Exercise: Open file formats

Group exercise of 10–15 minutes

Learning objective: Becoming aware of file formats used daily and their openness

Let participants write down on post-its all the file formats they use in their daily work. Then get the post-its and stick them to the whiteboard or flipchart. Try to cluster them as best as you can into categories or groups (text, tabular, statistical, video, image, etc.).

Discuss the results with the audience. Talk about the openness of these file formats and possible alternatives.

Materials and tools needed: a few stacks of post-its, pen and a whiteboard or flipchart

Level of prior knowledge needed: no prior knowledge needed

Things to bear in mind: prepare for "exotic" file formats that are subject-specific or machine-dependent or let the participants describe them.

How to adapt for other purposes: You can also use web tools like PINGO (http://trypingo.com) for the collection of file formats or let participants write down their file formats on a piece of paper and collect those, if you don't want to use post-its.