

## Re: OT: OpenOffice not 100% compatible?

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- *From:* budgie <[me@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:me@xxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 09 May 2006 09:10:02 +0800
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On Mon, 08 May 2006 20:15:19 GMT, Joerg <[notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

Hello Jeff,

I tried OpenOffice after some fellow newsgroupers suggested it but so far I am not enthused. It takes many times longer [than] Word (!) to load the Writer program, it has no file preview AFAICT and gobbles up a huge amount of RAM resources.

All that you have said is true.  
Now compare the relative ages of the packages from the 2 vendors. [1]

So, newer means not-so-good? I have three versions of Word. One is around 6 years old but muffled in order not to use and of the "new and improved" features. The next is about 10 years old, and another is over 15 years old. The 15 year old one is the most stable :-)

Hah! I must be in the same time-warped category as you. I ran WinWord 6.x for years under WfWg and then 98SE. Finally, on a newer box, I installed WinWord97 as my Office2000Pro set didn't want to properly install.

Where I worked a while back, they upgraded the entire outfit to WinWord2000. I often did drawings in '6 and '97. I did one set of drawings in '2000 at work and emailed them home to do more work with them, only to find they were "scrambled" when I looked at them in '97.

No, but I thought a sheet with only one drawing on there and no other

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text ain't all that complicated.

I suspect MicroShaft's main problem is thinking that new features are what distinguishes their product from any competition, or simply the need to add features because they want to put a later label on the product. Backward compatibility isn't on their radar.

(snip)

[5] Which everyone in the know realizes  
is only a "standard" IF YOU SPECIFY A VERSION NUMBER.

Now here is the puzzler. MS seems not to be able to maintain backward compatibility with their MS-Word line. However, another group, the creators of MS-Works do a much better job. I am using Works for my business books and the reason is simple: I can still read files that I created in 1989 with any version. I can even create a new file in the latest version and have it stored in a format that is understood by the old DOS-Works. I have tried it and to my amazement it really worked. Also, no matter how hard I pounded on it Works never froze up on me once in 17 years. Word (and OO as well) freeze all the time. No idea why but I believe there could be a distinct difference in design quality between those two groups in Redmond. I always felt that difference, even in DOS days. Word did crash on occasion while the Works word processor never did. Then they began shipping Works bundled with Word and sure enough that WP reliability ended for me.