



| IBM Open Source and Standards

IBM Standards Principles

September 23, 2008

What are we announcing?

A new corporate policy that formalizes the company's behavior when helping to create open technical standards.

Why are such standards important?

- In the globally integrated economy, open technical standards are integral to enabling the delivery of everything from disaster relief services and health care, to business services and consumer entertainment.
- They enable governments to create economic development platforms and deliver services to their citizens.

Why are the main ideas in the new policy?

- IBM's new standards policy promotes simplified and consistent intellectual property practices, and emphasizes that all stakeholders, including the open source community and those in growth markets, should have equal footing as they participate in the standards process.
- The policy is expressed in five principles.

Where did the principles come from?

- They were written by IBM for IBM but were inspired by the results of an online conversation facilitated by IBM during the summer of 2008.
- This brought together 70 independent, forward-thinking experts across the globe from academia, standards-setting, law, government, and public policy.
- They debated the question of whether standard setting bodies have kept pace with today's commercial, social, legal and political realities.

IBM Standards Principles

- Begin or end participation in standards bodies based on the quality and openness of their processes, membership rules, and intellectual property policies.
- Encourage emerging and developed economies to both adopt open global standards and to participate in the creation of those standards.

IBM Standards Principles

- Advance governance rules within standards bodies that ensure technology decisions, votes, and dispute resolutions are made fairly by independent participants, protected from undue influence.
- Collaborate with standards bodies and developer communities to ensure that open software interoperability standards are freely available and implementable.

IBM Standards Principles

- Help drive the creation of clear, simple and consistent intellectual property policies for standards organizations, thereby enabling standards developers and implementers to make informed technical and business decisions.

Example Actions Based on the Principles

- IBM will
 - Review and take necessary actions concerning its membership in standards organizations.
 - In the regions and countries where we do business, encourage local participation in the creation and use of standards that solve the problems and meet the requirements of all affected stakeholders around the world.

Example Actions Based on the Principles

- IBM will
 - Advocate governance policies in standards bodies that encourage diverse participation.
 - Work for process reform in standards organizations so that proxies or surrogates cannot be used in standards creation and approval.

Example Actions Based on the Principles

- IBM will
 - Collaborate with standards organizations and stakeholders to streamline and consolidate intellectual property licenses and policies, with a focus on enabling software applications to become more easily interoperable by the use of open standards.