



# Raising the Quality Threshold of Standards Development

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## Threshold of a new standards era?

- I believe that we are about to see major changes in standards setting around the world, from top to bottom.
- “Global Standards Development Organizations” like IETF, W3C and OASIS have assumed very prominent positions by their development of Internet, web, web services, Web 2.0, and SOA standards.
- Events of the last couple of years have brought greater knowledge and scrutiny of international standards processes to many citizens and government officials.
- People will start addressing “standards quality” in the broadest possible senses.

## Where do we need to examine quality?

- Technology
- Accessibility
- Procedural completeness and consistency
- Transparency
- Community involvement and democratic process
- Intellectual property policies and practices
- Appropriate geographic applicability
- Implementability by independent parties
- Use of existing standards and non-redundancy with other standards
- SDO Reputation

*These are not all mutually exclusive.*

*“If it is important enough to do,  
it is important enough to measure.”*

Some boss of mine

# What are the best standards organizations?



## **Worst**

Ambiguous processes that can be abused

Improper vendor influence

Poor, redundant standards using product-specific rather than best technology

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## **Best**

Fair, consistent processes

Democratic, open, transparent

Excellent, non-redundant standards using the best technology

...

# What are the best standards?



## **Worst**

Product-specific format

Minimal re-use of existing good standards

Sloppily and hastily created

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## **Best**

Designed using best modern principles

Reuses and integrates with other standards

Developed by multiple independent experts from around the world

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## Questions to consider

- What are the exact criteria?
- What are the metrics associated with them?
- How do we weight the metrics?
- Who decides?
- How will this lead to improvements?
- What is the timescale?
- Who will step forward to drive this?
- Should this be a grass roots or institutional effort?
- Who will fight this, and why?

