

THE COMPUTER CORNER  
**No. 258: Libre Office**

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Well, I bit the bullet. Here is how it played out.

Yesterday, Nancy's (my wife, KB9FZK) copy of Microsoft Office 2000 Professional died. She could not open her birthday list, recorded in Excel, or any spreadsheet (.xls) file. I convinced her to let me uninstall all of Office 2000 and install Libre Office. I convinced her by showing her on a different machine that the Libre Calc spreadsheet program would open her birthday list and other .xls files just fine, and that the Libre Writer program (equivalent to Microsoft Word) would open her letters and other documents just fine, too. In a few minutes, she was up and running with the new software on her Windows 10 machine, happily updating and printing her birthday list file. She likes it.

Then came my turn. Today, on my main machine (also Windows 10, Home Edition, just like Nancy's), my Microsoft Office 2016 failed – it would not open a thing. So, in the period of about half an hour, I uninstalled Microsoft Office and installed Libre Office 6.2.5. My first job was to compose this article. I found it a snap to use, and I really do not notice a difference between it and Microsoft Word in the way it feels and works. If anything, it looks even more efficient than Word in the icons and controls at the top of the editing page. I recommend it highly as another way to get out from under Microsoft.

So, what version should you look for and where? Go to <https://www.libreoffice.org/> and seek out version 6.3 or higher (version 6.3 is scheduled for release in early August 2019 while this article being written on 30 Jul 2019). To give you a feel for size, version 6.2.5 is a 282 MB download. The installation file, named LibreOffice\_6.2.5\_Win\_x64.msi, is so named for 6.2.5, for Windows 64-bit, so yours will be a little different depending on the exact version you encounter. Double-click the .msi file and you will be on your way to installation, which takes only a couple of minutes at most. Here is the line up:

<b>MICROSOFT OFFICE COMPONENT</b>		<b>LIBRE OFFICE COMPONENT</b>
Word	DOCUMENT	Writer
Excel	SPREADSHEET	Calc
PowerPoint	PRESENTATION	Impress
Access	DATABASE	Base
---	DRAWING	Draw
---	FORMULA	Math

Happy Computing!