



“Standards and the Future of the Internet - the role of open standards, standards development and standards organisations for innovation and healthy marketplaces”

**25-27 February 2008
International Conference Centre, Geneva**

The Conference is organised by OpenForum Europe with the support of the following organisations: Ars Aperta, Certified Open, Danish Open Source Business Association, Dutch OpenDocument Society, Free Software Foundation Europe, GesmerUpdegrove LLP, Google, IBM, ODF Alliance, OpenIreland, Opera Software, Red Hat, The Open Learning Centre

The Conference will commence with a reception on the evening of Monday 25 February. There will be three working sessions on Tuesday and two on Wednesday. The high point of the conference is the keynote on Tuesday evening. The conference will close with a reception and boat trip and refreshments on Wednesday evening.

Evening Keynote, Tuesday 26 February, 18:30-20:00

“Standards and the Future of the Internet - the role of open standards, standards development and standards organisations for innovation and healthy marketplaces”

This will feature a panel of highly distinguished speakers, including **Vint Cerf** from Google, the Godfather of the Internet, **Robert Sutor**, Vice President, Standards and Open Source, IBM, **Håkon Wium Lie**, Chief Technology Officer, Opera Software, formerly with W3C and **Andy Updegrove** of Gesmer Updegrove LLP, and author of the well known blog Consortium.Info.org. The session will be chaired by OFE Chief Executive, **Graham Taylor**:

In addition there will be three main working sessions, on **Raising the Quality in Standards Development, IPR and Standards, and Open Documents and Democracy**. Programme details are provided overleaf.

We would be pleased if you could join us for the conference. There is no fee for attendance (receptions, evening briefing are all included in the invitation) but places are limited due to the numbers we can accommodate in the Conference Centre. Participants need to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

Please refer to the last page for details on how you can book your place.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Monday 25 February

18:00-19:15

Conference opening / Evening Reception

- Collection of conference pass and welcome pack
- Official welcome by conference hosts and City of Geneva
- Introduction to exhibitors
- Overview of conference programme

Drinks and Canapés will be served

Tuesday 26 February

Session 1: 07:30 – 08:45; 09:30 -12:00

Raising the Quality Threshold in Standards Development

Workshop chaired by Dr **Robert Sutor** (Vice President, Open Source and Standards, IBM) **Jeremy Allison** (Google), **Pieter Hintjens** (ESOMA), and **Graham Taylor** (OFE)

7:30 – 8:45 Working breakfast session and introductory comments, (international delegates from the OOXML Ballot Resolution Meeting are invited to attend)

9:30 – 11:30 Main session

- What are the problems associated with standards development in software and services?
- What is the right balance between innovation and standards?
- How can the quality of standards be maintained?
- What does it mean for a standard to be open?
- Myth of dual standards – more or less choice

11:30 – 12:00 Wrap up and conclusions – policy recommendations and next steps.

12:00 – 14:00 Working lunch

Session 2: 14:00 – 17:00

Breakout Sessions/Tutorials

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| • Standards in Education | Alan Bell | The Open Learning Centre |
| • Accessibility | Dave Sawden | IBM |
| • Licensing Issues | Shane Coughlan | FSFE |
| • Standards in Procurement | TBA | |

Session 3: 18:00 – 20:00

Keynote: “Standards and the Future of the Internet - the role of open standards, standards development and standards organisations for innovation and healthy marketplaces”

- **Vint Cerf** (VP & Chief Internet Evangelist, Google - the "father of the Internet")
- **Bob Sutor** (VP, Open Source and Standards, IBM Corporation)
- **Håkon Wium Lie** (formerly CERN and W3C - currently CTO of Opera Software)
- **Andy Updegrove** (Attorney-at-Law and a partner in the law firm Gesmer Updegrove)

Speakers will address a range of questions, including:

- What is the right balance between innovation and common standards?
- How is it possible to achieve greater transparency in the standards setting process?
- Standards need to be of the highest possible quality - how can the quality of standards be maintained?
- What does it mean for a standard to be open?

Refreshments will be provided

Wednesday 27 February

Session 4: 7:30 – 8:45, 9:30 – 12:00

Standards and Intellectual Property Rights

Workshop chaired by **Andy Updegrove** (Attorney-at-Law and a partner in the law firm Gesmer Updegrove), including **Thomas Vinje** (Partner, Clifford Chance, Belgium), **Carlo Piana** (Tamos, Piana and Partners, Italy)

7:30 – 8:45 Working breakfast session and introductory comments (international delegates from the OOXML Ballot Resolution Meeting are invited to attend)

9:30 – 11:30 Main session

- What are the problems associated with standards and intellectual property rights?
- What is the best way to address the issue of submarine patents and standards?
- Ex-ante disclosures or Soft IP – the way forward.
- Avoiding the need for anti-trust measures – transparency in standards process.

11:30 – 12:00 Wrap up and conclusions – policy recommendations and next steps.

1200 – 14:00 Working lunch

Session 5: 14:00 – 17:30

Open Documents and Democracy

Workshop chaired by **Graham Taylor** (Chairman, OpenForum Europe), with Dr **Laura DeNardis** (Yale Law School), **Michiel Leenaars** (NLnet foundation and board member of OpenDoc Society), Dr **Rolf Schuster** (CIO, Foreign Federal Ministry, Germany)

14:30 – 16:30 Main session

- What are the implications of openness for ICT standards?
- How does openness relate to democratic values?
- What are the implications for government procurement policies?

17:00 – 17:30 Wrap up and conclusions – policy recommendations and next steps.

17:30 Official Conference Close at Conference Centre

19:30 – 20:00

Conference Evening Reception

Boat trip on the Lake of Geneva, with drinks and buffet.

Invitations will be provided in Conference welcome pack

Note: Programme and Speakers Subject to Change

www.openforumeurope.org/geneva

Response form

“Standards and the Future of the Internet - the role of open standards, standards development and standards organisations for innovation and healthy marketplaces”, 25-27 February 2008, International Conference Centre, Geneva

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Please respond before 19 February to Jennifer Webber, geneva@openforumeurope.org, Tel: +44 (0)20 7939 7911, Fax: +44 (0)20 7939 7938, indicating which part of the programme you will be attending:

<i>Welcome to Geneva Reception 25 February</i>	
<i>Workshop Session 1 – 26 February</i>	
<i>Tutorials Session 2 – 26 February</i>	
<i>Keynote Session 3 - 26 February</i>	
<i>Workshop Session 4 – 27 February</i>	
<i>Workshop Session 5 – 27 February</i>	
<i>Closing event – Reception on 27 February</i>	

BRM delegates are very welcome to attend the breakfast meetings and evening receptions.

*We invite you to visit our website for further details and for future updates to the programme:
www.openforumeurope.org/geneva*