



OOo and the Federal Administration

A critical Review from the German Point

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On the behalf of:

**The German Government's
Co-ordination and Advisory Board for IT in the
Federal Administration (KBSt)**

**Egon Troles at the
Federal Dataprotection Commissioner**

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KBSt, what is this ?

- German Abbreviation for :
Federal Government Co-ordination and Advisory Agency for IT in the Federal Administration
- **Located within the Federal Ministry of the Interior**
- **Inter-ministerial agency of the Federal Government**
- **Ensure that the federal administration optimizes its use of information technology**
- **Advises federal authorities on their IT strategies and publishes recommendations on IT strategy and methodological guidelines**

Products: Migration Guideline

- **Approx. 30.000 Downloads of the german version**
- **More than 45.000 Downloads of the english version**
- **Approx. 1.500 Books sold**
- **Translation into Spanish and Polish**





Products: SAGA

Standards and Architectures for eGovernment-Applications



- Reference **Architecture** based on RM/ODP
- Reference **Infrastructure** (IVBB, IVBV)
- Obligatory, recommended and observed **Standards** for
 - Technology (Network, Protocol, Middleware, Application, Presentation, ...)
 - Process (Models)
 - Data (Models)
 - Base Components

Additional Documentation

- e-Government Manual
- SIGA: Secure Integration of eGovernment Applications
- and other



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Products: KBSt Publications

KBSt Letters :
Example:

Open Source Software in
the Federal Administration
(KBSt-Letter 2/2000)

Federal Ministry
of the Interior



KBSt* Letter No. 2/2000

**Open-Source Software in the Federal
Administration**

February 2000

KBSt



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Martin Schallbruch, CIO BMI

We see a growing Importance of Open Source . . .

Background

- Open Source widely uses open Standards
- Open Source is independent from Software Companies decisions about using, not using or proprietary extend Standards
- Open Source is internationally available

Reaction: Development of a **Migration Guide** to Open Source

available at <http://www.kbst.bund.de>; including:

- Migration Strategies
- Economic Efficiency
- License Models
- Comparability issues
- Technical Aspects (Authentication, Network Services, System Management, Directory Services, Middleware, Web Services, Data Bases, Groupware, High Availability, ...)
- Comparison Open Source vs. Commercial off the Shelf (COTS)



European Initiatives in the IDA Program *)

The Expert Group on Open Document Format resumed :

- **The public sector must avoid that a specific product is forced on anyone interacting with it electronically.**
- Encourage any document format that does not discriminate against market actors and that can be implemented across platforms
- Standardisation initiatives
 - will ensure not only a fair and competitive market
 - will help safeguard the interoperability of implementing solutions whilst preserving competition and innovation.

*) The "Interchange of Data between Administrations Program" is guided by the DG Enterprises of the European Commission



European Initiatives in the IDA Program *)

The Expert Group on Open Document Format resumed :

- **The public sector should avoid any format that does not safeguard equal opportunities to market actors to implement format-processing applications, especially where this might impose product selection on the side of citizens or businesses.**
- **The submission of the OpenOffice.Org format to the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) in order to adopt it as the OASIS Open Office Standard should be welcomed.**

*) The "Interchange of Data between Administrations Program" is guided by the DG Enterprises of the European Commission



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Recommendations to the TAC *) (of IDA Program)

OASIS :

- OASIS: considers need and opportunity for extending the emerging OASIS ODF to allow for custom-defined schemas
- Submission of the emerging OASIS ODF to an official standardisation organisation such as ISO

Reaction of SUN

- They did the submission of the OASIS ODF to ISO !

*) TAC = Telematics between Administrations Committee



Recommendations to the TAC (of IDA)

Industry

- Industry actors: considers participating in the standardisation process with the OASIS Open Document Format to encourage a wider industry consensus around the format
- Industry is encouraged to provide filters that allow documents based on the WordML specifications and the emerging OASIS Open Document Format to be read and written to other applications whilst maintaining a maximum degree of faithfulness to content, structure and presentation. These filters should be made available for all products
- Industry is encouraged to provide the appropriate tools and services to allow the public sector to consider feasibility and costs of a transformation of its documents to XML-based format



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Recommendations to the TAC (of IDA)

are spread to the global players . . .

Industry : No answers from

- **HP**
- **Siemens . . .**

Reaction of IBM

- They joined the OASIS !



Recommendations to the TAC (of IDA)

Microsoft :

- Microsoft: issuing a public commitment to publish and provide non-discriminatory access to future versions of its WordML specifications
- Microsoft should consider the merits of submitting XML formats to an international standards body of their choice
- Microsoft assesses the possibility of excluding non-XML formatted components from WordML documents

No answer from Microsoft



Recommendations to the TAC (of IDA)

Public Sector :

- The public sector is encouraged to provide its information through several formats. Where by choice or circumstance only a single revisable document format can be used this should be for a format around which there is industry consensus, as demonstrated by the format's adoption as a standard.

No reaction from the public administration

Exeption: IDA-Project: Begin of converting the documents to SXW !



My First Title:

Linux on Desktops (!)



Second Title:

Why is no Linux on Desktops ? *)

***) exclusive seen from the german point and for the german administration**



Laws of the german Administration

We always did it like this ...

(and will never do it in an other way.)

Every Tom, Dick and Harry ...

(could make his demands.)

We have never done this before ...

(so we won't do it now !)



Problems from Mentality

Man likes habitualness !



Therefore the Users Question is :

**Why Linux ?
(and why OpenOffice ?)**



Possible Answers

- I don't need it !
- I have Windows XP at home and don't like to learn again use of computers !
- Does it run under XP ?
- Which games are available ?
- At home i don't have to pay for Windows, it is free. Make better contracts with your distributor ...



What we tried . . .

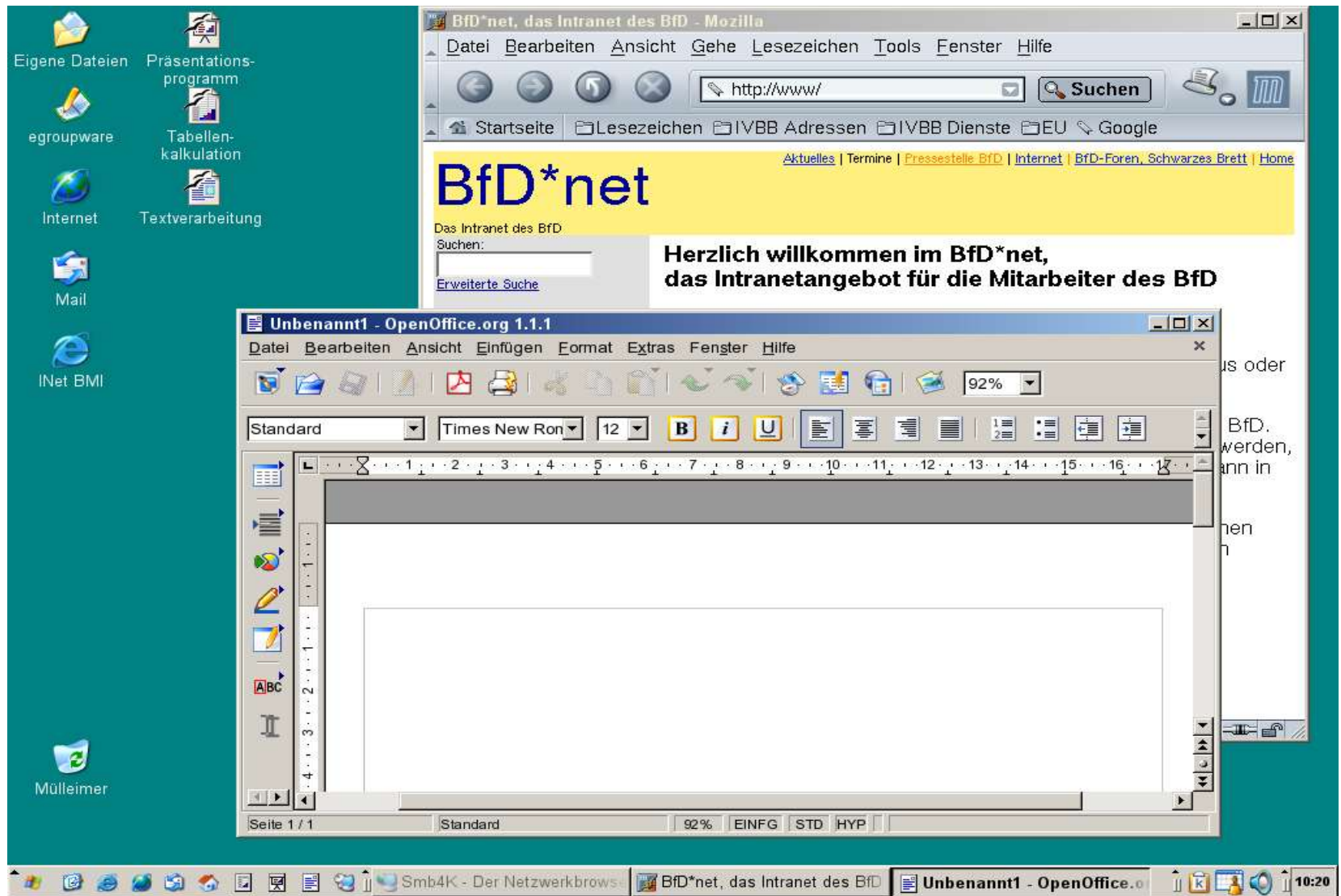
This has been done at the Federal Data Protection Commissioner, in the Ministry of Justice have been installed about 30 workplaces as Open Source Clients to see, how they can be integrated in the landscape . . .

- Setting up two identical systems, one on Windows XP, one on Linux
- Making it as equal as possible (this includes pictures for the Desktop background, sounds and so on)
- Test and evaluation through users.



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Linux/KDE Desk

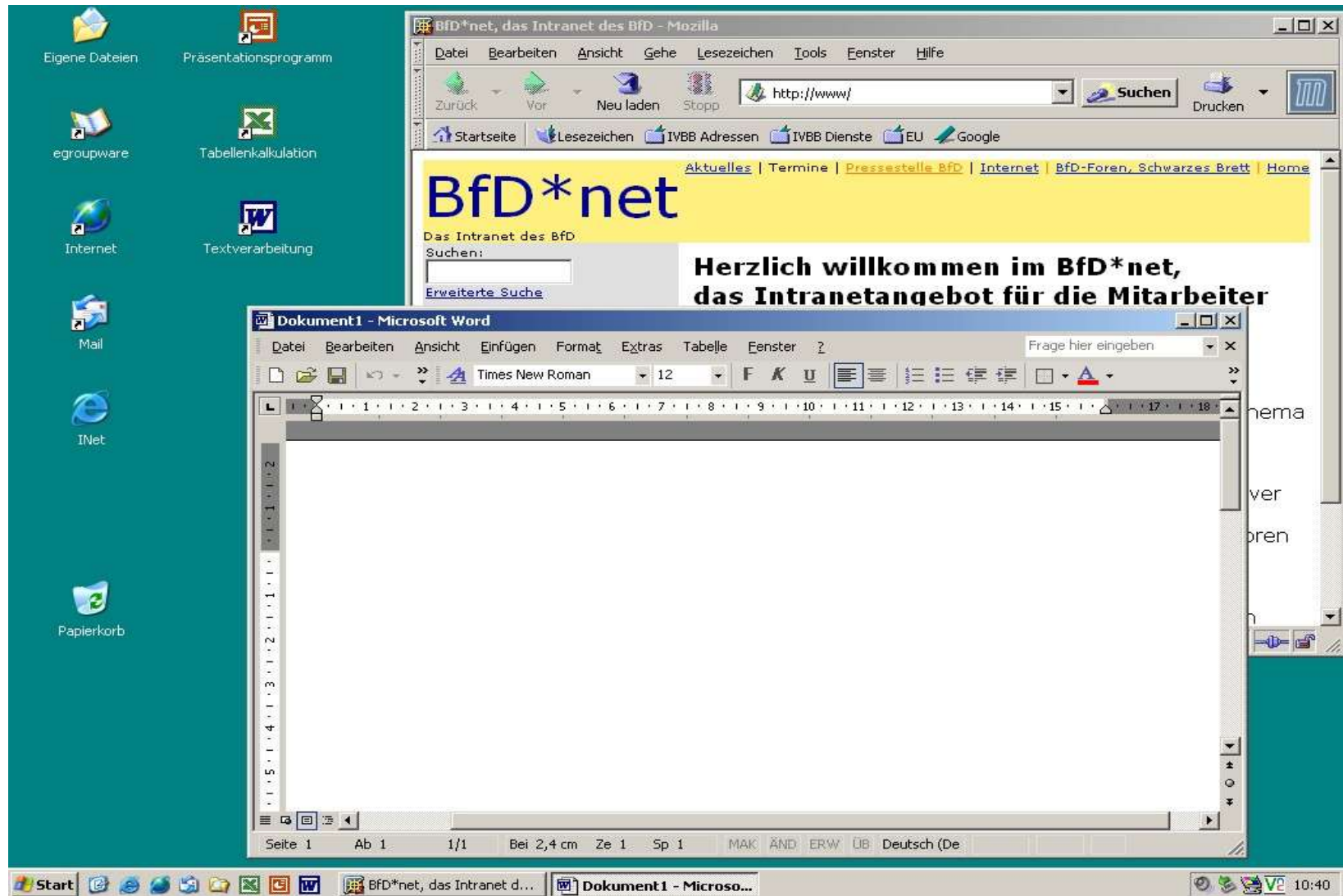


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Windows Desk





What our Users did . . .

- Most of the "deciders" did not take part of the tests.
- Functions, which are identical on both systems are valued better, if the system was XP !
- New functions (compared to Office 97) are valued better, if the system was XP !



The Main Problem is . . .

OpenOffice ! (?) (Only looking on writer from the users view)

- Converting from Word 97 doc to OpenOffice is not perfect, but with some corrections (tables, pagenumbers, lists etc.) acceptable.
- Converting OpenOffice sxw to Word97 (or RFT) is not acceptable by the user !
- Mixed mode in one agency is not possible !
- Mixed mode across agencies (ministries) is not possible !
- Differently handling of printer settings between KDE and OOo !



To make things clear . . .

- That is **not** fault of the OpenOffice team !
- In real the most problems are a result of the closed "doc" format !
- It is normal from the view of a developer, that the import filter works excellent, the export filter is not so important.
- For document exchange between agencies we recommend
 - PDF, if the user only wants to read.
 - RTF, if the user wants to work with the document:
- **The users ignore the recommendation !**



Possible reasons for this evolution . . .

- The Users View
 - Advantage is not visible !
 - Security and Economy are not important for users !
 - Users have problems with PDF (AR6), TIFF, WMV, etc.
 - directly suffers, if something goes wrong (or only another way)
- No Motivation of Administration to move, Deciders
 - do, what the users want !
 - are very conservative
 - trust more the users, because of being independent of their work



Possible reasons for this evolution (2, IMO)

First of all remember the eEurope 2002 actionplan:
Exerpt from Objective 2a) : **Investing in people and skills,
European youth into the digital age**

Task:

Ensure availability of support services and educational resources on the Internet, as well as elearning platforms, for **teachers, pupils and parents** (e.g. access for disadvantaged children, **access to digitised cultural heritage, multilingual multimedia learning materials, European open source software initiative**, collection of best practice). European Commission to support these efforts via the education, training and culture programmes and to provide adequate funding within the IST Programme.

Responsible: Member States, European Commission until end 2002



German Reality 2004 :



Windows in german schools

Basic schools

| | |
|------|------|
| 2001 | 80% |
| 2002 | 100% |
| 2003 | 99% |

All schools

| | |
|------|------|
| 2001 | 100% |
| 2002 | 100% |
| 2003 | 98% |

Linux in all schools

| | |
|------|------|
| 2001 | 10 % |
| 2002 | 12 % |
| 2003 | 14 % |





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German reality 2004 : Applications

- **Licensed by publishing houses for school books**

| Year | Percentage |
|------|------------|
| 2001 | 62% |
| 2002 | 71% |
| 2003 | 86% |

- **Licensed by publishing houses for school books**

| Year | Percentage |
|------|------------|
| 2001 | 44% |
| 2002 | 46% |
| 2003 | 57% |

- **Licensed by software companies**

| Year | Percentage |
|------|------------|
| 2001 | 19% |
| 2002 | 28% |
| 2003 | 24% |

- **Licensed by software companies**

| Year | Percentage |
|------|------------|
| 2001 | 33% |
| 2002 | 26% |
| 2003 | 22% |

- **Licensed by software companies**

| Year | Percentage |
|------|------------|
| 2001 | 38% |
| 2002 | 27% |
| 2003 | 41% |

- Data taken from the report before

Alternatives :

eLearning software

- Openweb School, gcompris

Office Systems

- **OpenOffice**

Multimedia Dictionaries

- Wikipedia

Tools

- Everthing you want

Programming Languages

- No limit (see Kdevelop)

Creating multimedia
applications

- Look at Hollywood . . .



Solutions

- Fixing the problems through the community (in two projects we got direct support from Sun)
- Forcing the recommendation in the direction to an open document format on the european level.
- On the national level make a (binding) recommendation for the OpenOffice format.
(This is ok, because everyone can get OOo on his system and it can live together with other office systems.)
- Bring OSS and OOo to school and university(really !!)



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Thank you for paying attention !

Links:

- ODF: <http://europa.eu.int:80/ida/en/document/2592/5588>
- Action Plan:
http://europa.eu.int/information_society/europe/2005/all_about/action_plan/text_en.htm
http://europa.eu.int/information_society/europe/2002/action_plan/text_en.htm
- KBSt: <http://www.kbst.bund.de>
- BMBF: http://www.bmbf.de/pub/it-ausstattung_der_schulen.pdf

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