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Identifiers for ODF and OOXML Constructs

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Introduction

- Interoperability is not:
  - Extolling one standard over another
  - My feature beats your feature
  - I'm less broken than you

Introduction II

- Interoperability is:
  - Syntax only? No
  - Semantics only? No
  - Syntax + Semantics? No
  - Syntax + Semantics + Implementation? No

Introduction III

- Interoperability is:
  - Syntax + Semantics + Implementation + User Requirements
- Interoperability **is for a reason** (not an abstract exercise)

ODF ↔ OOXML

- Every application that reads ODF/OOXML and "saves-as" the other format, has such a mapping.
- Format1 → In Memory Form → Format2
- That is "a" mapping
- These mappings are not always:
  - Public (some are, some aren't)
  - Documented (impliedly in some cases)
  - Standardized (none)

Maps And Identifiers

- Maps, even of a single format, are composed of things that are identified
- What is identified controls the uses of the resulting map
- Identifying only syntactic constructs may have different uses than identifying semantic constructs
- Identifiers should be separate from the constructs that they identify

Identifiers

- ODF and OOXML overload names
- Reliance on names alone can lead to confusion in what is being identified
- Moreover, semantics vary depending on context
- Identifiers need to capture names, context, semantics and more
- Identifiers must support machine based matching and human validation

Identifier Example: ODF

- Name: fo:font-style
- Namespace: urn:oasis:names:tc:opendocument:xmlns:xmlns:xsl-fo-compatible:1.0
- Construct: Attribute
- Defined: ODF 1.2, Section 18:415 (current draft, this is changing)
- BasedOn: XSL 1.0, Section 7.8.7
- Omits: backslant and inherit as values
- IRI: http://somewhere.com/odf_1.0_fo_font-style.html

Published Subject Identifiers (PSIs)

- Web based identifiers that:
  - IRIs used to distinguish "what" is being represented
  - Text so that human users can ascertain "what" is being represented
- Avoids "name" limitation
- Can contain arbitrary other information
- Arbitrarily fine grained identification of the construct it represents

Published Subject Identifiers (PSIs) II

- Can identify the standard from which its construct is drawn
- Can point to reference documentation (such as standard text)
- Can include pointers to implementation notes or text
- Can include commentary on the construct

Next Steps

- Create illustrative identifiers (PSIs) for constructs in ODF and OOXML
- PSIs should reflect a range of choices for what information to include
- Identify issues and problems with PSI construction
- Working paper for discussion by WG 5 in Prague