

## A Non-Standard Guide to Standards Behavior

The following is a short guide to behavior in standards committees and standards making in general.

1. Disparage the honesty (intellectual or moral) of others.
2. Disagreement with you is always the result of evil plans and designs.
3. Compromise is just another word for cowardice.
4. Rules should be followed, but only when to your advantage.
5. Chairs, conveners, editors, should be serve only so long as their views agree with yours.
6. People change positions but only by selling out.
7. People who agree with your opponents are clones/whores/lackies.
8. People who agree with you are besieged servants of truth, justice and human rights.
9. Never forget past transgressions, both real and imagined.
10. Remember to always point out the failures of others.

This is what is known as sarcasm. See: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarcasm>

Writing useful standards requires us to move beyond such behaviors.

I have not included examples of those behaviors because that simply starts the cycle all over again. We need to dust ourselves off and resolve to do better in the future and then simply to do so.

There is no profit (if you are of the commercial persuasion) or future (if you are one of the save the world types) or good work (if you are simply trying to write good standards) in pawing over old hurts.

All that is required is today, and only for today, for each of us to not engage in these behaviors. I can't change yesterday and I won't promise tomorrow. All I can do anything about is today. What others do doesn't matter as I am only answerable for my own conduct. If this works for you with standards, you might want to try it elsewhere. I think you will be pleasantly surprised.

Covington, 30 March 2008

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PS: I will be at the Balisage, <http://www.balisage.net/>, conference in August either presenting a paper (if accepted) or a poster on using the OpenDocument 1.2 metadata mechanisms to extend an OpenXML file. If you are serious about markup issues, it is "the" conference to attend this year (and every year).