

OPEN OFFICE

a viable alternative to Microsoft Office

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What is Open Office?

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- Open Source alternative to Microsoft Office
- Aim has always been to provide full compatibility with
 - ▣ Excel
 - ▣ Word
 - ▣ PowerPoint
- Compatibility is not perfect but improving
- Big company politics has recently muddied the water

- Sun Microsystems
 - Bought Star office – commercial offering
 - Open Office – Open Source sharing same code base
- Oracle Bought Sun Microsystems
 - OS Developer confidence in Oracle commitment waned
- Document Foundation formed
 - Libre Office was spawned from OO code base around version 3.3
- Oracle transferred license to Apache Foundation
 - Uncertainty remains with hostility between the organisations

Document Foundation

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- Document Foundation
 - ▣ Seem to have majority of the Open Office developers
 - Have a head start on Apache (at least 6 months) and have a new release (3.4) with additional features
 - Have significantly tidied up code and removed a lot of legacy junk
 - Have significantly eliminated dependency on Java and speeded up code
 - Can freely use any code from Apache Foundation
 - ▣ License terms apparently make it difficult for IBM to use the code from the LO code repositories

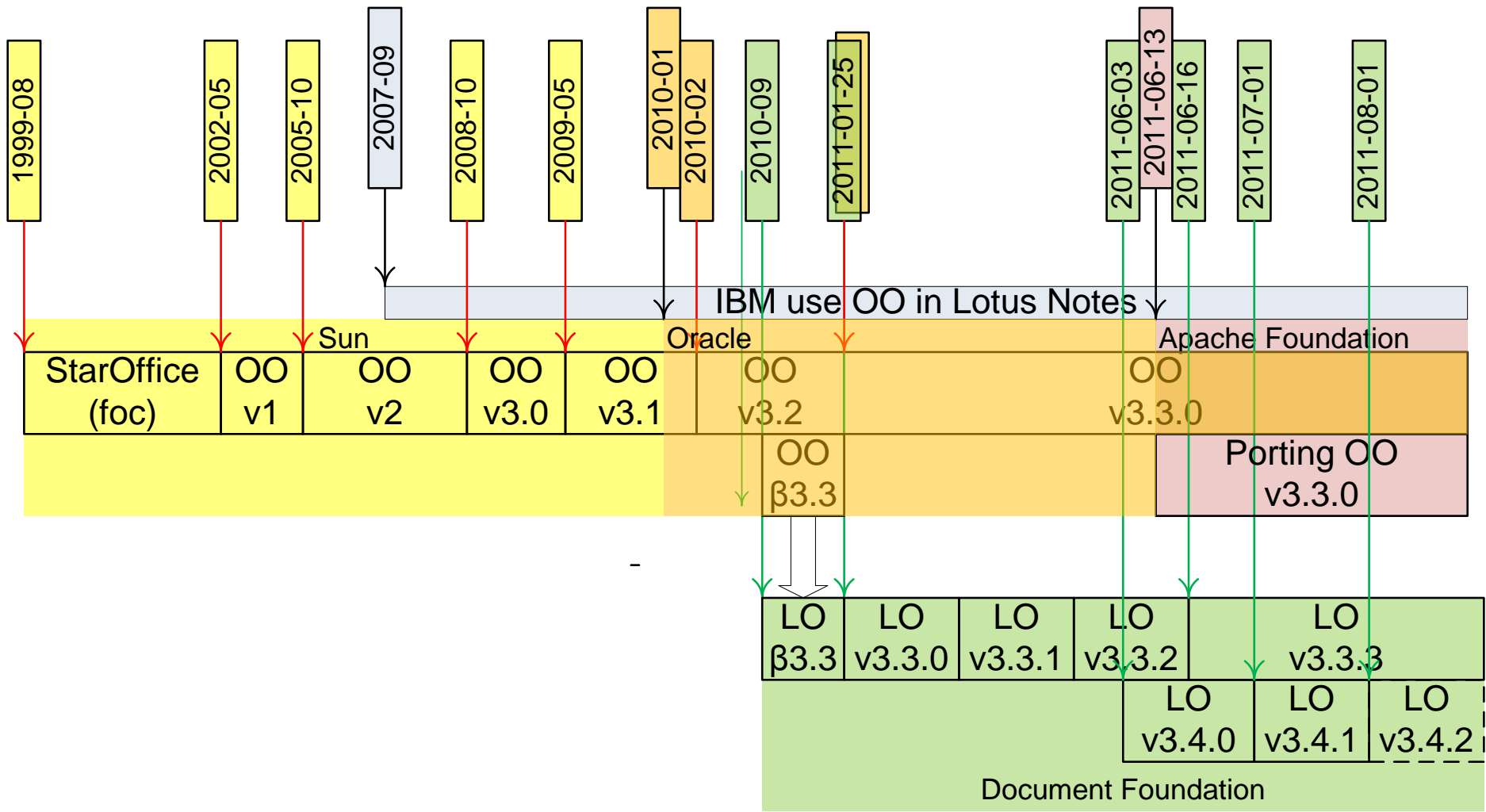
Apache Foundation

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- Have a good reputation
 - ▣ Backed by IBM
 - ▣ Used as the basis of IBM office suite
 - License terms permit IBM to use the code
 - License terms prevent AF from using DF code
- No experience with office products
 - ▣ No track record with binary installations for consumers
 - Most of their products issued in source code
 - ▣ Source code repository transferred from Oracle seems to be incomplete and will take time to sort out

Open Office to Libre Office

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What happens next?

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- It does not matter in the short term!
 - ▣ Both OO and LO are compatible with same standards
 - ▣ They have slightly different appearances
- Apache have not yet committed to adopt OO
 - ▣ Currently an “incubator” project
 - ▣ IBM will have a problem if they drop it
- Document Foundation
 - ▣ Legal status uncertain – under German regulation
 - ▣ Have released a new version with additional features

Quote from LO site

LibreOffice 3.4.2 is the result of the combined activity of 300 contributors having made more than **23,000 commits**, with the addition, deletion or modification of around **five million lines of code**. The developer community is well balanced between company-sponsored contributors and independent community volunteers: Oracle and SUSE have each provided around 25% of the commits, with a further 25% coming from community volunteers new to the project since our inception, and with a further 20% from RedHat. The remaining commits came from a combination of pre-TDF contributors, Canonical developers, and organizations like Bobiciel, CodeThink, Lanedo, SIL, and Tata Consultancy Services.

Interesting Comment about status

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- This was published August 8 2010
 - <http://olex.openlogic.com/wazi/2011/libreoffice-vs-openoffice-org-showdown-for-best-open-source-office-suite/>
 - A reasonable summary of the state of play

What does OO/LO contain?

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- Writer
 - ▣ Equivalent to/compatible with MS Word
- Calc
 - ▣ Equivalent to/compatible with MS Excel
- Impress
 - ▣ Equivalent to/compatible with MS PowerPoint
- Base
 - ▣ Functional database but not compatible with Access

Comparison with MS Products

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- UI similar to Office 2003 – no Ribbon!
- Function keys and short cuts very similar
- Both will open MS documents
 - ▣ Some reports of loss of fidelity in some cases
 - Some documents may report errors and need recovery
- Both can save in MS document formats
 - ▣ Some reports of loss of fidelity in some cases
 - Some documents may report errors and need recovery
- OO/LO MS Office 2007 can save in PDF format

Additional features

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- Draw
 - ▣ Not compatible with Visio
 - ▣ A basic drawing package suitable for many users
- Equation
 - ▣ Not evaluated
 - MS do have equation editing within Word
- Plug-ins available to extend functionality

Some links to documents

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□ Libre Office Help Overview

■ <http://www.libreoffice.org/get-help/documentation/>

□ Getting Started guide (full book)

■ http://wiki.documentfoundation.org/cgi_img_auth.php/c/c4/0100GS3-GettingStartedLibO.pdf

□ Writer

■ http://wiki.documentfoundation.org/cgi_img_auth.php/b/ba/0200WG3-WriterGuide.pdf

Writer demonstration

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- Create a letter template
 - ▣ Using
 - Frames – for header
 - Tables – for header
 - Styles – for standard “look and feel”
 - Fields – to insert standard text
 - Standard
 - Custom

Open Office Links

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- Open Office home page
 - ▣ <http://www.openoffice.org/>
- Apache Open Office Landing Page
 - ▣ <http://incubator.apache.org/openofficeorg/index.html>

Libre Office Links

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- Home page
 - <http://www.libreoffice.org/>