

# ITEDO and ATA Standards

## Introduction

ITEDO's position towards standards has always been a positive one. ITEDO strongly believes that open standards are a necessary prerequisite for users to maintain their data safely over years and decades.

ITEDO is committed to support standards when they become important for technical illustration if possible. In the past, this has led to support for major standard formats like CGM, SVG, PNG, JPEG, IGES, VRML, CALS Raster, and de-facto standards like TIFF, DXF, and others.

ITEDO is convinced that standards alone are useless unless there are products that reliably support them. Therefore, we are committed to support the standards as good as possible.

The user is the central focus of ITEDO. We will help our users in applying the standards to their work area. ITEDO considers itself as an interface between the users of a standard and the standard itself. The user shall not have to learn a standard, he just should know how to use it. There should not be a difference between the standard's capabilities in theory and the practical user experience.

ITEDO's specific interest is the technical illustration sector, and ITEDO will work with formats that suit the task. Based on our experiences, we will try our best to educate the users about the differences in standards and the potential pitfalls. This will always happen in a technically fair and unbiased form as much as possible.

ITEDO's customers value our work in the standards arena very highly, and we promise to keep this always in mind.

## ATA GREXCHANGE

### History

ITEDO has participated in standardization efforts since 1996. Over the years we have contributed work to most groups controlling a CGM profile, e.g. the ATA Graphics Working Group (GREXCHANGE and IGEXCHANGE profiles), the CALS community (CALS profile), and the J2008 Graphics Working Group (J2008 profile).

ITEDO has also contributed to the work done on the ISO 8632:1999 standard.

Dieter Weidenbrück is one of the authors of the WebCGM profile that came into life as a cooperation between W3C and CGM Open. ITEDO was one of the founding members of CGM Open, and Dieter Weidenbrück has served as the Chairman of this consortium for several years. After the transition in to a Member Section of the OASIS consortium, Dieter has become the Chairman of the Member Section.

## **ITEDO and CGM**

ITEDO considers CGM to be the most important standard format currently in use for technical illustration. Major industries have standardized on CGM for their graphics delivery. Therefore, ITEDO pursues the following goals regarding CGM:

- We want to provide the most stable and complete CGM support in our products
- We want to keep our CGM support up to date as quickly as possible
- We will continue to contribute to the development of the important CGM profiles and the ISO standard itself.
- We will cooperate with other vendors and users to isolate problem areas, and try to resolve the issues

## **ITEDO and GREXCHANGE**

ITEDO's products support import and export of CGM files that are compliant to the ATA GREXCHANGE profile up to version 2.8 (see list below for details).

As of today (April 2004), GREXCHANGE 2.9 is still in draft state. It is expected to be released soon. As always, ITEDO will support the latest version of the profile once it becomes available. At this point in time this is expected for mid 2004, because it depends on the actual release date of the ATA standard. The immediate support for version 2.9 is important to ITEDO and our users, because it has been spelled out as a requirement for the Airbus A380 project.

The most important changes from 2.8 to 2.9 are

- deprecation of the APS grgroup
- addition of APS layer, subpara and respective attributes
- new APS attribute "behavior"
- definition for an external SGML companion file

GREXCHANGE 2.9 is known to contain certain defects, especially in the area of the SGML companion file. These defects will be resolved with the next version (presumably 2.10) of GREXCHANGE. We will provide immediate functionality to write SGML companion files in compliance with the wording in 2.9, and we will follow up with changes once the defects will have been resolved.

## **Product Support**

IsoDraw	Import	Export
IsoDraw CADprocess	Import	Export
IsoView	Import	
IsoCompose	Import	Export