

Open Computing, Open Standards and Open Source Recommendation for Governments



Openness is critical...

- **Open Computing**
- **Open Standards**
- **Open Source**

...but don't lose track of the goals.



The Goal and the Principles of Openness

- Ensure interoperability
- Avoid vendor lock-in
- Avoid imposing technology decisions on the citizenry
- Drive cost effectiveness enhance efficiency and service levels
- Ensure future access to information
- Ensure a level playing field for competition
- Maximize freedom of action, ensure flexibility



The Principles of Open Computing

- Permit interoperability by using published specifications for API's, protocols and data and file formats
- Specifications must be published without restrictions that limit implementations, or require royalties or payments (other than reasonable royalties for essential patents)



Open Standards

- Published without restriction (other than reasonable royalties for essential patents)
- Freely available for adoption by the industry.
- Controlled by an open industry organization with a well-defined, inclusive process for evolution of the standard
- Implemented by offerings that are available in the market

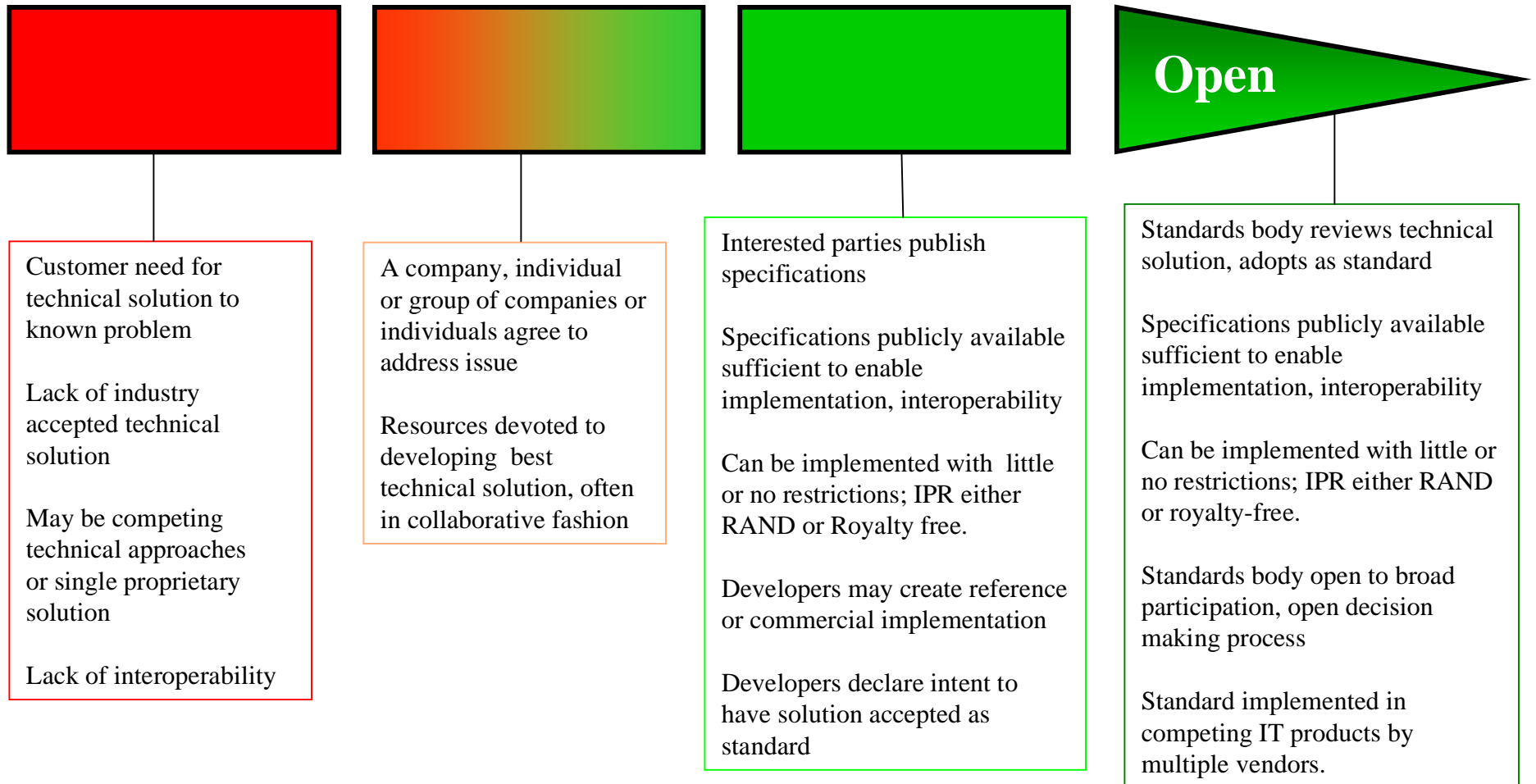
? Initiator

? Core group

? Standards body



Evolution to an Open Standard



Open Source

- **“Open source software” is software whose source code is published and made available to the public**, enabling anyone to copy, modify and redistribute the source code without paying royalties or fees. Open source code typically evolves through community cooperation. These communities are composed of individual programmers as well as very large companies. Some examples of open source initiatives are Linux, Eclipse, Apache, Mozilla and various projects hosted on SourceForge.net.



Open source can...

- Drive open standards.
- Provide cost-effective access to base componentry.
- Be a mechanism to allow companies to cooperate in the development of common infrastructure technology as a platform for innovation.
- Be a mechanism to drive multi-vendor consistency to enhance value to customers.
- Provide a common and flexible base to support multiple Hardware platforms.
- Provide a critical mass of software developers through community approach.



Issues of the Desktop

- Total cost of ownership
- Supporting the highest common denominator
- Network effects drive limited choice
- File format lock-in
 - ▶ File format extensions
- Switching and training costs.
- Long-term file access



Summary

- Governments should insist on openness
- They need to be pragmatic and focused on the goals
- Standardizing file formats is important
- Document management is important
- Desktop technology is evolving quickly
- Make decisions that maximize flexibility



Government Policy Roadmap

- Insist on open standards as a matter of policy... be pragmatic about it.
- Focus on Interoperable ICT systems.
- Avoid procurement of proprietary, non-open standards based solutions.
- Evaluate open source solutions on equal footing with commercial solutions.
- Reject mandates or preferences based on development model.
- Adopt open computing as an underlying philosophy.

Insist on openness, but make pragmatic business oriented decisions based on features, training cost, availability of skill, interoperability and value for money.

