

## "All Their Eternity Is To Butt and Bray"<sup>1</sup>

IBM's Rob Weir has portrayed a trip I made to Seattle as a road to Damascus type of experience in terms of my support for DIS 29500.

Actually the road to Damascus experience was IBM and others deciding to hold a competing meeting with the BRM on DIS 29500 in Geneva. Just a coincidence that it was at the same time and location. You bet. That meeting made it clear that IBM is following a "butt and bray" policy with regard to OpenXML/DIS 29500.

That is to say that no matter what Microsoft (as its principal proponent) offers, such as: 1) extensive amendment to the substance of DIS 29500; 2) maintenance of DIS 29500 by SC 34; 3) disclosure of prior binary formats and support for mapping of the same; 4) support for standards reform to avoid repetition of the current difficulties, IBM will "butt and bray" against it.

If you need further proof, consider that months before Rob Weir started his "NOOXML" site that I advised IBM that the best strategy in this matter would be "Yes to OpenXML, No to DIS 295000." My reasoning being that supporting the notion of an OpenXML would put Microsoft in a position of not being able to refuse useful corrections or additions to OpenXML and still allow *reasonable* opposition to DIS 29500. I won't report IBM's reaction to that suggestion but I think you can guess its general tenor from what has followed.

Speaking strictly for myself, I have better things to do than butting and braying on behalf of IBM.

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<sup>1</sup> Dante's Inferno, Circle 4, John Ciardi's translation.