

UK + PT Proposal – addition to Part 1 on Application Descriptions

2.5.1 Application Descriptions

An application may be defined as conforming to zero or more application descriptions in a particular conformance class.

The application descriptions defined within this Specification are:

- Base
- Full

NOTE: These application descriptions should not be taken as limiting the ability of an application provider to create innovative applications. They are intended as a mechanism for labelling applications rather than for restricting their capabilities. The intention is to promote interoperability between different applications that share the same conformance class. Application descriptions are orthogonal to the conformance of the documents produced by those applications. For example, a tool used for automated translation of documents might have an application description of “Base” but will still produce fully conformant documents. end note

The application descriptions are determined in terms of an application’s “semantic understanding” of particular features. “Semantic understanding” is to be interpreted that an application shall treat the information in Office Open XML documents in a manner consistent with the semantic definitions given in this Specification.

Each application description is identified by a URI.

The application descriptions are defined as follows:

2.5.1.1 Base application description

Description URI: <http://descriptions.openxmlformats.org/description/base>

An application conforming to this description has a semantic understanding of at least one feature within its conformance class.

NOTE: Applications that include a user interface are in addition strongly recommended to support all accessibility features appropriate to that user interface. end note

2.5.1.2 Full application description

Description URI: <http://descriptions.openxmlformats.org/description/full>

An application conforming to this description has a semantic understanding of every feature within its conformance class.

2.5.1.3 Additional application descriptions

It is expected that additional application descriptions will be defined within the maintenance process for this specification. It is also expected that third parties may define their own application descriptions, for example to inform their procurement decisions, or to deal with domains such as accessibility.

NOTE: A possible application description would be a “standard” application description for a wordprocessing application. This could be created by taking the intersection of the features available in common wordprocessing applications such as Word 2000, OpenOffice 2, WordPerfect and iWork Pages. It could in addition define formats such as specific image and video formats required to be supported to conform to the description. Similar descriptions could be created for spreadsheet applications and presentation applications. Such a description would promote interoperability between applications implementing OOXML. It would also promote interoperability between applications implementing OOXML and applications implementing other document formats such as ISO 26300. end note

Application descriptions are not required to be strict subsets of each other. An application may simultaneously conform to multiple application descriptions.

Any such newly created description shall enumerate the features that are required for conformance to it. Such a description should provide a machine-processable schema, preferably using a standard such as ISO/IEC 19757.

NOTE: If the application conforming to a description is a document consumer, it should be able to consume any document that respects such a schema associated with the description. If the application is a document producer, any document produced by that application should respect the schema of the description. end note

Any such description should be identified using a URI, in a similar manner to the names used for application descriptions within this Specification.

NOTE: For the convenience of users of the description, it is recommended that creators of a description should make a human- or machine-readable form of that description available at a URL corresponding to the description URI. end note

2.5.1.4 Representation of application descriptions within documents

An application description is related to applications, rather than to document conformance. There is therefore no normative mechanism for representing an application description within a document.

NOTE: It is recommended that implementers wishing to represent an application description within a document use the standard metadata mechanism for Office Open XML. end note