

Database Support for OpenDocument

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Present state

- OpenOffice.org
 - Database queries provide data inserted into text areas (a kind of snapshot of the data)
 - Reporting solution, often used to perform a mail merge
- KOffice
 - A support for inserting user-defined fields
 - Database app will provide database functionality for other KOffice apps (planned: Kexi 2.0 in KDE4)

Problems

- Two different worlds: storage layer and exchange format
- XML at storage level means performance penalty for real-world applications
- Two solutions: binary vs XML
- Binary does not mean undocumented
- XML does not mean open (MSOOXML)
- XML does not mean recoverable (zip file is still a binary)

Proposals

- OpenOffice.org/SUN reconsiders using embedded portable and widely used backend, e.g. SQLite (already used in Kexi for self-contained databases)
- Plans for developing a specification for exchanging data and rich database schema
- (above things are orthogonal, ODF specs could say nothing about storage format, as it is the case with filesystems)