



Safeguarding the
Future of Linux
Through Standards

linuxprinting.org
merges with
FSG OpenPrinting

Free Standards Group

Safeguarding the Future of Linux through Standards

Till Kamppeter

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FSG OpenPrinting Goals

- Develop and promote a set of standards that will address the needs of desktop to enterprise-ready printing, including management, reliability, security, scalability, printer feature access and network accessibility.
- Provide cross distribution printer support for Linux and access to full functionality of latest printers and MFPs.
- Reduce development, testing, and support burden for printer manufacturers, distribution vendors and ISV's.
- Do this work in a way that is pragmatic: able to be implemented quickly to the widest market.



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What we had before

- linuxprinting.org is the principal web site about printing with Linux, Unix, and similar OS
 - Printer compatibility database with more than 2000 printer entries
 - Printer driver database with more than 250 free drivers
 - Data contributed by users, driver developers and printer manufacturers
 - Integration of drivers with all common printing systems (CUPS, LPD, LPRng, PPR, PDQ, ...) using Adobe's PPD format to describe printer/driver capabilities
 - All major distributions use this system to list supported printers and integrate printer drivers
 - User support mailing lists



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Move to Free Standards Group

- Site has move from its founder's home to the FSG servers
 - More reliable and secure
- Added form where users can create new printer entries
 - More than 200 user-contributed entries since July
- All static pages and FAQs will be converted to Wiki pages
 - Users can contribute their knowledge and experience immediately
- Mailing lists will be converted to web forums
 - Easier to use for end users
 - Easier to search



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Linuxprinting.org -> FSG OpenPrinting database

- Integration of linuxprinting.org Foomatic database into LSB product directories
 - LSB Certified printers for printers that have gone through the LSB certification program
 - LSB compliant printers for current (community supported) printers that are compliant
- Addition of distribution-independent driver packages to printer database
- All information human- and machine-readable (with API)
- Setup tools of distros can download drivers and driver updates directly from database using API



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Certification and testing

- Standardized, distribution-independent testing
- FSG certification for printers
- Listing of results in FSG OP database
- Testing performed by: Printer vendors, free software community, third-party services
- Certified printers should “just work” on LSB-certified distributions



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Distribution-independent driver packages

- Based on LSB 3.2 standards
 - Driver interfaces IJS, CUPS, OPVP
 - Directory structure for drivers/PPDs
 - LSB packages
- Driver packages will be hosted at FSG OpenPrinting
- Driver packages will be referenced in driver database entries



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Automatic driver download by printer setup tool

- All information in FSG OpenPrinting database must be machine-readable
- Driver package must contain info about: version, free/non-free, architecture
- Setup tool should download driver if
 - no driver on local machine
 - newer driver in FSG OP database
- API for database access: List drivers for printer, download/install driver, ...



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Important dates/Timeline

- FSG Printing summit (October 2006)
- End of Year: linuxprinting.org integrate with FSG site (look and feel only)
- Q4 06/Q1 07:
 - CUPS API (application), CUPS Raster/OpenPrinting Vector/IJS and FHS printer driver layout added to LSB
 - linuxprinting.org database merged with existing LSB database
 - Usability study on how best to structure our Product directory



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Important dates/Timeline

- LSB 3.2 (Q2 2007)
 - CUPS API provides access to full printer functionality in LSB applications
 - FHS enhancements provide standard paths for printer drivers and filters
 - LSB Certified Printer program launched, printers added to Product directory, DDK and related driver developer material added to LSB Developer Network



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FSG OpenPrinting database

Questions ?