

The StarOffice™ 8 Office Suite and OpenOffice.org – A Comparison –

Overview

With the StarOffice™ 8 office suite, Sun Microsystems, Inc. provides a full-featured, multi-platform office productivity suite compatible with Microsoft Office. Accompanied by a full range of global support offerings, the StarOffice product is designed to suit the needs of an existing office productivity users at enterprises, governments, small-medium businesses and education institutions.

In 2000 Sun Microsystems, Inc. made the source code of StarOffice software publicly available and by doing so, initiated the world's largest Open Source Project, the OpenOffice.org project.

OpenOffice.org, is a growing open-source project developing an advanced multi-lingual and multi-platform office suite compatible with Microsoft Office. Written in C++ and with documented APIs licensed under the LGPL and SISSL Open Source licenses, OpenOffice.org allows developers to enhance the source.

Development Process

The StarOffice 8 office suite and OpenOffice.org 2.0 share the same code base. Contributions and enhancements to this code base are committed through the worldwide OpenOffice.org developer community including Sun's development engineers. At regular intervals, Sun takes a 'snapshot' of this code to productize the StarOffice product. Additional third party technologies are then added to the StarOffice software to provide a complete solution meeting the needs of professionals in today's enterprise environment.

Additional Components and Support Services in StarOffice

Besides including additional 3rd party technologies, StarOffice is subjected to thorough quality assurance (QA) processes while OpenOffice.org uses a community-based QA project for testing. Substantial service, documentation, and support offerings as well as the compliance with Sun's warranty policies complement the StarOffice software offering. Sun's Enterprise Service support offerings include a defined escalation path for bugs and periodic delivery of product patches, updates and upgrades as part of the service subscription.

Premium enterprise support services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can be integrated in existing service contracts which customers might already have. In addition Sun offers web based (self-help) and per-incident support for the StarOffice software. Deployment services, migration support and training offerings complement the service offerings.

The StarOffice and OpenOffice.org Relationship

With StarOffice and OpenOffice.org, there is a perfect synergy between the advantages of an open software development approach and the quality assurance, fully supported software offering that businesses are looking for.

Description	StarOffice 8 Office Suite	OpenOffice.org 2.0
Product	Complete commercial level product with additional enterprise features, full support and services backed by Sun Microsystems.	Customizable, dynamically evolving product designed to enable users to create a custom offering.
Product		
Writer - Word processing	X	X
Calc - Spreadsheet	X	X
Impress - Presentation	X	X
Draw - Graphics	X	X
Database Access (ODBC, JDBC, etc)	X	X
SDK	X	X
Languages	Core languages: English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Swedish, Japanese, Korean, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Brazilian Portuguese. Additional languages planned: Russian, Polish, Dutch, Turkish, Hungarian, Thai	35+ languages in levels stages of completion and quality See http://110n.openoffice.org/languages.html
Platforms	Windows, Linux, Solaris™ Operating System (SPARC + x86)	Windows, Linux x86, Linux PowerPC, Linux SPARC, Solaris Operating System (SPARC + x86), Mac OS X (X11), FreeBSD See http://porting.openoffice.org
Spellchecker	Licensed commercial quality spellchecker technology also used by a leading desktop publishing application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spell checking: 20 languages • Hyphenation: 20 languages • Thesauri: 12 languages 	Community developed dictionaries in various levels of quality and completeness (from very basic to professional quality): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spell checking: ~60 languages • Hyphenation: ~30 languages • Thesauri: ~10 languages See http://lingucomponent.openoffice.org/
Extras + Templates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 1,800 clipart graphics including photos, animated gifs and flags • 45 of the very popular Screen Beans • 29 Pictures • 211 templates • 59 Sample documents • Wizards for letters, agenda, fax, reports and mail merge with another 197 files for 	Community developed See http://www.openclipart.org/

Description	StarOffice 8 Office Suite	OpenOffice.org 2.0
	lots of variations	
Extra Filters	Document filters – commercial quality	Community Developed
Extra Fonts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • StarOffice: 31 additional high-quality fonts for better Microsoft interoperability (e.g. StarSymbol contains about 1700 symbols vs. open source OpenSymbol with less than 600 symbols!!!) • StarSuite: up to 34 additional fonts depending on the language 	Must be downloaded from open-source sites, Bitstream Vera fonts are included since OpenOffice.org 1.1 Release Candidate 3
Mail Merge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters • Email 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters only
Adabas D (Software AG)	Yes - Licensed	No; Databases must be manually integrated
Central Configuration Tools	Sun Java™ Desktop System Configuration Manager: Administration of StarOffice configuration items using an HTML-based web front end and an LDAP server for the data storage.	None
Migration Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document Analysis Tool • Professional Analysis Wizard • Macro Migration Tool 	None
Services and Support		
Consumer Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web-based and email support in English, French, German and Spanish (9 hours / 5 days) • 3 free calls/emails in 60 days period • English-only support forum (9 hours / 5 days / install & config only) • English-only knowledge base • Third-level support is ensured by the Sun developers who contribute about 90% of the OpenOffice.org/StarOffice code 	Community provided See http://support.openoffice.org
Enterprise Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard (12 hours / 5 days / 4 hours response) • Premium (24 hours / 7 days / life transfer) • Third-level support is ensured by the Sun developers who contribute 	Community provided See http://support.openoffice.org

Description	StarOffice 8 Office Suite	OpenOffice.org 2.0
	about 90% of the OpenOffice.org/StarOffice code	
Developer Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMEA pilot only • Requires a StarOffice support contract • Third-level support is ensured by the Sun developers who contribute about 90% of the OpenOffice.org/StarOffice code 	Community mailing lists
Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting Started Guide (on end user CD) • StarOffice Basic Guide (on end user CD) • Administration Guide (on Enterprise CD) • Developers Guide (in the SDK on Enterprise CD) • Online Help <p>Bundling/inclusion of printed documentation depends on business model of local software publisher partner.</p>	Community developed See http://documentation.openoffice.org/
Quality Assurance	Extensive tests through Sun quality assurance program	Community organized See http://qa.openoffice.org
Migration Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration assessments and services are offered on request by many local Sun Professional Services organizations • Some countries have Sun-trained StarOffice migration partners 	Community newsgroups and mailing lists (self help support); 3 rd -party support See: http://support.openoffice.org http://bizdev.openoffice.org
Solutions		
Desktop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun Java Desktop System included in Solaris 10 Operating System (OS): StarOffice 7 office suite, Mozilla™ browser, Evolution groupware client, GNOME, Java Runtime Environment, etc. 	3rd party vendors and different open source solutions (see http://bizdev.openoffice.org)
Thin Client	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun Ray™ ultra-thin clients • 3rd party solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun Ray™ ultra-thin clients • 3rd party vendors and different open source solutions (see http://bizdev.openoffice.org)
Groupware	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun Java System Messaging Server 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun Java System Messaging Server

Description	StarOffice 8 Office Suite	OpenOffice.org 2.0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun Java System Calendar Server • Sun Java System Instant Messaging • 3rd party solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun Java System Calendar Server • Sun Java System Instant Messaging • 3rd party vendors and different open source solutions (see http://groupware.openoffice.org and http://bizdev.openoffice.org)
3rd Party ISV Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun is directly involved in key ISV integration work (e.g. SAP, FileNet, ...) 	Voluntary support by 3rd party ISVs (see http://bizdev.openoffice.org)

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