

Re: Tool for document management

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* Steve Lamb <grey@xxxxxxxxxx> [070924 23:21]:

First off Word suffers from the same problem. I found out the hard way on one of my scripting projects. So there's precedent. The second reason is that OOo developers have stated, many times, that the format's not designed to be manipulated by anything other than OOo so no consideration is given to either human readability or to the usefulness of other tools. That, too, I found in reading up on putting ODTs in some sort of repository.

As a writer and programmer, it appears to me that it is OpenOffice — rather than SVN — which is unsuited for the application which is the basis for this thread.

I use XEMacs daily to produce LaTeX documents. I have frequent need to search my archives of material I have written in the past, and I use grep for this purpose. It is difficult for me to imagine an advantage offered by OpenOffice which would compensate for the inability to make use of grep in searching my archives.

Moreover, I learned the hard way the potential cost of a proprietary file system for document storage, when, as the calendar rolled over from A.D 1999 to A.D. 2000, M\$ Word 5.0 for DOS began writing garbage to document files (one of the few genuine Y2K bugs). It was that experience which prompted my rapid migration to GNU/Linux and EMacs.

RLH

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