

EDITOR'S NOTE

NOW WE ARE THE JETSONS

Those who have attained the lofty age of 45 or so will remember one of the more successful Hannah Barbera cartoon series, called "The Jetsons." In that series (and in many other books, movies and television shows over the past 75 years), a world was imagined where homes possessed the technology to serve every whim and desire of their owners.

Today, after many decades of anticipation, the digital home is beginning to become a reality, made possible not only by the maturation of various types of technology, but also by the development of a host of standards in areas ranging from telecommunications, to networking, to data formats to an ever-growing family of wireless standards. And if we are not yet able to replicate the home imagined by Ray Bradbury in "The Veldt", we have certainly entered an era where our homes truly will be more comfortable, more safe, more energy efficient and more entertaining than ever before.

The theme of this issue of the **CSB**, therefore, is the SSOs and the standards that are making the digital home possible and in describing these organizations and their work product to illustrate how such an infrastructure can rapidly emerge, utilizing existing organizations and forming new ones. At the same time, I use this evolution to highlight how stakeholders behave when they have much to gain (or lose) as a result of the new standards that are created.

This month's **Editorial** begins the review by examining the most fundamentally important family of standards that are making the digital home possible – the rapidly expanding family of wireless standards that have been, and continue to be, developed.

The **Feature Article** uses the evolution of the digital home as a case study, in order to demonstrate how new standards ecosystems evolve. It does so by taking a closer look at each of the major areas of innovation that is making the digital home a reality, and identifies many of the individual SSOs that have created the standards in each of these areas. It also describes the often "unruly" dynamics that have accompanied - and sometimes impeded - progress in these sectors.

In this month's **Standards Blog** entry, I return to a topic that I have been following since September of last year: the ongoing saga in Massachusetts relating to the adoption of the OpenDocument Format (ODF) by the Commonwealth's Executive Agencies. This particular blog entry (among many that I have posted on this and other topics since the last issue) offers my guess that presidential hopeful Governor Mitt Romney has decided that standing firm behind ODF makes better political sense than flip-flopping and giving in to special interests in the wake of the Abramoff scandal.

In my **Consider This...** essay for this month, I reflect on the fact that the "standard American" is now, shall we say, rather "larger" than not so long ago.

And finally, as usual, I close with ***The Rest of the News***, presenting what I thought were some of the most noteworthy news stories and press releases out of the many that I chose and posted at the ConsortiumInfo.org News Portal since the last issue of the **CSB**.

As always, I hope you enjoy this issue.

Best Regards,

Andrew Updegrove
Editor and Publisher
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Award for Journalism