

## Re: Office License for Church

**Source:** <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Office/microsoft.public.office.misc/2004-03/1071.html>

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Cerridwen wrote:

>

> *msuryadarma wrote:*

>> *Thanks for the answers, but unfortunately none is a constructive*

>> *suggestion. Obviously we do NOT want to steal or do anything illegal.*

>>

>> *So since 97 is no longer sold or supported, what options do we have?*

>> *Buy Office XP with 12 licenses?*

>

> *Nope. That's no longer sold either.*

>

> *I guess then we need to buy Windows XP*

>> *with 12 licenses as well? How much is that going to cost? About \$10k?*

>>

>> *The problem then becomes, these are "older" donated machines, i.e.*

>> *Pentium IIs with who knows how much RAM. So Windows XP might be a bad*

>> *idea.*

>>

>> *I realize that we could go OpenOffice, but it would just be so much*

>> *better if we can offer MS Office since that's the standard.*

>>

>> *Oh well.*

>

> *I was serious. Linux is Open Source – this means you can install it on as*

> *many systems as you like and Open Office is fully compatible with MS Office.*

> *Linux costs £30 or can be downloaded free.*

>

> *Can you think of anything better?*

Please remember folks that the OP wants this for senior citizens or homemakers who want to get back to the workplace. My experience with Linux is that it is not yet ready for a techno-newby or technophobe. Having helped my 70+ year old father who had never had a computer of any sort figure out Windows was a challenge. (And I'll mention that he was the Directory of Engineering Computing for a Fortune 500 company.) The thought of trying to teach him Linux without creating a continuing support budget of my time makes me want to run screaming from the room. Open Office isn't bad, but as another poster noted, it is not 100%

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compatible with MS Office, but that shouldn't be held too much against it.

My best suggestion for the OP would be to do some very careful shopping on ebay for Windows 98SE and Office 97. Another option (at least here in the Seattle area) would be to see if you have a MS employee in the congregation that would like to purchase copied at the employee price (much lower than retail) and donate it to the cause. Lastly I'd suggest asking your congregation if anyone would like to donate old copies of the software and/or cash to buy the software. Good luck. What you are doing is for a good cause.