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TO:
Digital Economy Strategy Team
Department of Industry, Innovation and Science

The Digital Economy: Opening up the conversation

First of all, a lot of thanks to Digital Economy Strategy Team for organising this important consultation.

This opinion represents an opinion of an individual citizen, not any legal entity.

This opinion does not contain:

- any business secrets
- any trade secrets
- any confidential information.

This opinion is public.

PDF file of this opinion can be added to a relevant web page.

Annex 1 holds information about previous Australian consultations.

Annex 2 holds information about disclaimers and copyright.

Best Regards,

Jukka S. Rannila
citizen of Finland

signed electronically

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40 Previous opinions – many opinions related to information technology

41

42 General page for my previous opinions is following:

43 www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html

44

45 Previous Australian consultations

46

47 I have written several opinions based on previous Australian consultations.

48

49 **Annex 1** contains information about previous Australian consultations and my previous opinions.

50

51 I have repeated the same issues several times based on previous consultations.

52

53 QUESTIONS 7 and 8 from the consultation paper

54

55 This opinion is about QUESTIONS 7 and 8, which are presented on the consultation document.

56

57 Question 7. What opportunities do we have in standards development and regulation to:

58 – enable digital entrepreneurship, innovation and trade?

59 – mitigate the risks associated with digital disruption?

60 Question 8. What digital standards do we need to enable Australian businesses to participate

61 in global supply chains and maximise the opportunities of the digital economy?

62

63 Many important questions / Consultation document

64

65 Consultation document (The Digital Economy: Opening up the conversation) contains many
66 important questions, which can be assessed here in Finland and more generally in the European
67 Union.

68

69 Just one issue based on this consultation / Open horizontal standards

70

71 This is opinion is about different standards and especially about open horizontal standards.

72

73 About different standards

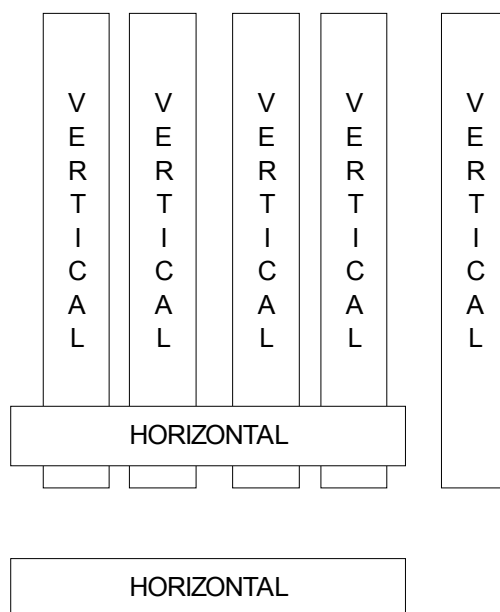
74

75 I have proposed several times to use *open horizontal standards* when developing different
76 information system.

77

78 Favouring open standards / Favouring horizontal standards

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80
81

82 There are differences between horizontal and vertical standards. A simple example is naturally
83 email solutions. There are several vertical standards when creating technically email solutions. Then
84 there are horizontal standards which enable sending messages between technically different email
85 solutions.

86

87 **Proposal: There could be assessment of vertical and horizontal standards.**

88

89 **Proposal: Using horizontal standards could be favoured when creating different
90 information systems.**

91

92 Horizontal standards enables technological solutions which can work together. Horizontal standards
93 hides different complexities in information systems.

94

95 **Opinion: The number of redundant standardisation efforts should be minimal.**

96

97 **Proposal: There could be separation of horizontal standards and vertical standards.**

98

99 **Proposal: There could be different standardisation efforts to horizontal standards and
100 vertical standards.**

101

102 Personally I have advocated using different horizontal standards. For example email standards
103 (horizontal) are implemented with very different technologies (vertical).

104

105 Here we can note some problems:

106

107

- 108 • some systems are based on **de-facto** standards
- 109 • some systems are based on **de-jure** standards
- 110 • there can be confrontations between **de-facto** and **de-jure** standards
- 111 • there can be a monopoly situation in some domain
- 112 • some standards may inhibit possible actions of some stakeholders
- 113 • there can be a standard war on some domains
- 114 • standards have different life-cycles
- 115 • systems have different life-cycles
- 116 • there can be mismatches between different life-cycles
- 117 • there can be failed standards
- 118 • there can be deprecated standards.

119

120 It is quite normal situation in the information technology field that there are competing standards
121 for some application field. Therefore there are all the time ongoing “standards wars” or “format
122 wars”. The information technology standards tend to be interrelated and one “standards war” or
123 “format war” can lead to another similar situation.

124

125 I have advocated open standards even though in some cases open standards are not de facto
126 standards. In practice public sector has very important role, when some standards are competing in
127 the market place. Because public sector has a considerable power when buying/developing
128 information systems and therefore public sector can sometimes direct markets to certain standards.
129 Therefore there should be serious vigilance when assessing different standards and “standards” in
130 some application fields.

131

132 There are different standards setting organisations on the information technology field. One list ¹ of
133 these standards setting organisations is provided by ConsortiumInfo.org.

134

135 One warning can be said about standards setting organisations. All standards setting organisations
136 are not successes based on several factors and there can may irrelevant standards setting
137 organisations. Market situation on different markets varies a lot based on different factors.

138

139 **Proposal: Current standardisation (e.g. list provided by ConsortiumInfo.org) efforts by**
140 **different standard setting organisations could be assessed carefully.**

141

142 Personally I have advocated using different horizontal standards. For example email standards
143 (horizontal) are implemented with very different technologies (vertical).

144

145 **Proposal: Governments should especially concentrate on horizontal standards.**

146

147 **Proposal: Some government agencies could apply for memberships of different**
148 **standard setting organisations which develop especially horizontal standards.**

149

150 **Proposal: Government agencies should not be passive by-standers when different**
151 **horizontal standards are developed.**

1 Standard Setting Organizations and Standards List, www.consortiuminfo.org/links/linksall.php

152

153

Proposal: Government agencies could financially support development of horizontal standards.

154

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156

Proposal: There could some guidance for using open horizontal standards on different application fields.

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158

An example for cooperation: Web feeds (RSS and Atom)

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160



161

162

I have advocated usage of web feeds on several previous opinion documents. Actually there are two standards for web feeds: RSS^{2 3} and Atom^{4 5 6}.

163

164

165

Proposal: Web feeds could be advocated when developing different informations systems.

166

167

168

Proposal: Web feeds (RSS and/or Atom) should be used extensively for providing (real-time) information for different stakeholder(s) (communities).

169

170

171

Proposal: There can be different web feeds (RSS and/or Atom) for different stakeholder(s) – having just one web feed (RSS and/or Atom) may not be a feasible solution.

172

173

174

175

Proposal: Several web feeds (RSS and/or Atom) can be based on different viewpoints.

176

177

178

It can be easier to create web feeds in different information systems since web feeds enable connections without direct system-to-system connections.

179

180

181

It can be noted, that different back-office systems (with a wide variety of different technologies) can implement RSS standards, and these RSS feeds can be used in the front-office systems. With this kind solutions front-office systems don't need direct system-to-system communications with back-office systems.

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2 <http://www.rssboard.org/rss-specification>, RSS 2.0 Specification

3 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RSS>, Wikipedia / RSS

4 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atom_\(standard\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atom_(standard)), Wikipedia / Atom (standard)

5 <https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc4287>, The Atom Syndication Format

6 <https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5023>, The Atom Publishing Protocol

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ANNEX 1

General page for my previous opinions is following:

www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html

Information about previous Australian consultations:

EN: Opinion 54: Government Content Management System

http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_54

EN: Opinion 56: National Identity Proofing Guidelines

http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_56

EN: Opinion 57: Updating the Commonwealth Procurement Rules

http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_57

EN: Opinion 72: Queensland biofuel mandate

http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_72

EN: Opinion 73: Financial / Conceptual Frameworks

http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_73

EN: Opinion 78: Consumer Complaints Register (NSW)

http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_78

EN: Opinion 79: PCEHR (Information Commissioner Enforcement Powers) Guidelines 2015

http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_79

EN: Opinion 85: Regulatory options for automated vehicles

http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_85

EN: Opinion 87: Assessing privacy and big data on the Internet

http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_87

EN: Opinion 90: Consent / Information and Privacy Commission NSW (IPC)

http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_90

EN: Opinion 103: About lobbying - New South Wales

http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_103

EN: Opinion 115: Framework for Secondary Use of My Health Record Data

http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_115

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246

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251

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270

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