

The 6,000+ Page Myth

Opponents of OpenXML now raise the specter of unknown dangers and errors that may lurk within the reported 6,000+ pages of OpenXML.

The former head of Ecma, [Jan Van den Beld](#) observed recently that DIS 29500 wasn't nearly 6,000+ pages of substantive content. Given all the FUD on this topic, let's put that observation to the test.

The WordProcessingML part of DIS 29500 "as submitted" is 1780 pages long. (Part 4 of DIS 29500) Compare that with an edited version that changes the line spacing, font size, removes duplicate text, and reformats the listing of references. [Muscular-WordProcessingML](#) weighs in at 452 pages. A reduction in size of approximately 74%. (One person working about 20 hours over a week.)

Many national bodies, including the US, did not have resources to fully consider all the comments made on OpenXML. However, today's loudest complainers made no requests for more time for review nor offered substantial resources to assist with that process. Now they pretend they haven't examined all of OpenXML.

The fact is the loudest complainers have enterprise level resources, far in excess of any national body, and they have reviewed all of OpenXML. The reason for the fear of the unknown campaign is there are no show stopper issues to be found.

Covington, 20 March 2008

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PS: As I have said before, there are numerous problems in OpenXML. Problems that we can fix in an open, international forum such as SC 34. Fear mongering isn't going to assist in that effort.