

# Open formats, what for?

## ▶ So that users might read my documents unhindered

Users exchanging reports.



**CLOSED FORMAT, IDENTICAL SOFTWARE**

Alice uses the software program "Carcera<sup>(1)</sup>." She records her report in a closed format (one that does not permit interoperability), then sends it to Bob, who has the same software program. He can read the document, modify it and send it back to Alice.



**PROGRAMS WITH CLOSED FORMATS, DIFFERENT SOFTWARE**

The following day, Alice sends her report to Albert. He has a different software program, which refuses to open the document. Albert has no other choice than to acquire the Carcera software used by Alice, with the hope it is compatible with its computer.



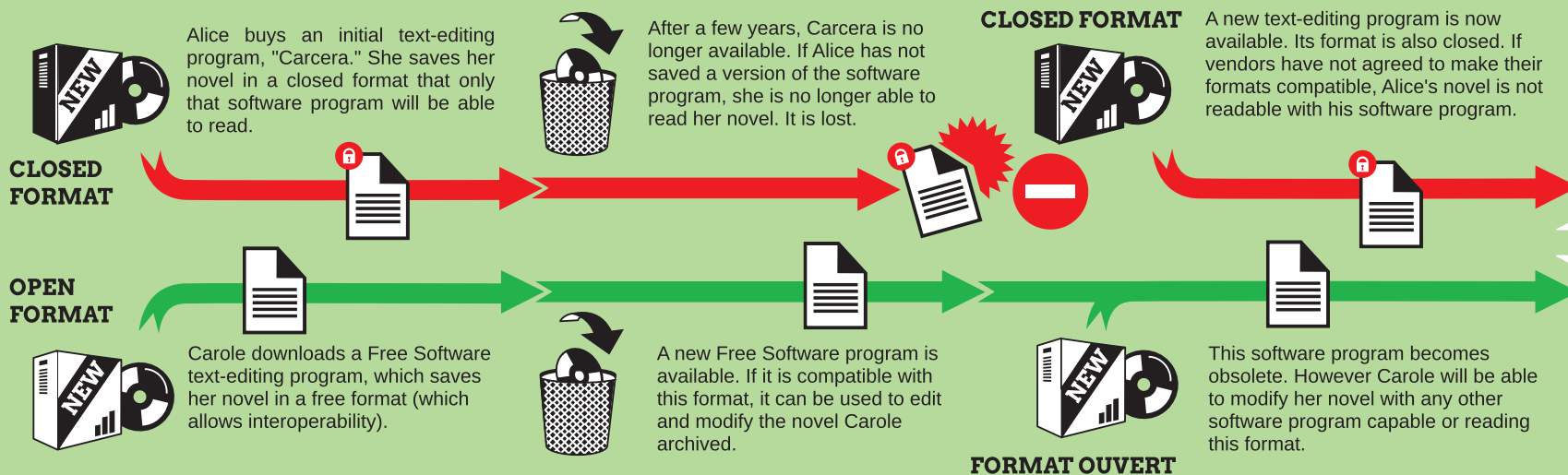
**PROGRAMS WITH OPEN FORMATS, DIFFERENT SOFTWARE**

Carole, another user, chooses to record her report in open format (allowing for interoperability) and sends it to David. David can read the document, modify and record it, either by using the same open format software or by using another interoperable software program.

So that your documents might be read more easily by other people, without you having to worry about which software they use, choose open formats.

## ▶ To ensure the longevity of my documents

Alice and Carole use text editors to write, save, and preserve a novel.



The availability and longevity of your documents, saved in a closed format, depends on the decisions of software vendors.

In your interest, choose software programs that save your documents in open formats. They are not dependent on any particular software program.