

Call for Proposals to improve major features of LibreOffice/Apache OpenOffice

Stuttgart, 24 March 2014 – The OSB Alliance Working Group Office Interoperability releases a new specification on how to enhance LibreOffice and Apache OpenOffice. Major feature improvements in mail merge, paragraph handling and global styles in Writer and Calc should lead to even better working of open source office solutions. One of the Use Cases also covers the development of a new change tracking specification in the Open Document Format (ODF) standard.

As announced in September 2013 the OSB Alliance Working Group Office Interoperability had conducted a requirements engineering workshop in Stuttgart. Munich, Leipzig, Jena, the Swiss Federal Court, and the Swiss Federal IT Steering Unit FITSU defined commonly required improvements of the open source office solutions LibreOffice and Apache OpenOffice. Other public authorities will support the funding of the implementation.

Based on this workshop a [new specification called “Major Feature Improvements for LibreOffice/Apache OpenOffice”](#)¹ was developed in the recent weeks. It covers the following six Use Cases:

- Use Case 1: Improve mail merge in Writer
- Use Case 2: Improve paragraph handling in Writer
- Use Case 3: Implement styles in all content elements of Writer
- Use Case 4: Add chart styles in Calc
- Use Case 5: Make more functions available in shared spreadsheets in Calc
- Use Case 6: Develop change tracking specification for the ODF standard

One of the important feature of today's office suites is change tracking within documents. LibreOffice and Apache OpenOffice offer change tracking in ODF files. However, Microsoft Office has not implemented change tracking for ODF documents since Microsoft says the current change tracking specification with the ODF standard is defined insufficiently. Therefore Use Case 6 of these requirements does cover the exact specification of change tracking within the ODF standard in order to enable Microsoft to implement it in future versions of Microsoft Office.

As in the [previous project](#)² open source providers are now invited to submit offers to cover one or more of these use cases. The detailed requirements as well as the general conditions and tendering procedure is described in the [specification document](#). All proposals need to be submitted until **30 April 2014** to the spokesperson of the working group.

Working Group Office Interoperability spokesperson

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¹ http://www.osb-alliance.de/fileadmin/Working_Groups/OfficeInteroperability/Project2/SpecificationMajorFeatureImprovements_final.pdf

² <http://www.osb-alliance.de/en/working-groups/projekte/ooxml-filter/>

About the Open Source Business Alliance

The Open Source Business Alliance - Alliance OSB short - must be developed with 230 members of Germany's largest network of businesses and organizations that open source software, build on it or apply it. Alliance goal of OSB is to make open source software and other forms of open cooperation successful. This is achieved by disseminating information, creating a favorable environment for manufacturers and users as well as through active networking of manufacturers, customers and service providers. This particular play interoperability between different open source and proprietary software systems play an important role. Emerging Alliance is the OSB in 2011 from the merger of LIVE Linux-Verband and Linux Solutions Group (LiSoG). The Open Source Business Alliance has its headquarters in Stuttgart. CEO Peter H. Ganten.

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