

Getting Started with Apache OpenOffice

Version 3.4

Chapter **12**

Open Source, Open Standards, OpenDocument

Copyright

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Introduction

Apache OpenOffice is both a product and an open-source project. If you are new to Apache OpenOffice, its open source development, and the community that produces and supports it, you should read this appendix.

A short history of Apache OpenOffice

The OpenOffice.org project began when Sun Microsystems released the source code for its StarOffice® software to the open source community on October 13, 2000. OpenOffice.org 1.0, the product, was released on April 30, 2002. Major updates to OpenOffice.org included version 2.0 in October 2005 and version 3.0 in October 2008. Since version 2.0, OpenOffice.org has supported the open standard OASIS OpenDocument as its default file format.

On January 26, 2010, Oracle Corporation acquired Sun Microsystems. In June, 2011, Oracle contributed the OpenOffice.org source code to the Apache Software Foundation using the Apache Software Grant Agreement (SGA). This SGA permits the Apache OpenOffice Project Management Committee to re-license the OpenOffice source code under the Apache 2.0 license.

Oracle also transferred to Apache the trademarks and domain names owned by them and associated with the project. After extensive community discussion and comment, the OpenOffice project voted to change the name from "OpenOffice.org" to "Apache OpenOffice".

The new license, the Apache License 2.0, is compatible with the GNU GPLv3 and with the GNU LGPLv3 (the previous license), as well as MPLv2, the new Mozilla license.

The Apache OpenOffice community

Work on Apache OpenOffice is performed by a diverse group of volunteers from over a dozen countries. These volunteers work on coding, testing, documentation, websites, translations, and marketing, as well as other functions. The Apache OpenOffice community invites contributors. Whatever you do best, you can do it for Apache OpenOffice.

What is “open source”?

The four essential rights of open-source software are embodied within the Free Software Foundation's *General Public License* (GPL):

- The right to use the software for any purpose.
- Freedom to redistribute the software for free or for a fee.
- Access to the complete source code of the program (that is, the “blueprints”).
- The right to modify any part of the source, or use portions of it in other programs.

The basic idea behind open source is very simple: When programmers can read, redistribute, and modify the source code for a piece of software, the software evolves. People improve it, people adapt it, people fix bugs.

For more information on Free and Open Source software, visit these websites:

Open Source Initiative (OSI): <http://www.opensource.org>

Free Software Foundation (FSF): <http://www.gnu.org>

What are “open standards”?

An open standard provides a means of doing something that is independent of manufacturer or vendor, thus enabling competing software programs to freely use the same file formats. HTML, XML, and ODF are examples of open standards for documents.

An open standard meets the following requirements:

- It is well documented with the complete specification publically available, either free or at a nominal charge.
- It can be freely copied, distributed and used. The intellectual property of the standard is made irrevocably available on a royalty-free basis.
- It is standardized and maintained in an independent, open forum (also called "standards organization") using an open process.

What is OpenDocument?

OpenDocument (ODF) is an XML-based file format for office documents (text documents, spreadsheets, drawings, presentations and more), developed at OASIS (<http://www.oasis-open.org/who/>), an independent, international standards group.

Unlike other file formats, ODF is an open standard. It is publicly available, royalty-free, and without legal or other restrictions; therefore ODF files are not tied to a specific office suite and anybody can build a program that interprets these files. For this reason, ODF is quickly becoming the preferred file format for government agencies, schools, and other organizations and companies that prefer not to be too dependent on a particular software supplier.

Apache OpenOffice by default saves documents in Open Document Format. Apache OpenOffice has adopted version 1.2 of the OpenDocument standard. AOO can also open and save many other file formats; see “File formats Apache OpenOffice can open” on page 5, “File formats Apache OpenOffice can save to” on page 7, and “Exporting to other formats” on page 9.

OpenDocument filename extensions

The most common filename extensions used for OpenDocument documents are:

- *.odt for word processing (text) documents
- *.ods for spreadsheets
- *.odp for presentations
- *.odb for databases
- *.odg for graphics (vector drawings)
- *.odf for formulas (mathematical equations)

File formats Apache OpenOffice can open

Apache OpenOffice can open a wide variety of file formats in addition to the OpenDocument formats.

Opening text documents

In addition to OpenDocument formats (.odt, .ott, .oth, and .odm), Writer 3 can open the formats used by OpenOffice.org 1.x (.sxw, .stw, and .sxc) and the following text document formats:

Microsoft Word 6.0/95/97/2000/XP (.doc and .dot)
Microsoft Word 2003 XML (.xml)
Microsoft Word 2007 XML (.docx, .docm, .dotx, .dotm)
Microsoft WinWord 5 (.doc)
WordPerfect Document (.wpd)
WPS 2000/Office 1.0 (.wps)
Rich Text Format (.rtf)
Text CSV (.csv and .txt)
StarWriter formats (.sdw, .sgl, .vor)
DocBook (.xml)
Unified Office Format text (.uot, .uof)
Ichitaro 8/9/10/11 (.jtd and .jtt)
Hangul WP 97 (.hwp)
T602 Document (.602, .txt)
AportisDoc (Palm) (.pdb)
Pocket Word (.psw)
HTML Document (.htm, .html)

Most of these file types are automatically detected by Apache OpenOffice, so they can be opened without explicitly selecting the document type in the file picker.

When opening .htm or .html files (used for web pages), Apache OpenOffice customizes Writer for working with these files.

Opening spreadsheets

In addition to OpenDocument formats (.ods and .ots), Calc 3 can open the formats used by OpenOffice.org 1.x (.sxc and .stc) and the following spreadsheet formats:

Microsoft Excel 97/2000/XP (.xls, .xlw, and .xlt)
Microsoft Excel 4.x–5.0/95 (.xls, .xlw, and .xlt)
Microsoft Excel 2003 XML (.xml)
Microsoft Excel 2007 XML (.xlsx, .xlsm, .xlts, .xltm)
Microsoft Excel 2007 binary (.xlsb)
Lotus 1-2-3 (.wk1, .wks, and .123)
Data Interchange Format (.dif)
Rich Text Format (.rtf)
Text CSV (.csv and .txt)
StarCalc formats (.sdc and .vor)
dBASE (.dbf)
SYLK (.slk)
Unified Office Format spreadsheet (.uos, .uof)
HTML Document (.htm and .html files, including Web page queries)
Pocket Excel (pxl)
Quattro Pro 6.0 (.wb2)

Opening presentations

In addition to OpenDocument formats (.odp, .odg, and .otp), Impress 3 can open the formats used by OpenOffice.org 1.x (.sxi and .sti) and the following presentation formats:

Microsoft PowerPoint 97/2000/XP (.ppt and .pot)
Microsoft PowerPoint 2007 (.pptx, .pptm, .potx, .potm)
StarDraw and StarImpress (.sda, .sdd, .sdp, and .vor)
Unified Office Format presentation (.uop, .uof)
CGM – Computer Graphics Metafile (.cgm)
Portable Document Format (.pdf)

Opening graphic files

In addition to OpenDocument formats (.odg and .otg), Draw 3 can open the formats used by OpenOffice.org 1.x (.sxd and .std) and the following graphic formats:

BMP	JPEG, JPG	PCX	PSD	SGV	WMF
DXF	MET	PGM	RAS	SVM	XBM
EMF	PBM	PLT	SDA	TGA	XPM
EPS	PCD	PNG	SDD	TIF, TIFF	
GIF	PCT	PPM	SGF	VOR	

Opening formula files

In addition to OpenDocument Formula (.odf) files, Math 3 can open the format used by OpenOffice.org 1.x (.sxm), StarMath, (.smf), and MathML (.mml) files.

When opening a Word document that contains an embedded equation editor object, if the option for it (MathType to OpenOffice.org Math/ OpenOffice.org to MathType) is checked in **Tools > Options > Load/Save > Microsoft Office**, the object will be automatically converted to an OpenOffice.org Math object.

File formats Apache OpenOffice can save to

Saving in an OpenDocument format guarantees the correct rendering of the file when it is transferred to another person or when the file is re-opened with a later version of OpenOffice.org. It is strongly recommended that you use ODF as default file format. However, you can save files in other formats, if you wish.

Tip

When sharing a document that you do not expect or want the recipient to modify, the safest option is to convert the document to PDF. Apache OpenOffice provides a very straightforward way to convert documents to PDF. See Chapter 9 (Printing, Exporting, and E-Mailing).

Saving text documents

In addition to OpenDocument formats (.odt and .ott), Writer 3 can save in these formats:

- OpenOffice.org 1.x Text Document (.sxw)
- OpenOffice.org 1.x Text Document Template (.stw)
- Microsoft Word 6.0, 95, and 97/2000/XP (.doc)
- Microsoft Word 2003 XML (.xml)
- Rich Text Format (.rtf)
- StarWriter 3.0, 4.0, and 5.0 (.sdw)
- StarWriter 3.0, 4.0, and 5.0 Template (.vor)
- Text (.txt)
- Text Encoded (.txt)
- Unified Office Format text (.uot, .uof)
- HTML Document (OpenOffice.org Writer) (.html and .htm)
- DocBook (.xml)
- AportisDoc (Palm) (.pdb)
- Pocket Word (.psw)

Encryption support within the Microsoft Word 97/2000/XP filter allows password protected Microsoft Word documents to be saved.

Note

The .rtf format is a common format for transferring text files between applications, but you are likely to experience loss of formatting and images. For this reason, other formats should be used.

Saving spreadsheet files

In addition to OpenDocument formats (.ods and .ots), Calc 3 can save in these formats:

- OpenOffice.org 1.x Spreadsheet (.sxc)
- OpenOffice.org 1.x Spreadsheet Template (.stc)
- Microsoft Excel 97/2000/XP (.xls and .xlw)
- Microsoft Excel 97/2000/XP Template (.xlt)
- Microsoft Excel 5.0 and 95 (.xls and .xlw)
- Microsoft Excel 2003 XML (.xml)
- Data Interchange Format (.dif)
- dBase (.dbf)
- SYLK (.slk)
- Text CSV (.csv and .txt)
- StarCalc 3.0, 4.0, and 5.0 formats (.sdc and .vor)
- Unified Office Format spreadsheet (.uos)
- HTML Document (OpenOffice.org Calc) (.html and .htm)
- Pocket Excel (.pxl)

Note

The Java Runtime Environment is required to use the mobile device filters for AportisDoc (Palm), Pocket Word, and Pocket Excel.

Saving drawings

Draw 3 can only save in the OpenDocument Drawing formats (.odg and .otg), the OpenOffice.org 1.x formats (.sxd and .std) and StarDraw format (.sda, .sdd, and .vor).

However, Draw can also export to BMP, EMF, EPS, GIF, JPEG, MET, PBM, PCT, PGM, PNG, PPM, RAS, SVG, SVM, TIFF, WMF, and XPM.

Saving presentations

In addition to OpenDocument formats (.odp, .otp, and .odg), Impress 3 can save in these formats:

- OpenOffice.org 1.x Presentation (.sxi)
- OpenOffice.org 1.x Presentation Template (.sti)
- Microsoft PowerPoint 97/2000/XP (.ppt)
- Microsoft PowerPoint 97/2000/XP Template (.pot)
- StarDraw, StarImpress (.sda, .sdd, and .vor)
- Unified Office Format presentation (.uop)

Impress can also export to MacroMedia Flash (.swf) and any of the graphics formats listed for Draw.

Saving from Writer/Web

Writer/Web can save in these formats:

- HTML document (.html and .htm), as HTML 4.0 Transitional
- OpenOffice.org 1.0 HTML Template (.stw)
- OpenOffice.org 2.x HTML Template (.oth)
- StarWriter/Web 4.0 and 5.0 (.vor)
- Text (OpenOffice.org Writer/Web) (.txt)
- Text Encoded (OpenOffice.org Writer/Web) (.txt)

Exporting to other formats

Apache OpenOffice uses the term “export” for some file operations involving a change of file type. If you cannot find what you want under **Save As**, look under **Export** as well.

AOO can export files to XHTML. In addition, Draw and Impress can export to Adobe Flash (.swf) and a range of image formats.

To export to one of these formats, choose **File > Export**. On the Export dialog, specify a file name for the exported document, then select the required format in the *File format* list and click the **Export** button.