

THE COMPUTER CORNER

No. 260: Libre Office for Windows, Revisited

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It has not been long since I wrote about Libre Office. It was in Computer Corner, No. 258, September 2019, in fact. But I thought I would expand a little on that past article to make it easier for you to get and install the package. The latest and greatest is Libre Office 6.3.2.2, and I recommend that you also get the Help Pack v.6.3 at the same time. You can download both at <https://www.libreoffice.org/>. Be prepared to take a bit of time in downloading – the Office installer, named LibreOffice_6.3.2_Win_x64.msi, is fairly large at 286 MB (300,670,976 bytes). You simply download that and double click it to begin the installation process. The Help Pack (LibreOffice_6.3.2_Win_x64_helppack_en-US.msi) is only 1.99 MB (2,093,056 bytes). To save some of you the trouble of downloading, I will have three copies on CD for sale at our next meeting on 13 November, with proceeds going to the usual pots (50% each to the Scholarship Program and to OZARES). The “burns” on CD are verified.

Once again, the copies of Libre Office do not just install Writer (the equivalent of Microsoft Word). They also install a spreadsheet just like Excel, a presentation program just like PowerPoint, and a database program just like Access. Plus there are two programs unlike anything included in Microsoft Office. One is a drawing program named Draw, and the other is a math manipulation program named Formula. The best part of all of these is that they can handle (open or edit and save) any preexisting Microsoft files and even write new ones in Microsoft-compatible formats. More or less complete interchangeability, and unlike Microsoft Office (about \$300 currently) Libre Office is totally free! How can you beat that?

Remember, this article is about Libre Office for **Windows**. The msi files you need to download or obtain otherwise listed above are for Windows, not Linux. The same Libre Office is also installed when you install Linux Mint Cinnamon (the latest is 19.2, “Tina”), but the installation files are different so as to work with the very different operating systems, and the programs are different for the same reason. But, the programs in the Windows suite and the Linux suite will accomplish the same things, and files created with one can be edited and saved with the other. To make that clearer, create and start a letter in Writer on a Windows machine, then save it on a thumb drive. Put the thumb drive in a Linux machine and copy the letter to the Linux machine. Finish the letter using Writer in the Linux machine, save it and print it. All that will work just fine.

The really neat thing is it will work between Word and Writer in pretty much the same way! Take a letter started in Microsoft word and transfer it to a Linux Machine. Open it with Writer and finish it. Then save the completed letter to the thumb drive, put the thumb drive in a Windows machine, and copy the letter to the Windows machine. Then use the Windows machine to print the letter, and that will work. All you have to do is to be sure and save the letter as a .doc file whenever saving it in Writer. Try it. Its easy to figure out.

Have fun, and happy computing!