Open Source Office Tools

...Breaking The Windows Habit...

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Talk Overview:

- Introduction
  - Talk Level: Dead easy overview
- Pros & Cons of Unix-Based Office Tools
- OpenOffice.org
  - History and Components
  - Word Processing
  - Spreadsheets
  - Presentations
- Other Unix Alternatives for Office Tools
- Conclusions

Pros & Cons of Unix-Based Office Tools
PROS:

- Religious
  - "Because it's Open Source"

- Security
  - General system safety
  - No nasty surprises in files

- Money
  - Costs: Licenses, time, mental
  - Administrative employees
  - Longer useful hardware life

Pros & Cons of Unix-Based Office Tools
CONS:

- Constant upgrading
  - Featuritis :-)

- Compatibility issues
  - FollowMS "shifting standards"
  - BUT: OpenOffice.org RUNS ON WINDOWS!!!

- Different kind of admin needed
  - But: Linux is widespread, people available

OpenOffice.org: Integrated Office Suite

- History:
  - 1999: Sun Microsystems buys Star Division
  - 2000: Star Office 5.2 code open-sourced under LGPL license.
  - 2002-05 OpenOffice.org 1.0
  - 2005-05 OpenOffice.org 2.0

- Components:
  - Writer
  - Calc
  - Impress
  - Math
  - Draw
  - Base

Word Processing: Writer

- Very similar features as in MS Word:
  - Document templates
  - Fonts
  - Formatting
  - Spell checking
- Conversion, editing and export of Word documents.

- A Word Of Wisdom.

Spreadsheets: Calc

- Similar to MS Excel in appearance and features

- Opens, edits, writes Excel files.
- OpenOffice Calc handles various formats:
  - OpenOffice 1.0 Spreadsheet (.sxc)
  - Open Document Spreadsheet (.ods)
  - MS Excel 5.0 / 95 / 97 / 2000 / XP (.xls)
  - Dbase (.dbf)
  - HTML
  - Text CSV (.csv)
- PDF export.

Presentations: Impress

- This presentation was written with OpenOffice Impress on a FreeBSD 6.2 system.

- Organized writing, effects, layouts, templates.
- Open Office Impress handles various formats:
  - OpenOffice 1.0 Presentation (.sxi)
  - OpenDocument Presentation (.odp = OpenOffice 2)
  - Microsoft PowerPoint 97/2000/XP (.ppt)
  - Template formats
- PDF export

Further Unix Alternatives for Office Tools

- Koffice
- Kpresenter
- MagicPoint
- pdf-LaTeX with \documentclass slides and prosper
- S5 (browser-based, http://meyerweb.com/eric/tools/s5/

Conclusions

- Open source office tools with graphical interfaces are widely available.

- Migration to open source office tools no longer means loss of documents or difficult conversions.

- Migration to mixed Unix / Windows or Unix-only office environments are professionally feasible.

Sources

- www.openoffice.org

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OpenOffice.org
- "How to Impress with OpenOffice", Sebastian Henning, GeNUA mbH
- Chih-Hao Tsai's Technology Page: OpenOffice.org Impress Templates http://technology.chtsai.org/impress/

TANSTAAFL !

(Robert A. Heinlein, 1966, "The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress").