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EDITOR'S NOTE:

All for One and One for All

In the [last issue](#) of **Standards Today**, I proposed the need to recognize what I called "Civil ICT Rights," which I defined as our traditional civil rights, as increasingly expressed virtually on line through information and communications technology (ICT) rather than physically and face to face. I also suggested the need to recognize the special status of the "Civil ICT Standards" needed to secure those rights.

In this issue I return to the topic of virtual expression, this time focusing on collaborative rather than individual expression. In this case, technology has provided not just an expanded reach, but a more fundamental renaissance, as communities can, and are, coalescing nationally, regionally and even globally, allowing knowledge to be shared used simultaneously rather than sequentially. The result has been an explosion of interest in "openness" of every type – in standards, in software, in hardware, in development, in content, and more.

The benefits that can be gained from such openness are bringing about a reconsideration of the proper balance to be struck between the rights of those that create and those that consume. Happily, it is the creators that are leading the drive to reset this balance, because of the gains that they can reap from this new spirit of collaboration.

I begin this examination in my **Editorial** by noting the degree of creative ferment that is ongoing in the marketplace, and suggesting that the legal system should allow this process to continue rather than try to codify its conclusions at too preliminary a state.

I do a deeper dive in this issue's **Feature Article**, placing the drive towards open collaboration in historical context, and providing an overview of the many types of open methodologies and subject matter that are being actively and enthusiastically pursued today.

The **Standards Blog** selection for this month provides a bridge between this issue and the last, announcing a human rights statement entitled **The Hague Declaration** that was issued this month by a new non-profit organization of which I am proud to be a co-founder. That organization is called the Digital Standards Organization (Digistan.org for short). You can read more about Digistan and its mission [here](#). The Hague Declaration calls upon governments everywhere to

recognize Civil ICT Standards (the Declaration refers to them as “free and open standards”). Hopefully, governments will heed this call to give special treatment to those “alpha standards” upon which our human freedoms rely.

I round out this issue, as usual, with the latest installment of the ***Consider This*** series, which focuses on the concept of “alpha standards” from a different, and less serious perspective.

As always, I hope you enjoy this issue.

Andrew Updegrove
Editor and Publisher
2005 ANSI President's
Award for Journalism

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