

Comparison of Office Product 2007

Technical Review

**Microsoft Office 2007 | ThinkFree Office
OpenOffice 2.3 | MyOffice 2007**

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Comparison of Office Product 2007

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For a while, nonprofit organizations' choice of office suites was limited to Microsoft Office or... Microsoft Office. But in the last couple of years, a viable open source option has emerged: OpenOffice.org, Thinkfree and MyOffice. Should you consider Open Source? Will it make sense for your users and organization? What are the differences between these office suites?

There's more to office suites than feature lists. In fact, Open Source Office and Microsoft Office are similar enough that actual feature differences are likely to be just one of many factors in your decision making. But philosophy, system requirements, support, usability... these are the things that keep us up nights.

We are able to test several type of Office Suite to test Functionality and Performance of the product itself By using the same test machine, it easy to know the result of this test clearly. Here are some specification that have been setup during testing period:

Hardware:

- Intel Core 2 Duo 2.21Ghz
- 2 GB DDR2-800
- Integrated Intel VGA Display
- 160 GB SATA-II Maxtor Drive
- 40 GB Western Digital IDE 7200 rpm

OS and software:

- Windows XP Professional SP 2
- Redhat Enterprice Linux
- OpenSuSe 10
- Microsoft Sysinternals [Process Explorer](#) (resource measurement)
- Java Runtime Environment 1.6 Standard Edition

Software to test in comparison of Office Product 2007 are:



Microsoft Office 2007



OpenOffice.org 2.3



Thinkfree 3



MyOffice 2007

There are four major design goals to follow by Office Software to deliver new capabilities that empower people to get the results they want, faster.

1. Make it easier for people to find and use product features.
1. Reduce design clutter and interruptions.
2. Make it easier for people to discover the capabilities they need.
3. Support the creation of great-looking documents.

All of this Office Software compliance with latest technology and meet the standard of Software Manufacture Quality Service (ISO 20000.)

1. Overview

- Microsoft Office 2007

The Microsoft Office system has evolved from a suite of personal productivity products to a more comprehensive and integrated system. Building on the familiar tools that many people already know, the Microsoft Office system includes programs, servers, services, and solutions designed to work together to help address a broad array of business problems.

At the core of the Microsoft Office system are the Microsoft Office suites, which deliver the core desktop productivity tools. New features in these programs enhance how employees can work with one another, partners, and customers, and how organizations capture and use information. In addition to the core desktop editions, the 2007 release includes new programs, servers, and services that build on the productivity software skills your employees already possess.

- Thinkfree 3

ThinkFree® is the leader in next-generation office productivity solutions for platform independent, anytime, anywhere-computing. ThinkFree usability extends beyond PCs and is perfect for Internet-connected devices, including thin client and mobile computing platforms.

The award-winning ThinkFree Office is a Microsoft® Office compatible application suite comprised of word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation graphics software—all usable online and off.

ThinkFree Office can automatically install and upgrade over the Web with features such as Internet-based file sharing and storage, as well as end-to-end security. Built for cross-platform functionality, ThinkFree Office is compatible with Windows, Macintosh, Unix and Linux systems.

- OpenOffice.org 2.3

OpenOffice.org 2.3 is a multi-platform office productivity suite. It includes the key desktop applications, such as a word processor, spreadsheet, presentation manager, and drawing program, with a user interface and feature set similar to other office suites. Sophisticated and flexible, OpenOffice.org also works transparently with a variety of file formats, including those of Microsoft Office, and the vendor-neutral [OpenDocument](#) standard from [OASIS](#).

Available in over 65 supported languages with more being constantly added by the community, OpenOffice.org runs stably and natively on Solaris, Linux (including PPC Linux), Windows, Mac OS X (X11), and numerous other platforms. Our [porting page](#) lists the platforms (ports) that OpenOffice.org can run on.

Written in C++ and with documented APIs licensed under the LGPL open-source license, OpenOffice.org allows any knowledgeable developer to benefit from the source. And, because the native file format for OpenOffice.org is the vendor-independent [OpenDocument](#) open standard, interoperability is easy, making future development and adoption more certain.

- MyOffice 2007

A complete package of essential software applications for the modern office. MYOffice 2007 lets you create, edit and save to Microsoft® Word, Excel and Powerpoint file formats. The handy built-in PDF exporting capability creates PDF documents for easy transmission and sharing of work files.

With a familiar and easy-to-use interface MYOffice 2007 consists of 5 major components:

- 1-Word processor(Writer)
- 2-Spreadsheet (Calc)
- 3-Presentation(Impress)
- 4-Graphic editor (Draw)
- 5-Database (Base)

2- Features

General Features

- Microsoft Office 2007

Microsoft Office Basic 2007 provides software essentials for new computers, helping both home and small business users to get tasks done more quickly and easily. Here's what's new and improved with Office Basic 2007.

- [Create high-quality documents](#)

Microsoft Office do offer various upgrade from previous version of Office suite. Some features like new look and feel and SmartArt Graphics become the main feature of Microsoft Office 2007 where the "Microsoft Office Fluent" user interface makes it easier to find and use product features. SmartArt graphics is an enhanced set of design tools that are available across Microsoft Office system programs to make it easy for user to create visually stunning diagrams and charts.

- [Work with enhanced reliability and security features](#)

Microsoft Office 2007 also has ability to enhanced reliability and provide security features for users like Document Inspector which it can easily remove "invisible" information such as comments, hidden text, and properties, enabling you to share documents with confidence.

- [Find commands with help and ease](#)

The traditional menus and toolbars have been replaced by the Ribbon — a new device that presents commands organized into a set of tabs. The tabs on the Ribbon display the commands that are most relevant for each of the task areas in Office Word 2007 and Office Excel 2007

- [Organize your time and communications](#)

Microsoft Office 2007 also introduce a new feature like integrations with Outlook where the new search technology in Microsoft Office Outlook 2007 helps user to find the e-mail message much faster. By integrating office 2007 with Outlook, it easy to work with your tasks and flagged e-mail messages by dragging them onto your calendar to schedule time.

- Thinkfree 3

Thinkfree offer 4 major base of their product line consist of ThinkFree Online, ThinkFree Server, ThinkFree Desktop and ThinkFree Portable. Each base provide best class support from it version.

ThinkFree Online is the best online office suite available, and it's **FREE** to users for editing, creating, and sharing Microsoft Office format documents (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) without buying any software

It's a perfect solution for people who commute or travel and for people who use shared computers for their work. Whether you are at work, home, school, visiting a client, or traveling abroad ThinkFree Online's free office suite gives you access to the files and applications you need when you need them.

ThinkFree Server

Companies demanding enterprise quality office productivity solutions that are frustrated by high cost - high maintenance software have a new choice. ThinkFree developed ThinkFree Server Edition to meet these customer needs - providing increased ROI (return on investment) and creating a more efficient use of technology resources.

Anytime, anywhere, users can create and edit documents that are seamlessly compatible with Microsoft Office. ThinkFree Server Edition is launched from a server to run within a Web browser on a connected desktop computer. The application suite consists of: word processing software, ThinkFree Write; spreadsheet software, ThinkFree Calc; and presentation software, ThinkFree Show.

Features:

- Identical environment to off-line version
- Easy Installation Interface
- Easy Server Management, Web based Admin Page
- Support for all major desktop operating systems
- Support for all major web browsers - Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari
- Multi-language compatibility
- APIs to use Server Edition in various ways
- Faster applet download through Pack200
- Supports multiple protocols for file access using Custom Protocol Handler

ThinkFree Desktop is the compatible alternative to Microsoft® Office. It includes ThinkFree Write (word processing), ThinkFree Calc (spreadsheet), and ThinkFree Show (presentation) applications that let you create, edit, and update your documents.

Main Features:

- Best Microsoft compatibility available
- Platform independent and compatible with Windows, Linux, and Macintosh systems
- Write, Calc, and Show run natively in Microsoft Office formats (.doc, .xls, and .ppt)
- Multiple language support

And Works 'LIKE' Microsoft® Office

The ThinkFree interface is designed to look, feel, and behaves like Microsoft Office, eliminating the learning curve. Because ThinkFree application use the same formats as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint®, you can rest assured that your documents will look the same in ThinkFree as they do in Microsoft Office-no matter what editing features you are using.

Runs on Windows, Mac, and Linux

ThinkFree Desktop was developed using Java technology, so it runs equally well on Linux, Mac, or Windows operating systems. So, even if you our your organizations uses multiple operating systems we have you covered.

ThinkFree Portable offer two base product for portable devices.

ThinkFree allows iPod users to create, edit, store and transport PowerPoint® files and use them Standalone on all new iPods with color display.

With ThinkFree Office 3, **PE for U3**, you can create, edit, and store the office documents you need for work or play. PE for U3 that includes word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation applications, maintains the smallest footprint to maximize space for the stuff you dream up.

- OpenOffice.org 2.3

OpenOffice.org 2.3 is the first open source office suite to offer thorough support for the Open Document Format for Office Applications (OpenDocument) OASIS Standard. OpenDocument is an XML file format that was developed by [OASIS](#), the international body for the development and ratification of e-Business standards. The OpenDocument format can be used by any office application without fear of vendor specific lock-in or onerous licensing terms and fees, with the confidence that documents can be viewed, edited and printed for generations to come.

What's New?

New Interface

The new user interface to OpenOffice.org 2.0 provides a number of productivity enhancements and is designed to assist in the transition from proprietary office suites while letting new and existing users take advantage from a brand new, appealing, functional and easy to use interface.

OpenDocument Format

OpenOffice.org 2.0 is the first open source office suite to offer full support for the OpenDocument format, an XML file format specification suitable for office applications including text, spreadsheets, charts, and graphical documents.

Compatibility

Significant improvements have been made in the functionality of proprietary office suite filters, allowing for improved compatibility between office applications, including Microsoft Office. In addition, import support for Corel WordPerfect documents has been added, allowing for easier cross-suite communication.

Enhanced PDF Export

For those who wish to distribute documents in a non-editable format, the very popular PDF export feature, introduced in OpenOffice.org 1.1, has been greatly enhanced in this release. The PDF export now gives greater control over the quality and size of PDFs generated as well as providing support for links, indexes, forms, thumbnails and presentation transition effects.

- MyOffice 2007

Base on OpenOffice 2.0, MyOffice2007 was developed in-house by Malaysian company. It has similar features like OpenOffice2.0 stable version to utilize the requirement needed in Office suite nowadays.

MYOffice is extremely suitable for:

- Governments and Public Administrations
- Educational Sector (Schools, Colleges, Universities)
- Not-for-Profit Organisations (Charities, Voluntary Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations)
- Small/Medium Enterprises (SMEs)
- Own Equipment Manufacturers (PC Manufacturers / Builders)

Comparison by most intermediate to advanced users are likely to use feature like:

The Interfaces

Dozens of keyboards must have been worn out in denouncing the introduction of [ribbons](#) in Microsoft Office 2007. The main problem is not so much the idea of ribbons as the poor arrangement of items on them. Configuration options are difficult to find, and the arrangement of some functions seems completely arbitrary, with some that used to be in the File and Edit menus in a tab on the upper left, others on the far left and right sides of the Home tab, and still others dumped randomly on the Insert tab. Most user maybe, will miss the arrangement of some of the File and Edit items under the large logo button on the left of the ribbon area.

OpenOffice.org 2.3 retains the look of the older versions of Microsoft Word that it originally borrowed from, with some borrowings from other programs and macros that have been integrated into the program. The result is chaotic, but it has the virtue of at least being familiar chaos. Instead of ribbons, it uses floating toolbars that pop up in the appropriate context. Although these toolbars sometimes spring into existence right where you are working, on the whole they are much less disruptive than a complete interface overhaul.

Thinkfree 3 use the same GUI like Like Microsoft Office 2003 standard. By putting similar function like Microsoft product it will minimize the gap between Microsoft base and Open source user. All of the function converted to the API format through Java applet.

Best: OpenOffice.org, not because it is well-designed, but because Microsoft Word's changes seem pointless and upset users for no good reason.

Styles

Microsoft Office 2007 styles are like declarations of a variable in source code: They allow you to save effort by doing work once instead of repeating it each time that you need it. With floating styles and formatting window, OpenOffice 2.3, MyOffice 2007 and ThinkFree 3 is one of the easiest programs in which to apply styles.

Microsoft Word 2003 toyed with its own floating style window, but in Microsoft Office 2007, its developers opted for placing styles in the right half of the Home tab's ribbon. This arrangement displays a half dozen of the most common styles and a drop-down list of 10 more. The overall result, as with the general interface, is a lot of cosmetic choices for no strong reasons. Meanwhile, the lack of page or frame styles continues to severely limit layout in Microsoft Office 2007

Best: Thinkfree 3

Page layout

Writer's page layout lacks only the ability to repeat a text frame on each application of a style to have the power of an intermediate desktop publishing program. Word, however, has little concept of the page as a design unit.

Thinkfree 3 offer the same concept as Microsof Office 2007 that make it generally same. Its Building Blocks, which include a number of different page layouts, is a step in the right direction, but the feature is far more rigid than OpenOffice.org page styles.

Best: OpenOffice.org.2.3

Templates

Previous versions of Microsoft Office lured users to corrupt their documents by applying multiple templates to them. Microsoft Office 2007 seems to have removed that temptation by not providing an interface in which to apply multiple templates. In theory, this change should make Word files less prone to corruption, but only extended use will prove whether that is so.

Microsoft Office 2007 installs with dozens of templates, with even more templates online, vastly outdoing the handful with which other office ships. You can get dozens of free Office templates online without any difficulty, but the mystery is why OpenOffice.org and the other version of office doesn't ship with them, or at least link to them, the way that Microsoft Office 2007 does.

Best: Microsoft Office 2007

Tables

Despite some serious limits in older versions of OpenOffice.org, today all Microsoft Office handle tables about equally well, providing similar features for creating tables and allowing the same range of formatting choices. In both cases, too, the formatting leaves something to be desired, with OpenOffice Autoformats being useful only for tables with the same numbers of rows as the applied format, and Microsoft Office table format being easily corrupted if you change the options on a particular table. Although some users like Microsoft Office tool for drawing a table, it is hardly an efficient tool, and is not much to weight against Thinkfree 3 ability to implement basic mathematical functions and the convenience of its centralized formatting options. In Microsoft Office 2007, formatting always seems to involve drilling so far down into the dialogs that you forget your original purpose.

Best: All could be improved.

Master documents

Master documents are collections of files that ease the editing of what would otherwise be long or large documents. For more than a decade, one word has been used over and over to refer to master documents in Microsoft Office: Don't. Over all the versions of Word in that time, master documents have been prone to crashing and corrupting their subdocuments. That hasn't changed in Word 2007. For anyone who has struggled with Word's master documents, OpenOffice and Thinkfree 3 are a pleasant surprise. Easy to use and generally stable, the few times they do crash, they don't destroy the subdocuments.

The ironic part is, Microsoft Office needs master documents, since it cannot reliably handle documents longer than about 40 pages. By contrast, Thinkfree can handle documents hundreds of pages long, provided you have the necessary RAM to move through them efficiently.

Best: Thinkfree 3

Drawing tools

With the release of version 2.0, OpenOffice and version 3 from Thinkfree gained equality with Microsoft Office tools for manipulating basic shapes, charts, and graphical text. Nothing has changed in the two applications' most recent versions.

Best: Tie. Possibly, the round might go to Microsoft Office2007 for a larger selection of integrated clip art.

Unique features

As in earlier releases, Microsoft Office includes a grammar checker -- a mixed blessing, since it can encourage as much as correct errors, but still a feature that OpenOffice 2.3 lacks. In addition, Microsoft Office 2007 includes research and translation links. Other unique features in Microsoft Office includes a selection of options for displaying changes in a document, a split pane view for comparing two versions of the same document, and a multiple clipboard.

In comparison, OpenOffice 2.3 and Thinkfree 3 has few if any features not shared by Word 2007. By default, it includes the export of files to PDF, but an add-on gives Word 2007 the same ability.

Best: Microsoft Office 2007

3- Performance

Baseline measurements for opening Application

Application	CPU time (milliseconds)			Memory Peak KB	Number of I/O		
	Kernel	User	Total		Read	Write	Other
MS Excel	234	328	562	24308	14	10	1422
Calc	625	593	1218	47788	364	12	13106
MS Word	171	390	562	31776	136	13	1957
Writer	343	687	1031	46700	365	8	13120
PowerPoint	250	343	593	27796	14	10	1403
Impress	484	843	1328	52804	921	16	14849
MS Access	484	531	1015	25836	12	9	967
Base	781	906	1687	49984	1708	176	22832

****Remark:***

This table show only comparison between Microsoft Office 2007 and Java Runtime Environment application (OpenOffice 2.3, Thinkfree 3 and MyOffice 2007 are include inside)

Office 2007 base memory consumption went up significantly but it's still significantly less than **OpenOffice.org 2.3, Thinkfree 3 and MyOffice 2007**. All office software except Microsoft Office 2007 require Java to run, and the memory consumption spikes over 70 megabytes as soon as you start navigating in the interface. However, the difference between **MICROSOFT OFFICE 2007** and **JAVA BASE APPLICATIONS** resource consumption has gotten smaller.

	OpenOffice 2.3	Microsoft Office 2007	Thinkfree 3	MyOffice 2007
Availability	Download	Purchase	Purchase	Purchase
License	GNU Lesser General Public License	Copyright Microsoft Corp	Copyright ThinkFree Corp	GNU Lesser General Public License Copyright Open Application System Sdn.Bhd
User Support	Email	Full	Full	Full
OS Support	Windows Linux Mac OS X	Windows XP SP2	Windows Linux Mac OS X	Windows Only
Crash problem	Rare, but crash without corrupting opened file. Automatically perform auto recovery	Rare, opened file corrupted Automatically perform auto recovery	Rare, but crash without corrupting opened file. Automatically perform auto recovery	Rare, but crash without corrupting opened file. Automatically perform auto recovery
PDF Converter	YES	NO	YES	YES
Extra tool required	Java Runtime	-	Java Runtime Web Browser (Server Edition)	Java Runtime

Price	FREE	Purchase	Purchase	Purchase
System Requirement (Minimum)	128 MB RAM	256 MB RAM (required)	Server 512 MB RAM Desktop 256 MB RAM	128 MB RAM
Application Concept	Stand Alone	Stand Alone	Stand Alone Networking	Stand Alone
Space Required	800MB	1.5 GB	Stand Alone 70 MB Server 700 MB	300 MB
Installer File	108 MB	500 MB	Desktop 46 MB Server 161 MB	96 MB
Document Format	Doc,Rtf,Txt,Svg, Pdf,XML	Doc,Html, XML , docx	Doc,Rtf,Txt,Svg, Pdf,XML, docx	Doc,Rtf,Txt,Svg, Pdf,XML

4- What good and not!:

Microsoft Office 2007

The good:

- Previously hard-to-find features now easier to explore
- Easier to produce impressive documents, spreadsheets, etc.
- Improved integration throughout the applications
- Documents easier to salvage if corrupted

The bad:

- Steep learning curve if you're upgrading
- New interface isn't always intuitive
- Users of older versions need converters to read Office 2007 files

The bottomline:

Microsoft Office Standard 2007 is a worthy upgrade if you need to make sleeker-looking documents and presentations. But you stick to your current software if you don't feel that it lacks anything.

OpenOffice.org 2.3

The good:

- Provides free, high-caliber office-productivity tools
- Runs on multiple operating systems

The bad:

- Provides fewer management tools and less clip art than its sibling, StarOffice 8
- Lacks an e-mail client
- Tech support supplied by fellow users

The bottomline:

OpenOffice 2, the freeware version of Sun Microsystems StarOffice 8, is a great deal for home and small-businesses users who don't mind browsing online forums for tech support. But enterprise users are better served by StarOffice 8.

Thinkfree 3

The good:

- Inexpensive desktop applications (and free online versions) for Linux, Mac and Windows PCs
- Microsoft Office-like interfaces are easy to learn and compatible with Microsoft Office files
- Simple and easy to use. management really liked the server based approach - it promised to save a lot of time in administration of users workstations.

bad:

- Lacks some of Microsoft Office's advanced tools, including e-mail and database applications
- Thinkfree Office 3 does not support any Microsoft macro or VBA scripts
- ThinkFree has only three of the Office Suite components: Write for Word Processing, Calc for Spreadsheets, and Show for Presentation
- Server version limited to the number of tab opened in one browser. (user have to open new browser instead of opening using tab function)
- Password protected file only support Thinkfree 3 Calc (Spreadsheet) and not covered file base protected (only work for sheet proctected)

The bottomline:

ThinkFree Office 3 is a low-cost alternative to Microsoft Office that lacks advanced tools but offers a free online component that's a handy work in progress for frequent travelers. Still, we'll wait for improvements to the suite before relying on it for staple office tasks.

MyOffice 2007

The good:

- Provides same quality office-productivity tools as OpenOffice.org, Full support from vendor, malaysian product
- Run in Platform Independent (Java Runtime Environment)

The bad:

- Only run in Windows Operating System
- Lacks an e-mail client
- Tech support supplied by fellow users
- Interface not really pleasant look
- Expensive

The bottomline:

OpenOffice 2, the freeware version of Sun Microsystems StarOffice 8, is a great deal for home and small-businesses users who don't mind browsing online forums for tech support. But enterprise users are better served by StarOffice 8.

5- Conclusion:

Which one is the best? Frankly, that depends on the user using it.

- **Your office is happily using free Office 2007 licenses.** Are you able to get Office 2007 for free? Is your staff happy with it and comfortable using it to get your work done? Then we don't see a lot of upside in changing for the sake of change.
- **You have a small, technically comfortable staff, philosophically aligned with open source tools.** If your staff would prefer open source over Microsoft for philosophical reasons, and can roll with small changes in interface and less formal support, Thinkfree 3 is a completely viable alternative that doesn't require the sacrifice of productivity.
- **Your staff depends on Outlook's shared calendaring or complex Excel functionality.** Do you schedule a lot of meetings via Outlook's integrated calendaring and email functionality? Then Sunbird and Firebird likely won't meet your needs. Do you rely on Excel pivot tables or share a lot of complex Excel spreadsheets with external organizations? Then it may not make sense to move to OpenOffice or Thinkfree 3
- **You need to provide basic office software on old computers.** If you are looking to support only basic functionality and need to use older computers - for a computer lab, for instance - then a Linux/OpenSource Office combination is hard to beat.
- Some Open Source Office do offer better performance and functionality rather than Microsoft Office 2007, for example Thinkfree 3 offer Online Office and Server edition which the Office suite can be share among staffs in organization.

Finally , all Office software in this subject testing are great and have unique functionality. The main reason is having choices. If you've read this far, the same may apply to you.

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