Microsoft Office Protocols Readme

Microsoft is implementing four new interoperability principles and corresponding actions across its high-volume business products: (1) ensuring open connections; (2) promoting data portability; (3) enhancing support for industry standards; and (4) fostering more open engagement with customers and the industry, including open source communities.

Read the full Microsoft PressPass article:
http://www.microsoft.com/presspass/press/2008/feb08/02-21ExpandInteroperabilityPR.mspx

Office Open Specifications Introduction

http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=119899

Microsoft makes available information about protocols, binary file formats, and other specifications for a number of its most popular products, including various versions of Windows and Windows Server, Microsoft SQL Server, Microsoft Office, Microsoft Exchange Server, and Microsoft Office SharePoint Server. These technical specifications enable and encourage a vibrant development community, resulting in smarter, interoperable products.

Important notes about the documentation

- **"Copy Code" button does not currently work in Firefox.** It is a known issue that the "Copy Code" button that appears on code samples in an Open Specification does not copy code to the clipboard when the specification is viewed in the Firefox Web browser. Instead of using the button, highlight the code and copy it.

- **Download all interoperability-related PDF documents to the same directory to retain links.** If you use the PDF versions of the Open Specifications, be sure to download all of the documents to the same directory. Hyperlinks between specifications require the documents to be in the same directory to work. Note that if you download additional protocol documents from Microsoft, they should also be stored in the same directory to enable linking.

- **Adobe Reader 8.0 provides best readability for documents.** For optimal readability of the PDF documents, it is recommended that they be opened and viewed by using Adobe Reader 8.0. Earlier versions of Adobe Reader might not provide the same reading quality.

- **Technical documentation links don't resolve in Adobe Reader 9.** This is a change introduced by Adobe, which has altered the default setting for view mode in Adobe Reader 9. In order to access links, users need to change their settings so that the document is not in view mode.

  1. In Adobe Reader 9, go to the **Edit** menu and click **Preferences**. In the **Categories** list, click **Documents**.

  2. Under **PDF/A View Mode**, change the selection from **Only for PDF/A documents** to **Never**, and click **OK**.

Additional details on changing the setting can be located on the Adobe help site:
http://help.adobe.com/en_US/Acrobat/9.0/Standard/WS3E0E8467-B787-4020-A1D3-6BC762A42DF2.w.html

Documentation Roadmap and Forum Information

To navigate the documentation set, follow these guidelines:

- If you are new to the documentation set or new to Microsoft Office, it would be useful for you to read all the overview documents to make yourself familiar with the organization of the documentation set, as well as with Microsoft Office concepts and how protocols relate to each other. We recommend that you read the overview documents:

Protocol	Description
[MS-OCPROTO]: Office Client Protocols Overview http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc339482.aspx	Specifies the Office Client Protocols Overview, which provides an overview of the client and server protocols used by the applications of Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2010 Technical Preview. This overview covers protocols that are commonly shared by all applications in Office Professional Plus 2010 Technical Preview, and those protocols that are used by only specific applications in Office Professional Plus 2010 Technical Preview. Where appropriate, this overview describes the relationships between protocols and provides example scenarios to show how they are used.
[MS-OCSPROT]: Office Communications Server Protocols Overview http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc339480.aspx	Specifies the Office Communications Server Protocols Overview, which is a high-level description of the protocols used by Microsoft Office Communicator 2007 Service Pack 1 and Microsoft Office Communications Server 2007 Service Pack 1 for instant messaging, presence, conferencing, voice, and video scenarios.
[MS-GRVPROT]: Groove Protocols Overview http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc313128.aspx	Specifies the Groove Protocols Overview, which contains a brief description of the client, relay server, management server, and data bridge server, and the protocols used between the client and servers.

After you have read the documents above, access the protocol specification(s) in which you are interested.

- Go directly to the protocol specification(s) in which you are interested.

Reference	Details
Office Protocols on MSDN http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=119899	Click to view this content online
Office Protocols .zip file http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=112500	Download all protocols in a single (large) ZIP file
Find downloads to specific, individual Office Protocols .pdf files http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=112501	Details page from where you can download individual protocol files

- For more support, see the following forums:

Reference	Details
Open Specifications Forum Group: http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=111125	Participate in the top-level forum group.
Using the Open Specifications:	Ask questions about the Open Specifications

Reference	Details
http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=111122	documents, their organization, language conventions, and references.
Windows Protocols: http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=111123	Discuss technical content and implementation of the Windows protocols described in the Open Specifications.
File Services: http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=111124	Discuss technical content and implementation of Server Message Block (SMB) protocols described in the Open Specifications.
Using the Office Open Specifications: http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=112502	Discuss technical content and implementation of the Office protocols described in the Open Specifications.
Using the Exchange Server Protocols: http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=113883	Discuss technical content and implementation of the Exchange Server and Outlook protocols described in the Open Specifications.
Using the SharePoint Products and Technologies Protocols: http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=115477	Discuss technical content and implementation of the SharePoint Products and Technologies protocols described in the Open Specifications.
Office Binary File Formats: http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=117117	Discuss technical content and implementation of the Office binary file formats described in the Open Specifications.
Using the Microsoft SQL Server Protocols: http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=115249	Discuss technical content and implementation of the Microsoft SQL Server protocols described in the Open Specifications.
Using the Microsoft VBA Language specifications: http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=121751	Discuss technical content and implementation of the Microsoft VBA language specifications described in the Open Specifications.
Documentation on Standards: http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=129153	Discuss technical content and implementation of certain standards as they are implemented in Microsoft's high-volume products.
Office Open Document Format Implementation: http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=140401	Discuss technical content and implementation of the Office implementation of the ODF 1.1 standard.
Interoperability Scenarios: Technical Questions: http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=146298	Discuss implementation of technical scenarios around interoperability.