



Advancing SDIs: The Role of Standards

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Why are standards important?



- Communication is impossible without standards
 - We have agreed to communicate verbally
 - We have agreed to use the English language
- What is a standard?
 - “Something, such as a practice, that is widely recognized or employed, especially because of its excellence.”
- Standards have been instrumental in our age
 - Power grids – volts, cycles, plugs
 - Automobile parts – batteries, tires, belts, etc.
 - Computer parts – hard drives, CDs, monitors, plugs
- All of these started out ‘proprietary’ and migrated to public acceptance via standards – lower costs to use them

How is it done in IT today?



- De Jure (legally endorsed by governments) standards provide the high level guidance “design to” requirements
 - International Standards Organization (ISO)
 - OGC is proud of its Class A Liaison status with TC 211 and TC 204
 - Committee for European Normalization (CEN)
 - Many national standards bodies (ANSI, BSI, DIN, etc.)
- Open, consensus standards provide the “build to” guts
 - World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)
 - Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)
 - Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS)
 - Open Mobile Alliance (OMA)
 - Open Geospatial Consortium, Inc. (OGC)

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