

# Re: Opening up password protected Microsoft Office files in Linux

**Source:** <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.os.linux.misc/2005-02/0045.html>

---

**From:** Harold Stevens (*wookie\_at\_aces.localdomain*)

**Date:** 02/01/05

Date: 1 Feb 2005 12:04:27 GMT

In <368snpF4qlgodU1@individual.net> sam1967@hetnet.nl:

[Snip...]

> *no. it just said document was unreadable.*

I'm reasonably sure OOo (etc.) developers would have handled this if a certain purveyor of desktop monopolyware hadn't been such an ass about precioussssssss proprietary "innovation" (xlate: protection racket).

I'm phrickin' ecstatic to be free of flawed "secured" MS nonsense. The company that brought you Active-X and spyware, put "passwords" on some transparently unencrypted ASCII encode scheme. Go figure.

Anyway, shot in the dark...

If you cannot get the password, try "strings" on it (if text and not a bunch of graphics is really all you need—do "man strings"):

STRINGS(1) GNU Development Tools STRINGS(1)

## NAME

strings – print the strings of printable characters in files.

## SYNOPSIS

```
strings [-afov] [-min-len]
        [-n min-len] [--bytes=min-len]
        [-t radix] [--radix=radix]
        [-e encoding] [--encoding=encoding]
        [-] [--all] [--print-file-name]
        [--target=bfdname]
        [--help] [--version] file...
```

## DESCRIPTION

For each file given, GNU strings prints the printable character sequences that are at least 4 characters long (or the number given with

comp.os.linux.misc: Re: Opening up password protected Microsoft Office files in Linux

the options below) and are followed by an unprintable character. By default, it only prints the strings from the initialized and loaded sections of object files; for other types of files, it prints the strings from the whole file.

Again, shot in the dark, YMMV, HTH...

--

Regards, Weird (Harold Stevens) \* IMPORTANT EMAIL INFO FOLLOWS \*  
Pardon any bogus email addresses (wookie) in place for spambots.  
Really, it's (wyrd) at airmail, dotted with net. DO NOT SPAM IT.  
Kids jumping ship? Looking to hire an old-school type? Email me.