- implementation left to local administrations
- quality interaction with MS Office required
- no “big-bang” approach
- first everyone must be able to read
- next, everyone must exchange in standard

> The Decision Path

- > bottom-up
- > buy-in
- > consensus
- > Not forced by Fedict



PICTS = Permanent ICT Steering Group
(ICT managers of federal departments)

- > MS Office plug-in
- > OpenOffice (or other suites that have “native” ODF support)
- > Central conversion server
- > Others ?

- > “just works”
- > CIBG (all Brussels cabinets on OO.o)
- > 10,000 seats at Finance department
- > Justice department (some on Novell Linux)
- > 3,000 seats at Economic Affairs (on Windows XP)
- > more and more administrations do a “double installation” (MS Office + OO.o)

- > March 2007
 - quality insufficient: pressure (both Sun and Microsoft)
- > June 2007
 - demo Sun plug-in 1.0 (acceptable quality)
 - No change in Clever Age plug-in
- > Sep 2007
 - Sun plug-in 1.1 (beta)
 - No change in Clever Age plug-in
- > Oct 2007
 - Sun plug-in 1.1 (General Availability – quality good)
 - Update Clever Age plug-in (not tested yet)

- > Social Security/Fedict/Police (Quality aspect of plug-in)
- > Finance (deployment aspect)
- > Justice & Economic Affairs

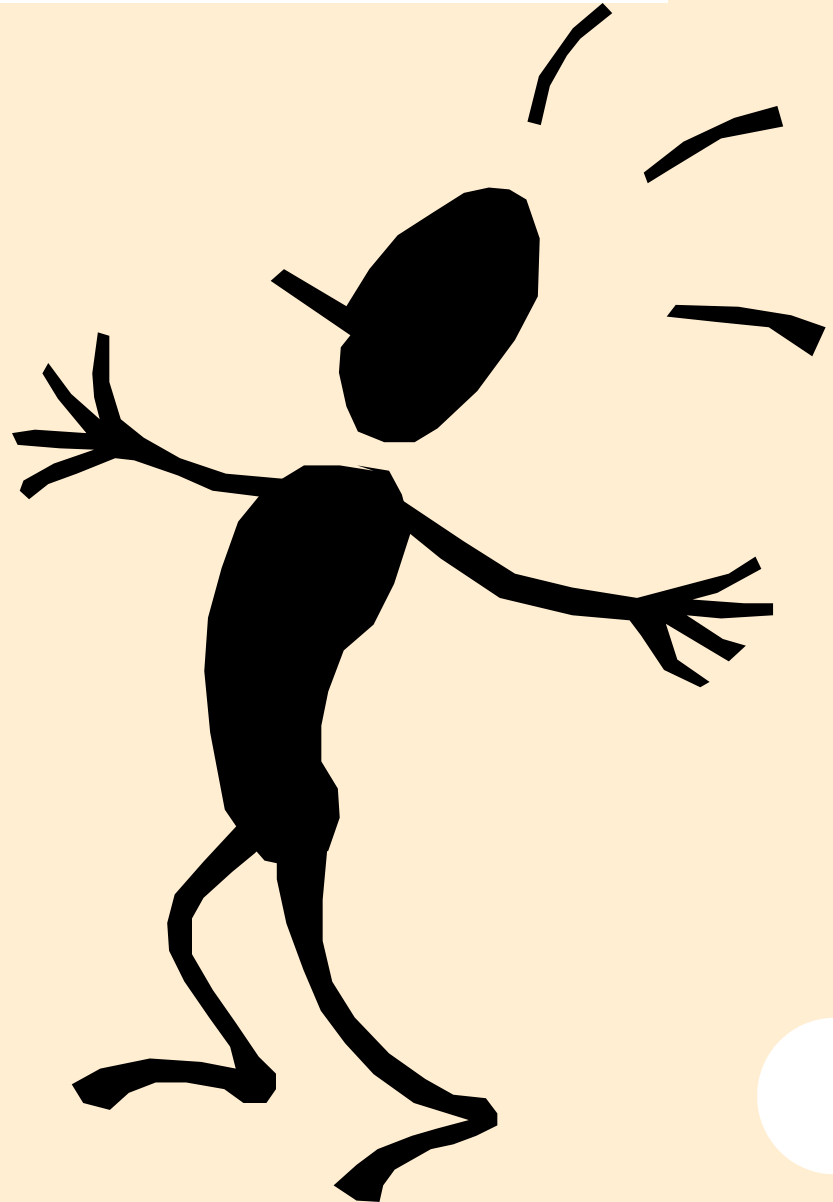
- > Sun plug-in 1.1
- > OO.o 2.x
- > Central conversion server (tests not completed)

- > Guideline: Only upgrade to MS Office 2007 if/when better ODF support (or agree with feasibility of meeting Sep. 2008 deadline)

- > Document format wars move to collaborative environments
 - Portal
 - (W)CMS

- > What about ODF support in those applications ?

- > Goal : improve interoperability
- > Focus on format NOT product
- > Pragmatic approach
 - Start with one format (*)
- > (Enough) time to implement is CSF
(Critical Success Factor)



Th@nk you !

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