

Re: Crossover / Wine cannot install Office

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.os.linux.misc/2004-05/1371.html>

From: Bob Hauck (*postmaster_at_localhost.localdomain*)

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On Mon, 17 May 2004 18:47:03 +0100, Joe <joe@jretrading.com> wrote:

> *In message <8765av3f4b.fsf@toncho.dhh.gt.org>, John Hasler*

> ><john@dhh.gt.org> writes

>>*Luke quotes:*

>>> *SuSE Linux now ships with a graphical database front end, called Rekal.*

>>

>> *When these guys write "There will never be a Linux equivalent of X"*

>> *they don't really mean an equivalent. They mean an absolutely*

>> *identical bug for bug compatible replacement.*

> *I mean a functional equivalent.*

What we have here is a failure to communicate. Most of us understand "functional equivalent" to mean something like "does the same job". To you it apparently means "compatible clone". You certainly can build fill-in-the-form database apps on Linux. You just can't do it with VBA.

> *Look, can we be a bit grown-up about this? You pick the tools*

> *according to the job.*

It is certainly the case that you can build databases and spreadsheets in Linux that perform the same functions as ones built with Access and Excel. What you can't do very well is use Microsoft tools to do it. You could use, say, Borland's tools, or IBM's, or Oracle's, or things like Python or PHP, but not Microsoft's tools. We can argue all day over what's "easier", but the fact is that people are doing it.

>*From what you've said it seems that you are basically at least in part in the business of building apps on top of MS Office. So _of course_ Linux isn't a good option for you for the simple reason that you must have MS Office and nothing else will do. Since MS Office is not native to Linux it won't work quite as well as it does on Windows and your work product won't look as good to the customer.*

And that's fine, if that is the business you have chosen. That does not, however, mean that it is that way for everyone. Most of us are not in the "building apps on top of Office" business. The spreadsheet or the document is not itself the product. Minor incompatibilities just aren't that important. 95% *_is_* good enough if there's a significant saving somewhere.

*> If I want to maintain Access databases and applications in exchange
> for money, I'll use Access under Windows. End of story.*

Indeed it is. If that's what you want to do you have to use Windows.

On the other hand, Joe Businessman who just wants to write a proposal for a customer or do some "what if" planning with a spreadsheet or send some email very likely *_will_* be satisfied with OOo and Mozilla instead of Office/Outlook/IE. He will likely also save a lot of money and aggravation by adopting the former. But he won't be your customer.

*> When I can get full functional support for Access databases (and a few
> other Windows programs) under Linux I'll go for it and happily bid
> farewell to Windows. I think it's more likely that I'll retire first.*

In other words, when Linux becomes exactly like Windows you will be satisfied with it. Well, that's not ever gonna happen so you might as well give up now. If it were exactly like Windows, it would have exactly the same problems and what's the point of that?

For you, Linux is a nice file server and firewall OS. For many of the rest of us it does more than that. Your requirements in terms of MS Office compatibility are an order of magnitude more exacting than most people's and I think you might want to mention that when commenting on compatibility.

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