

Open Source on the Desktop: Why Not?

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The Upside

Remove Vendor Lock-in

Eliminate Licensing Costs

Freely Make as Many Copies as You Want

Hardware Replacement Cycle Longer

Improve Reliability & Security

Hundreds of Programs bundled with Linux

All Installed Software Automatically Updated

No more Virus Software Costs

No more Disk Defragging

Supports ISO Open Standard for Documents



With So Many Benefits--Why the Slow Adoption?

People Issues



The Challenge

Unsure-It Seems Risky

Change is Uncomfortable

Change Requires a One Time Cost

Change requires a Big Effort



Things to Consider

Risk is relative to knowledge

You will be able to control when you upgrade

You are in control of your computing – not the vendor

Anyone can freely make copies of the software

Money stays in your pocket instead of going to the vendor



Case Study 1

Open Office vs Microsoft Office

Task:

MBA students (all full time employed) were asked to replicate three spreadsheets and documents that they had already created at work. The three had to represent a basic, intermediate and complex example of the typical work that they perform using Microsoft Office as part of their job duties.

Purpose:

This was designed to assess how well Open Office (v. 2.0) would perform for a variety of workers with different job duties at different companies when compared to the status quo office suite used today on the desktop.

Results

Success for each Tool

Open Office Writer – 28 out of 28

Open Office Calc – 26 out of 28



User Comments - Writer

The overall understanding of Office Writer is similar to Word, but I find it is a bit more simplistic in nature.

Overall I would say for even this complex MS Word document, I was able to accomplish nearly all of the same things in Open Office as I could in MS Word.

Overall, I found the OpenOffice Writer to be very comparable to MSWord.

I found that almost everything I was looking for was present and easy to use in Open Office.

Overall, I had a little bit more difficulty doing some more complex things in Writer, such as text boxes, however, I was able to still create the document I needed in a decent amount of time.

User Comments - Writer

All in all, I found that this program, both in usage and look, very similar to Microsoft Word.

Overall, I was able to recreate the document using Open Office Writer.

It would definitely work as an alternative to meet the demands of my work for this type of program.

Open Office Writer seems to function just as well as Microsoft Word for my needs and I would not have a problem making the switch!

If a “grammar check” feature was added to the OpenOffice Writer software, I would feel 100% comfortable using it to create more complex documents like this one.

For what I currently do at work, Writer could easily replace Word with very little training and/or “just playing around”.

User Comments - Writer

For me, the only hindrance was getting used to the very few differences between the look and location of certain commands and menu items/icons. That said, by this exercise (Level 3), I was already getting used to them. However, the majority of the functionality mimicked Word. It would take me some practice to be able to re-create as quickly as I can in Word.

For this more advanced word processing document, I found Writer very easy to use.

Overall, this program would meet our office's needs for specification books.

My experience creating this document using OpenOffice.org Writer was very comparable to Microsoft Word.

User Comments - Writer

In conclusion I would say Writer is more than adequate for even most advanced users.

Overall, between all three documents that I recreated in OpenOffice Writer, I am amazed to see that there is a true competitor to Microsoft Word.

All of the simpler functions worked about the same as any other type of software until I tested the images capability which I though far exceeded the capabilities of Microsoft Word.

I think Open Office will do everything I need to do, but just may take more time to get used to it.

Overall, impressed with Open Office Writer and no major issues or complications found :)

User Comments - Calc

Overall, I am impressed with how easy Open Office Calc is to use, and I will begin using on my home laptop after this course.

For my purposes, there is no reason I could not utilize OpenOffice to create this spreadsheet.

I didn't encounter any problems other than adjusting for minor differences between this application and Excel.

For the basic things I need to do in Excel, I feel that Calc is a viable substitute.

I found that I was able to recreate this document with ease and even found that the functionality of the tool mirrored that of Excel.

I didn't have any issues creating my graphs. Calc was easy to use for the functions I would need for my job.

User Comments - Calc

This document is an example of a data pull converted into pivot table that I use on daily basis. I was not able to successfully recreate the document.

Even though it works just fine for the simple and more medium type of tasks, I would not call this program a viable alternative, at this point, for what I would need in my daily tasks at work.

I really can't do what I need to with this sheet using Open Office. To be honest, this format is a more complicated that I need it to be to use it

I have to say that for this case, Open Office does not meet my needs and I will have to continue to use Microsoft Excel.

User Comments - Calc

I think it took me the same amount of time in Calc as it did in Excel. It was odd to see that my most complex document was actually the easiest to recreate.

I find Microsoft Excel to be much more user-friendly than OpenOffice Calc when it comes to formatting charts, so, for that reason, I would continue using Microsoft Excel when that functionality is needed.

Overall, I was very impressed at how identical OpenOffice Calc was to MS Excel in all three exercises and, I'm sure, it is only a matter of time before OpenOffice catches up to MS in the graphics department as well.

User Comments - Calc

However, Excel has features that allow it to analyze statistics almost as well as a strictly statistical program such as SPSS could, and this version of Open Office does not have that capability yet.

Nevertheless, I was very impressed with OpenOffice Calc. It had all the functions plus many more of Microsoft Excel. In the future, perhaps I will start getting more acquainted with this software package. I see a great potential in the entire OpenOffice suite.

For the most part, I found the functionality to be almost identical to Excel for my purposes.

I am sold on Open Office as an alternative to Microsoft.

Adoption of Open Source on the Desktop

Framing the Issues



Key Point

*Most people don't
adopt an O/S,
they adopt a
computer!*

Case Study #2 – Secondary Adoption of Linux Desktop

What factors help or hinder Linux desktop adoption w/in an organization?

Can Linux desktop substitute for Windows w/in organizational environment?

Users within an administrative department at a university

Replace Windows with Linux for daily tasks

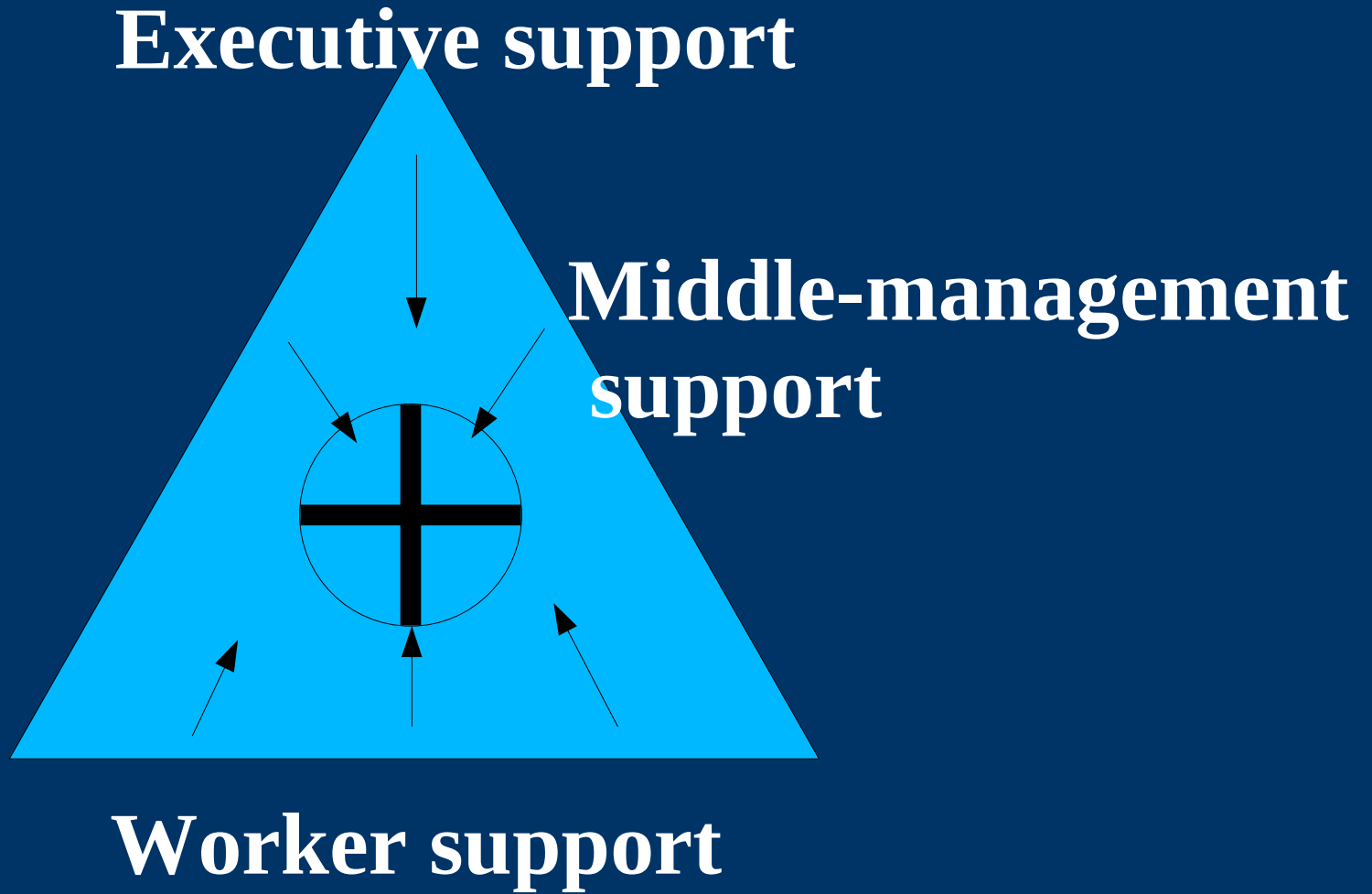
Can switch back to Windows when necessary

Keep a log of experiences

“Hidden” Agenda



Strategy



Stages of Adoption



Awareness



Source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/92306213@N00/>

Interest



Source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/>

Evaluation



Benefits must outweigh costs

Source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/>

Relative advantage



VS.



Linux sources of relative advantage

Cost ??

Flexibility

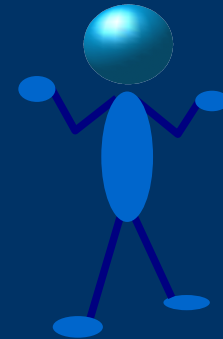
Extending hardware life

Advanced functionality

Add/remove

Multiple desktops

Updater



Barriers

Still too hard to do some things

Wireless

Streaming media

Load non-repository software

Application functionality

Still behind mainstream in some cases

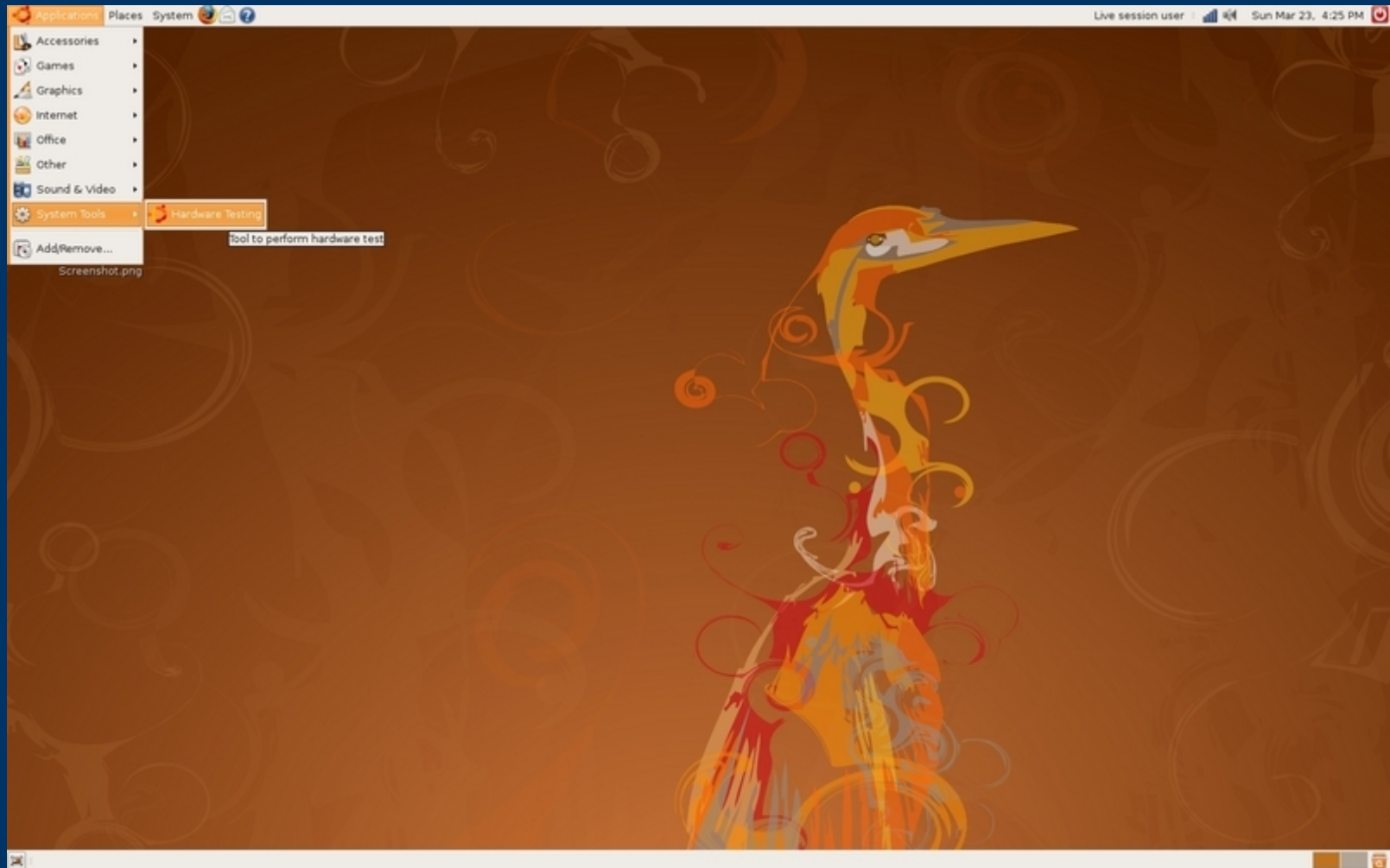
Compatibility with existing ways



Trial



Adoption



Getting it right – eee PC



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