

# Format Background Document: Microsoft PowerPoint 10.0

Date: July 14, 2005

## GDFR data

**Canonical identifier** info:gdf/fred/f/powerpoint

**Description** Microsoft PowerPoint

### Alias

**Type** MIME media type

**Value** application/vnd.ms-powerpoint

**Note** application/powerpoint and application/mspowerpoint may have been used in past? need to research.

### Alias

**Type** Informal identifier

**Value** Microsoft PowerPoint XP/2000

**Version** 10.0

### Legal or recognized owner

**Name** Microsoft Corporation

**Organization type** Commercial (for-profit) entity

**Web site** <http://www.microsoft.com>

### Relationship

**Type of relation** May be encapsulated by target

#### Target format identifier

**Type** GDFR format identifier

**Value** gdf/fred/f/ole2cdf

#### Target registry identifier

**Type** GDFR registry identifier

**Value** Fred

### Specification

**Document title** Microsoft PowerPoint 97 File Format SDK

**Document type** Manual

#### Access regime

**Access type** Unrestricted access

**Note** Unclear if this document is legal

**Identifier** <http://www.wotsit.org/search.asp?s=ppt>

### Signature

**Signature obligation** Mandatory under certain conditions (see notes)

**External signature type** File extension

**Signature value** .ppt

**Note** denotes presentation

### Signature

**Signature obligation** Mandatory under certain conditions (see notes)

**External signature type** File extension

**Signature value** .pps

**Note** denotes slideshow

### Signature

**Signature obligation** Mandatory under certain conditions (see notes)

**External signature type** File extension

**Signature value** .pot

**Note** denotes template

**Signature**

**Signature obligation** Mandatory under certain conditions (see notes)

**External signature type** File extension

**Signature value** .ppa

**Note** denotes add-in

**Signature**

**Signature obligation** Mandatory

**Signature position** Fixed position (requires offset)

**Byte offset** 0

**Signature value** 0xD0 0xCF 0x11 0xE0 0xA1 0xB1 0x1A 0xE1

**Note** This signature identifies an OLE Compound Document, which may or may not contain Excel data

**Application**

**Application name** Microsoft PowerPoint

**Application version** XP/2002

**Application release date** 2001

**Vendor**

**Name** Microsoft Corporation

**Organization type** Commercial (for-profit) entity

**Application's function**

**Process type** Creates objects in the format

**Application's function**

**Process type** Renders objects in the format

**Software dependency**

**Application name** Microsoft Windows

**Application version** 95/98/Me/NT/2000/XP

**Application release date** 1995

**Vendor** Name Microsoft Corporation

**Organization type** Commercial (for-profit) entity

**Non-GDFR data**

**1.General**

**1.1 Description (long)**

Microsoft PowerPoint 10.0 is the native file format of Microsoft's PowerPoint presentation software. It is a binary file format that is always contained within a Compound Document File ([OpenOffice CompoundDoc]).

Note: I've chosen PowerPoint 10.0 for this document because a) it is the last version before it became possible to output the document in some form of XML b) although there appears to be no publicly available spec, either official or unofficial, after PowerPoint 97, there is an unofficial spec for Excel 10, as well as one for the Microsoft Compound Document format, published by OpenOffice.org [OpenOffice CompoundDoc]. Since the Excel spec appears to be the most comprehensive and up-to-date documentation for any Microsoft Office format, I've decided to stick with that version for all Office formats. It's not clear to me how much the PowerPoint format has changed between PowerPoint 97 and PowerPoint 2003.

**1.2 Content type:** presentation, image, text

**2. Category-specific** (e.g., color depth, color space, progressive display, etc.)

### 3. General technical

**3.1 Encoding** Unicode

**3.2 Byte order** Little Endian

**3.3 Encryption** A PowerPoint document may be encrypted with RC4 encryption if a user chooses to use password protection (Note: there may be other types of encryption available?)

**3.4 Human readable:** no

### 4. Sustainability

**4.1 Proprietary** Yes.

**4.2 Owner documentation** There are no publicly available specs, official or unofficial. Although Microsoft publishes no formation about the file format itself, it provides a great deal of documentation about using PowerPoint.

**4.3 Other documentation** Wotsit.org [Wotsit] has a spec for PowerPoint 97 that it claims is from the Microsoft website. The spec is a collection of .htm/.gif pages without an index page, and therefore difficult to use. Other than this, there appears to be almost no information on the innards of PowerPoint. Non-Microsoft sources of information on Excel—such as the Jakarta POI project and OpenOffice.org—do not appear to provide anything like the same level of documentation about PowerPoint as they do for Excel. The Jakarta POI project [POI] supposedly has a subproject on PowerPoint (HSLF), but the project pages contain extremely sparse documentation. The best third-party site I've found is a faq sponsored by PPTools software [PPTools].

**4.4 Adoption** I haven't been able to find verifiable numbers on Microsoft's share of the presentation market. I've seen estimates of Microsoft's share of the overall office application market as being at about 90%. The share for PowerPoint may be even higher.

**4.5 Competition** PowerPoint's competitors are Apple's Keynote and OpenOffice.org's Impress. Other applications are also occasionally used for presentations, such as Web browsers and PDF files..

#### 4.6 Licensing and patent claims

**4.7 Other preservation issues** PowerPoint documents can contain various items that complicate preservation strategies. An OLE compound document file can contain other types of streams, most notably macros in Visual Basic, and streams created by other Microsoft Office Applications.

### 5.0 Lifecycle

**5.1 Version duration** 1.5 years?

**5.2 Version history** A comprehensive list does not appear to be anywhere on the Microsoft site. I assembled this list from two sites: PPTools [PPTools versions] and the Wikipedia site on Microsoft Office [Wikipedia].

#### Mac

1	1987
3	?
4	?
Word 98	1998
Word 2001	2000
Word v.X	2001
Word 2004	2004

#### Windows

3	1993
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4	1994
7/Word 95	1995
8/Word 97	1997
9/Word 2000	1999
10/Word XP	2001
11/Word 2003	2003

**5.3 Expected new version** PowerPoint 11 was released in late 2003. In the past Microsoft has generally released a new version approximately every 1.5 years, but the current date estimate for Office 12 is mid/late 2006.

## **6. Local use (DSpace at MIT)**

**6.1 Holdings** as of January 2005: 2

**6.2 Support level** known

## **7. Useful URLs**

[OpenOffice CompoundDoc] OpenOffice Microsoft Compound Document Format Specification  
<http://sc.openoffice.org/compdocfileformat.pdf>

[Wotsit] Link to Microsoft PowerPoint 8/Office 97 Format spec  
<http://www.wotsit.org/search.asp?s=ppt>

[POI] Jakarta POI project  
<http://jakarta.apache.org/poi/>

[PPTools] PPTools – PowerTools for PowerPoint  
<http://www.rdpslides.com/pptfaq/>

[PPTools versions]  
<http://www.rdpslides.com/pptfaq/FAQ00077.htm>

[Wikipedia] Wikipedia: Microsoft Office  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft\\_Office](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Office)