

**<NO> OOXML**

***Say NO to Microsoft  
Office broken standard***

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*FFII Brussels*

*24C3, Berlin, 30 December 2007*



# Introduction

- **ISO = International Standards Organization**
- **NGO = Non Governmental Organization**
- **Members: National Standard Bodies (NB):  
DIN, AFNOR, ANSI, etc...**
- **+ A liaison members: OASIS, ECMA, ...**
- **Existing standard specs: FAST-TRACK  
process (!= standard development)**

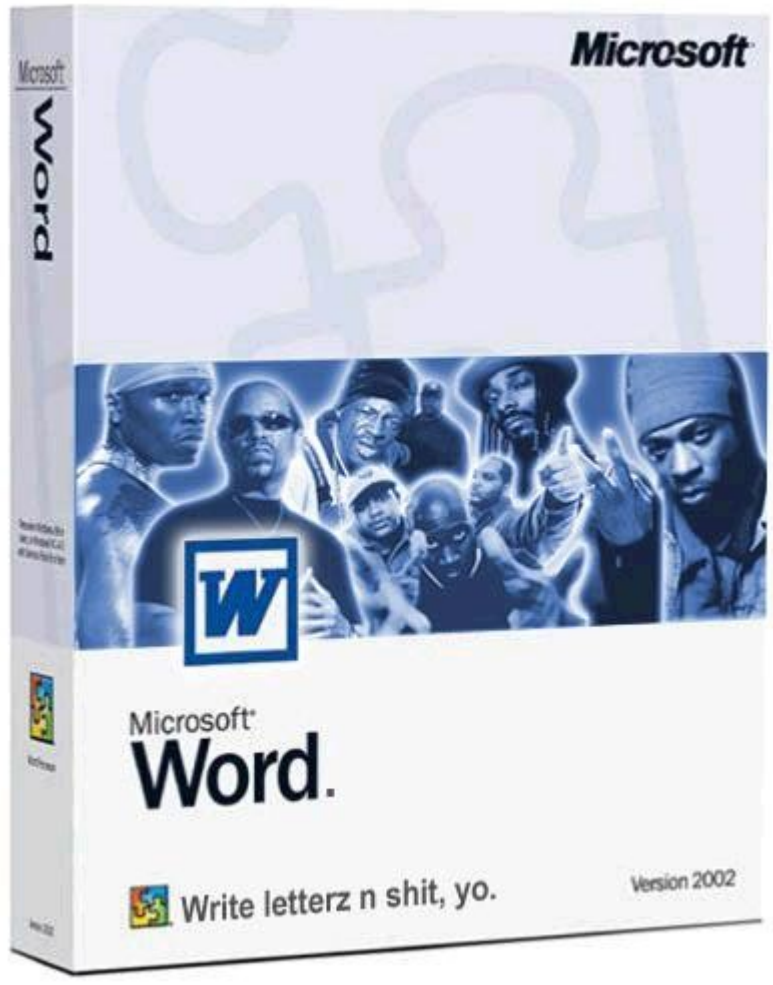
# Example

- **ISO 26300:2006**
- **Open Document Format**
- **developed by OASIS**
- **XML based International Standard Format for Office Communication Documents**
- **next gen replacement for doc, ppt, xls**
  - **OUPS, Microsoft has a problem!**

# Dough Mahugh

***" Office is a USD\$10 billion revenue generator for the company. When ODF was made an ISO standard, Microsoft had to react quickly as certain governments have procurement policies which prefer ISO standards. Ecma and OASIS are "international standards", but ISO is the international "Gold Standard". Microsoft therefore had to rush this standard through. Its a simple matter of commercial interests!"***

# Office Cash Cow



# What is OOXML?

- OFFICE OPEN XML
- aka ECMA-376
- aka ISO DIS 29500
  - Draft International Specification
- ?= Microsoft Office 2007 (docx, pptx, ...)
- Open = propaganda

# What's wrong?

- **autoSpaceLikeWord95**  
**useWord97LineBreakRules**
- **Dates before 1900 not supported**
- **conflicts with existing ISO standards**
- **Week-ends only Saturday and Sunday**
- **Homemade cryptographic hash**  
**(known to be weak) Vs ISO/IEC 10118-3**

# ECMA proxy

< jdub> **MS delivered OOXML to ECMA as-is**

< jdub> MS make the decisions about changing it

< jdub> we're drilling for docs

< jdub> such that the specification is more complete

< jdub> not that it is better

*(jdub is Jeff Waugh, Gnome Foundation)*

# ISO Fast-Track

- broken spec with many technical and editorial problems
- 6000 pages
- Patent policy: CNS, OSP
- FFII letter in january
- no fast-track please
- fast-track review with many problems

# National Committees

- Submission of comments (technical, no patents)
- World wide community working on comments
- Joining the National Committees



# **nooxml.org**

- **12 EUR domain**
- **hosted at [www.wikidot.com](http://www.wikidot.com)**
- **centered around a petition to generate attention (now ~75.000 signatures)**
- **Urgency in June (nobody taking care of the process)**
- **no plug-and-play solution for the table**

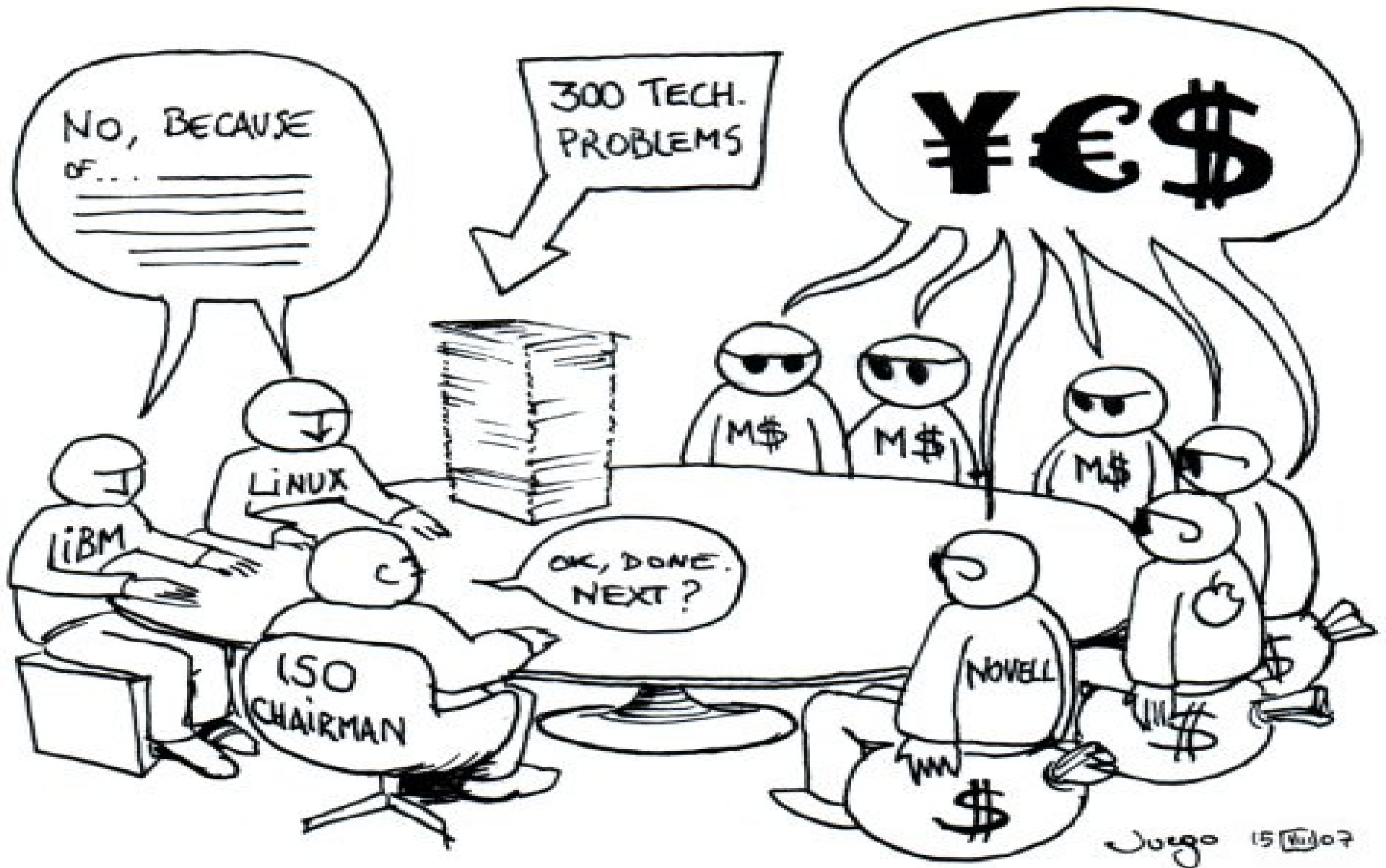
# Effects

- **No press coverage, only blogs**
- **People starts to be interested**
- **Become active (What is going in my country?)**
- **When is the deadline for submitting comments?**
- **Grokdoc page is useful, but no table**

# Kill the comments

- Committee stuffing with Business Partners
- Biased chairman in Switzerland
- Government intervention
- Bill Gates phone calls
- New last minute P-members
- Propaganda "You can vote yes with technical comments"

# Kill the comments



# Sweden

**"About 20 Microsoft partners appeared** in the final minutes of yesterday's working meeting at SIS (Swedish Standards Institute) and pushed through a majority for a SIS approval of Microsoft's new OOXML file format as an ISO standard. "

# Sweden 2, the return

**"Microsoft offered extra 'market subsidies' to partners** that participated in the Monday vote about the Open XML format. This appears from internal communication that CS has seen. 'It was badly formulated and would never have gone out' says the business area chief of the company, Klas Hammar."

Source: IDG.se: <http://www.idg.se/2.1085/1.118337>

# Sweden 3, the final

*"The Swedish working group of SiS, Swedish Standards Institute, Document description languages, SIS/TK 321/AG 17, decided on 27 August 2007 at a vote to vote for making Office Open XML an ISO standard. **Today the board of SiS decided to invalidate the vote.**"*

Source: <http://blog.openxp.net/2007/08/sis-retracts-its-ooxml-decision.html>

# US: Bill to the rescue

*"Bill Gates has reportedly been making phone calls to the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Commerce to push the American National Standards Institute to ignore the votes of its advisory committees and vote "yes" on ISO standardizing Microsoft's Open Office XML (OOXML) format, the one in competition with the OpenDocument Format (ODF) pushed by IBM and Sun."*

Source: Sys-Con: <http://www.sys-con.com/read/419573.htm>

# US: ANSI spam

*"Even though this is a form letter from Microsoft I thought I would add this personal touch. I understand that there is a monetary drive from Microsoft in allowing Open XML to become an ISO standard, but I have to say that if this is not added to the standard that many small businesses may be forced to go back and have many of their web applications retooled to function under the new standards at great expense the them."*

Source: ANSI: <http://www.incits.org/DIS29500/in070790.htm>

# Jordan in the spamfilter

*"Dear P-Members of ISO/IEC JTC1,*

*Reference to the submission of the ISO/DIS 29500 "Information technology — Office Open XML file formats" under the Fast Track Procedure, Kindly note that Jordan represented by the Information Technology Association of Jordan (INTAJ) [...] greatly support the publication of the ECMA International's Open XML Standard as ISO/IEC Standard **(as shown in attachment 1). This resolution has been reached after studying ISO/DIS 29500 carefully and ensuring that such standard doesn't represent any contradiction with other ISO/IEC standards such as the Open Documents Format (ODF).**"*

Source: ANSI: <http://www.incits.org/DIS29500/in071291/Untitled.htm>

## *Uses of Open XML*

*Open XML is a new open standard document file format that is being used by many vendors and users, including open source developers like these:*

### *OpenOffice on Linux*

- **Novell** enables Linux users to read and write Open XML documents in the OpenOffice.org application. The Novell solution is available today in multiple European and Asian languages.
- **Linspire** ships Linux desktop operating systems with the ability to read and write Open XML, as well as ODF and other formats.
- **Xandros** distributes end-to-end Linux solutions and will ship an Open XML – ODF translator in the upcoming release of its Xandros Desktop offering.

### *Gnumeric on Linux*

- **Gnumeric** is a spreadsheet application. It can read and write Open XML and other formats. Gnumeric runs on Linux and is licensed under the GPL.

### *OpenOffice on Mac*

- **NeoOffice** is an office productivity suite for the Mac platform that is based on OpenOffice.org and that can read, write and save Open XML files. It is a GPL-licensed free software application.

# Ivory Coast

The cacao has a Microsoft smell:

*"The Chairman of the Technical Committee in Cote d'Ivoire is Roger Kouadio, from the company Inova Formations. I let you guess from which vendor he is a business partner."*

About Inova (<http://www.inova-si.com/>):

*"Ms Gold Certified Partner: La distinction Gold Certified Partners situe l'entreprise au plus haut niveau de partenariat Microsoft."*

# Ivory Coast

- CODINORM receives insulting phone calls from the <NO>OOXML „community“
- They were upset
- Phone calls from Belgium
- Microsoft dirty tactics?

# Kenya

Out of 12 members in the committee, 7 were from Microsoft or were Microsoft dealers/partners and were actually brought into the committee by Microsoft.

The result of the vote is:

9 - Yes (Microsoft and dealers/partners, 1 university, 1 society)

2 - No (Kenya Airways and IBM East Africa)

1 - Abstain (Kenya Bureau of Standards and Committee Secretariat)

# Sudden new P-members

- Sudden surge of interest among ISO members in upgrading their privileges to "P" status
- New P-members: Cyprus, Ecuador, Jamaica, Lebanon, Pakistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela
- Microsoft tactic to do not loose the P vote (33 Vs 66%)
- Microsoft-controlled nations

# ... to last minute tricks

*" There is no question that all over the world the competing interests in the Open XML standardization process are going **to use all tactics available to them within the rules.**"*

-- Microsoft's Director of Corporate Standards  
Jason Matusow

## Irregularities in specific countries

- **Brazil:** *committee stuffing* (Microsoft is funding the assistance (including all expenses) of most of their partners in the country) [[nooxml.org](#)] ([openxml.info](#)) (Portugese)
- **Colombia:** *committee stuffing* [[nooxml.org](#)]
- **Croatia:** [nooxml article](#), [Oddparity](#)
- **Denmark:** *committee stuffing* [[version2.dk](#)]
- **Hungary:** *rule bending* (deadlines and majority rules were bent in favor of Microsoft; after a complaint, the government annulled the vote) [[groklaw.net](#)]
- **Italy:** *committee stuffing* (The number of members of the committee in charge of to decide the vote of Italy suddenly grew from 5 to 83 after Microsoft introduced a lot of its local partners paying 2.000 EUR per each one to be in it and get voting rights.) [[piana.eu](#)]
- **Libya,** anonymous contribution:

Note about "Libyan case": Unfortunately it seems that ISO is the first one not following its own standards: Libya tried to submit its comments in ISO 19500-1:2005 (PDF/A) and ISO 26300 (OpenDocument), but they were not accepted by ISO itself.

- **Malaysia:** (the two responsible technical committees reached the conclusion "no with comments"; this was then overridden by government, bowing to pressure from Microsoft) [[nooxml.org](#)]
- **Mexico:** *committee stuffing and manipulation* (NB voters were sent a 'pre-approved' form e-mail for their vote [[nooxml.org](#)])
- **Netherlands:** *denial-of-service* (Microsoft alone vetoed the committee decision ("no with comments") without providing any technical arguments, thus preventing NL from submitting comments) [[isoc.nl](#)]
- **Nigeria** *committee stuffing* [ITrealms](#): "Out of the estimated 19 participants, only four supposedly represented civil society group, while the rest were made up of government officials and Microsoft partners."
- **Norway:** *committee stuffing* [[isene blog](#)]
- **Poland:** after the responsible technical committee reached an unwelcome result ("no with comments") the subject was taken out of its hands and given to another committee which quickly rubber-stamped

# Vote results



Enterprise Workspace:

ISO/IEC DIS 29500

Tuesday, 2007-09-04



## Result of voting

P-Members voting: 17 in favour out of 32 = 53.12% (requirement  $\geq$  66.66%)

*(P-Members having abstained are not counted in this vote.)*

Member bodies voting: 18 negative votes out of 69 = 26.08% (requirement  $\leq$  25%)

## Disapproved

# Press reports

**PCWorld: ISO Rejects Microsoft's  
OOXML as Standard**

...

Second Update: Microsoft expects another vote will approve its Office Open XML document format.

**The monster is not dead**



# Yes without comments

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh,  
Barbados, Belarus, Bosnia and  
Herzegovina, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte-  
d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Fiji, ...  
Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon,  
Morocco, Kuwait, Nigeria, Pakistan,  
Panama, Qatar, Romania, Russia,

# Yes without comments

...,

Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Syria,  
Tanzania, Ukraine, United Arab  
Emirates, Uzbekistan, Turkey\*, Jordan

# Sorry, Turkey with comments



Interoperability: Developers can write applic

Suche

Suche:  Das Web  Seiten auf Deutsch  Seiten aus D  
Der Operator "AND" muss nicht angegeben werden. Alle Suc

**Web** Ergebnisse 1 - 10 von ungefähr 71 für **Interoperability: Developers can w**

**[PDF]** [OFFICE OPEN XML OVERVIEW](#)

Dateiformat: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - [HTML-Version](#)

**Developers can write applications that consume and produce OpenXML on multiple platforms. Foremost, the interoperability of OpenXML has been accomplished ...**

[www.ecma-international.org/news/](http://www.ecma-international.org/news/)

[TC45\\_current\\_work/OpenXML%20White%20Paper.pdf](#) - [Ähnliche Seiten](#)

**[PDF]** [TÜRK STANDARLARI ENSTİTÜSÜ TURKISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION](#)

Dateiformat: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - [HTML-Version](#)

**Interoperability: Developers can write applications that consume and produce OpenXML on ... OpenXML has been accomplished through extensive contributions, ...**

[media.ffii.org/tmp2/noooxml-comments/ISO\\_IEC\\_DIS\\_29500\\_TSE.pdf](http://media.ffii.org/tmp2/noooxml-comments/ISO_IEC_DIS_29500_TSE.pdf) - [Ähnliche Seiten](#)

# Security with Microsoft

Project manager of Microsoft Office, Gray Knowlton:

*"One of the benefits we have with the OpenOffice XML formats is that we know when we read and write and document because we have an XML based representation of what's in that content -- we know what should and should not be there,"*

Source: ZDNet Australia



# Security with hackers

IN79: Security hole: OOXML allows the inclusion of arbitrary binary blobs of data in ways that could be abused by malicious document authors. For example: Part 1, Section 15.2.14 recommends that print settings be stored in the binary DEVMODE format used by Windows printer drivers.

# Not Killed comments

- around 3500 comments
- some duplicates
- comment site [dis29500.org](http://dis29500.org)
- Dark ECMA: until the 14 January
- Just used to win time

# A comment?

*" There are a lot of people who have raised a great many issues which we don't think have a lot of practical merit, but serve the purpose of creating some anxiety during this process. Many of the comments that were submitted had common threads and were put together by people who oppose this activity. "*

*-- Craig Mundie, Microsoft*

# Deprecation trick

- backward compatibility with Office 2007
- changing the engine of an airplane while flying
- Trick: flag the bugs as deprecated and create a new function that somehow solve the problem; deprecation is for compatibility with the past (binary .doc)

# NetworkDays2()?

18 sep: We don't correct the **NetworkDays()** function in order to add support for Muslim countries, but we flag it as deprecated, and we create another one named **NetworkDays2()** that has the support for this feature. The right thing would be to correct the function, not to create a new one. I take the bets on this one.

# NetworkDays2()?

22 dec: ECMA:

*" Issues related to the "leap year bug", VML, compatibility settings such as "AutoSpaceLikeWord95" and others will be extracted from the main specification and relocated to an independent annex in DIS 29500 for deprecated functionality. "*

# VML is dead? No

22 dec: ECMA:

*" Many National Bodies commented about the role of VML in the specification. Some have asked for it to be removed completely, whereas others have asked for VML to be treated in an annex only. Ecma agrees and will remove VML from the main specification. "*

# VML is dead? No

22 dec: ECMA:

*" This will also enable a transitional period during which existing binary documents being migrated to DIS 29500 can make use of VML. This is a significant change for DIS 29500. "*

# Ballot Resolution Meeting

- Aim: resolve comments

*" Six thousand pages,  
And five days in Geneva;  
Maybe it will pass. "*

(Haiku by BRM convenor Alex Brown)

- Many national bodies get represented by Microsoft as their delegation (11 Dec deadline)
- Delegations are formally kept secret
- Belgium: IBM and Microsoft

# Predictions

- Microsoft will control half of the table in Geneva
- Some members will say switch their votes from No to Yes
- The agenda won't be random
- Microsoft will get enough majority to get his standard "technically" approved
- The 30 days after Geneva will see heavy lobbying

# Patent issue

- Software patents
- Company in US claiming patent on XML
- Other patents held by other companies
- No patent search inside ISO, only Microsoft
- How many patents does the 6000 pages violate?
- 802.11n (CSIRO refuses to licence under RAND)

# Patent issue

- RF RAND
- Open Specification Promise: "*you acknowledge as a condition of benefiting from it that no Microsoft rights are received from suppliers, distributors, or otherwise in connection with this promise.*"
- FAQ:
  - Q: Is this OSP sub-licensable?
  - A: There is no need for sublicensing. [...]

# Help

- Give money
- Find out:
  - Names of people for Geneva
  - Are you independent of Microsoft?
  - Parliamentary questions
  - <http://www.nooboxml.org/brm>
    - Microsoft pays the ticket?



<NO>OOXML  
wishes you a  
Deprecated and  
Optional Happy  
New Year 2008!