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# Featuring two heavyweights!







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### PRODUCT REVIEW

### Office Suite Compatibility and Incompatibility?

by Alan German

or a number of years I have been routinely using an office suite that is not the one produced by Microsoft. Initially, I used OpenOffice but then, around 2010, when the open-source community forked this software, I switched to the newer LibreOffice.

In my appariance, while twing to use the

Word from Microsoft Office 2010. Although, nominally, Word supports the ODT file format, trying to open the file produced the error message: "The file help\_wanted.odt cannot be opened because there are problems with the contents." And, viewing the details of the error displayed: "Details - The file is corrupt and

document standards in Redmond!

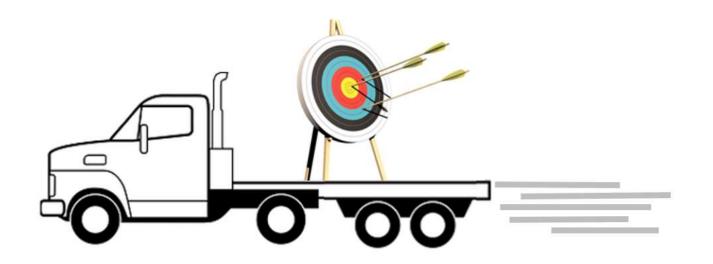
Other than the above-noted glitch, the two files seem to display identically. So, the conclusion from this rather simple test is that you can use LibreOffice and exchange your files with MS Word users. Just be sure to use, doe for the file format!

The file help\_wanted.odt cannot be opened because there are problems with the contents.

Details - The file is corrupt and cannot be opened.

Excel found unreadable content in 'opcug.ods'

...change one of the amounts... the associated total didn't change.



# Functionality is a moving target!

Versions frozen at:
Microsoft Office 2019
LibreOffice Version 7.3.1.3

# What are the issues?

• Can I replace Microsoft Office with LibreOffice and if so why?

Can I save any money?

 Which suite is best/more capable/ better supported?

- If I switch am I going to run into problems?
- Should Microsoft Office users switch to LibreOffice?
- Should LibreOffice users switch to Microsoft Office?



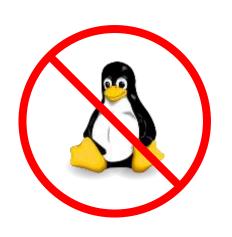
# **Platforms**

### Microsoft Office

- Windows, macOS, Android, iOS
   (Publisher and Access only on Windows)
- Web-based apps

### LibreOffice

- Windows, Linux, macOS
- Collabora Office (based on LibreOffice) for Android, iOS, and Chromebooks
- Portable versions for Windows (No installation required, run from flash drive, don't mess up a computer's configuration, etc.)
- No web-based apps



# **Software Licensing**

- Free software (copyleft)
  - Use, modify, share



- Open source
- Reciprocity obligation
- Usually zero cost

**Copyright** • Licensing fees



- Restrictions (number of users, machines)
- Closed source

Both can have system updates, built-in and on-line help, documentation files, user forums...

# Software Updates

### LibreOffice

Notification that updates/ new versions are available Manually download/install



### Office 2019

Windows Update (Patch Tuesday)
Scheduled task (Office Automatic Updates 2.0)
Manual check - Update Now
Office 2019 doesn't receive new features

### Office 365

Updates periodically - you do nothing, it just happens Steady stream of updates/new features - whether you want them or not!



# LibreOffice - Modules

Writer Word processor

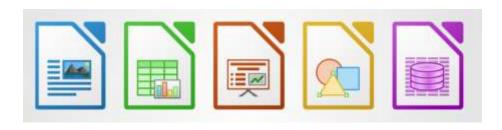
**Calc** Spreadsheet

**Impress** Presentation manager

Base Database manager

**Draw** Drawing package

Math Formula editor



# LibreOffice - Modules

Writer Word processor

Spreadsheet Calc

Presentation Manager **Impress** 

**Database** Base

**Draw** 

This presentation will focus on the word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation modules of the office suites









# LibreOffice - History

1985 - StarWriter

Marco Börries (16-year-old student)

Forms Star Division

Develops StarOffice

**Includes:** 

StarWriter

StarCalc

StarImpress

StarBase

StarDraw

StarMath



# LibreOffice - History 2

### 1999 - Sun Microsystems

Buys Star Division for \$73.5 million Renames StarOffice to OpenOffice.org Releases the code as open source Community development

### 2009 - Oracle

Purchases Sun Microsystems Community concern over the future of OpenOffice

OpenOffice.org

# LibreOffice - History 3



### 2010 - LibreOffice

OpenOffice forked to LibreOffice
The Document Foundation established
Gathers more than 95% of OpenOffice developers

(2011 - Oracle hands OpenOffice over to the Apache Foundation)

2022 - LibreOffice Version 7.3.1... and counting!

### File Formats \*

### **Word Processor**

Writer - Open Document Text (.odt)

### **Spreadsheet**

Calc – Open Document Spreadsheet (.ods)

### **Presentations**

Impress - Open Document Presentation (.odp)

\* Native file formats; **LibreOffice also supports MS Office formats**, e.g. .docx, .xlsx, and .pptx



# Microsoft Office - Modules

Word processor

**Excel** Spreadsheet

**PowerPoint** Presentation manager

**Access** Database manager

Outlook Electronic mail

plus: OneNote Note-taking

Publisher Desktop publishing

Skype Communications

InfoPath Electronic forms

# Microsoft Office - Modules

Word Word processor

**Excel** Spreadsheet

**PowerPoint** Presentation manager

Database manager Access

Outlook

This presentation will focus on the word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation modules of the office suites plu

Electronic forms

# **Microsoft Office - History**

Main modules – Word, Excel and PowerPoint previously existed as stand-alone applications







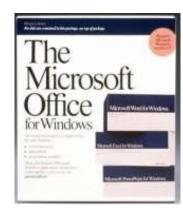
Microsoft Office For Windows (Office 1.0)

was released in November, 1990:

Word 1.1

Excel 2.0

PowerPoint 2.0



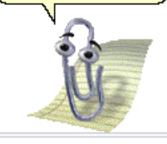
### **Microsoft Office 97**



It looks like you're writing a letter.

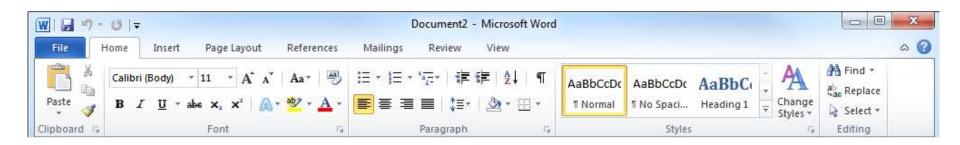
Would you like help?

- Get help with writing the letter
- Just type the letter without help
- Don't show me this tip again



# Microsoft Office 2007 Introduction of the ribbon









### Office 365

- First announced October, 2010
- Software as a Service (SAAS)
- Subscription-based
- Cloud-based
- Now Microsoft 365

# Cross-suite Issues



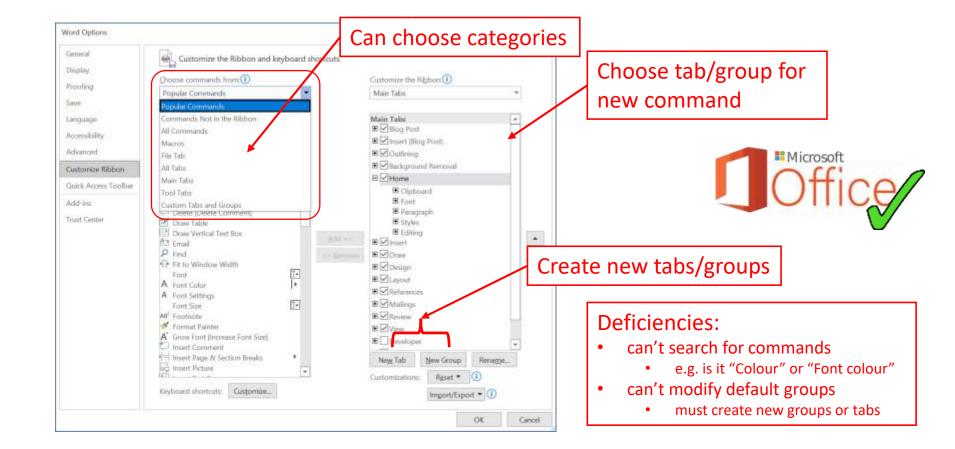
# Import/export

- Microsoft Office & Libre Office can import export
  - native format of either suite
  - graphics, csv, html...
- In most cases
  - LibreOffice imports/exports Microsoft formats best
    - good retention of formatting & features
  - Microsoft imports/exports LibreOffice formats worst
    - more problems with formatting & retaining features



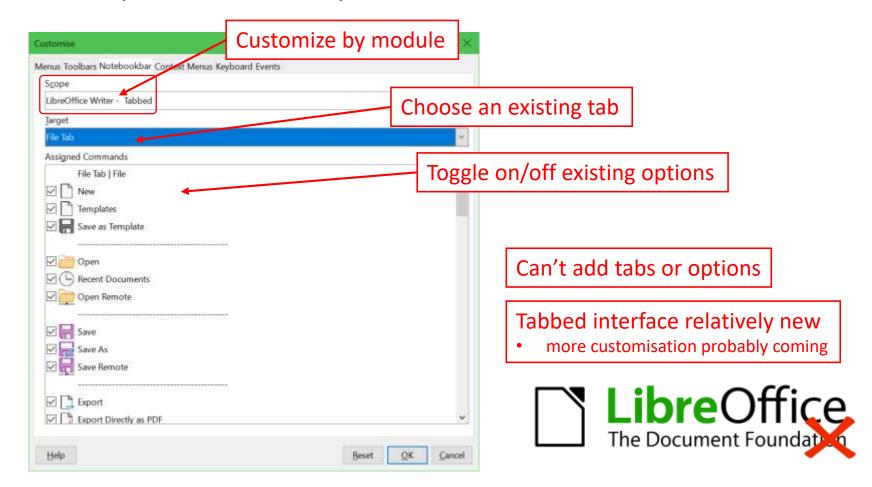
# Microsoft Office: customise ribbon

File tab – Options – Customise Ribbon



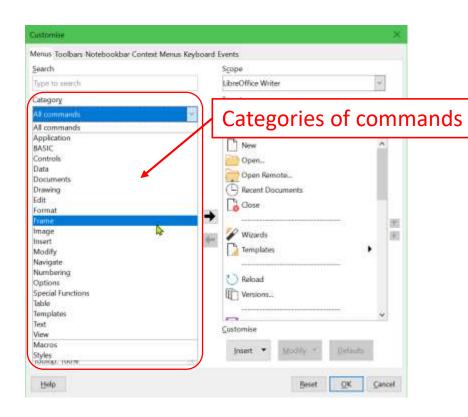
# LibreOffice: customise ribbon

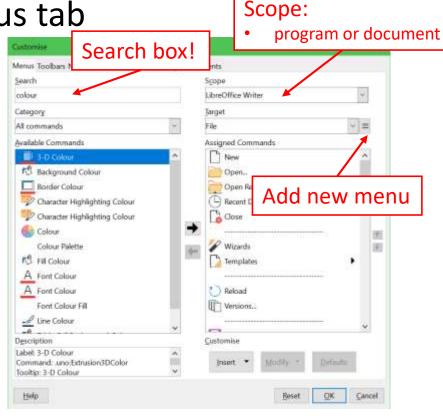
Tools | Customise... | Notebookbar



# LibreOffice: customise menus

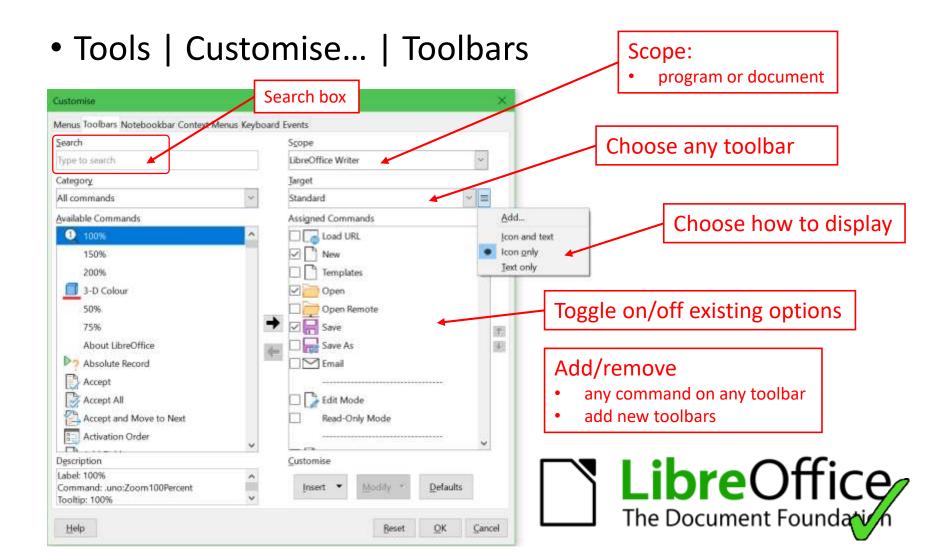
• Tools | Customise... | Menus tab





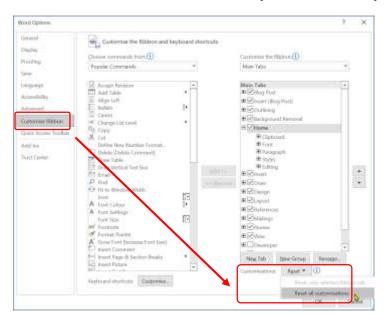


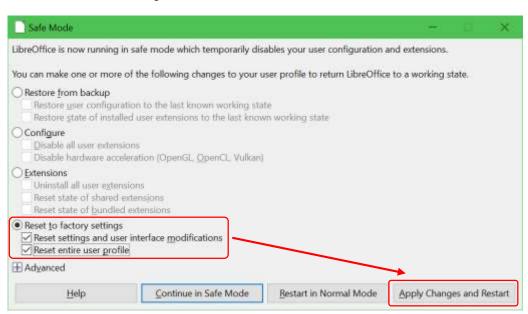
# LibreOffice: customise toolbars



# Fix customisations gone awry

- Microsoft Office:
  - File tab | Options | Customise Ribbon | Reset
  - delete Default template,
  - Nuclear options: delete registry keys
- LibreOffice:
  - Set any tab/menu/etc. to default
  - nuclear option: Help | Restart in Safe Mode...



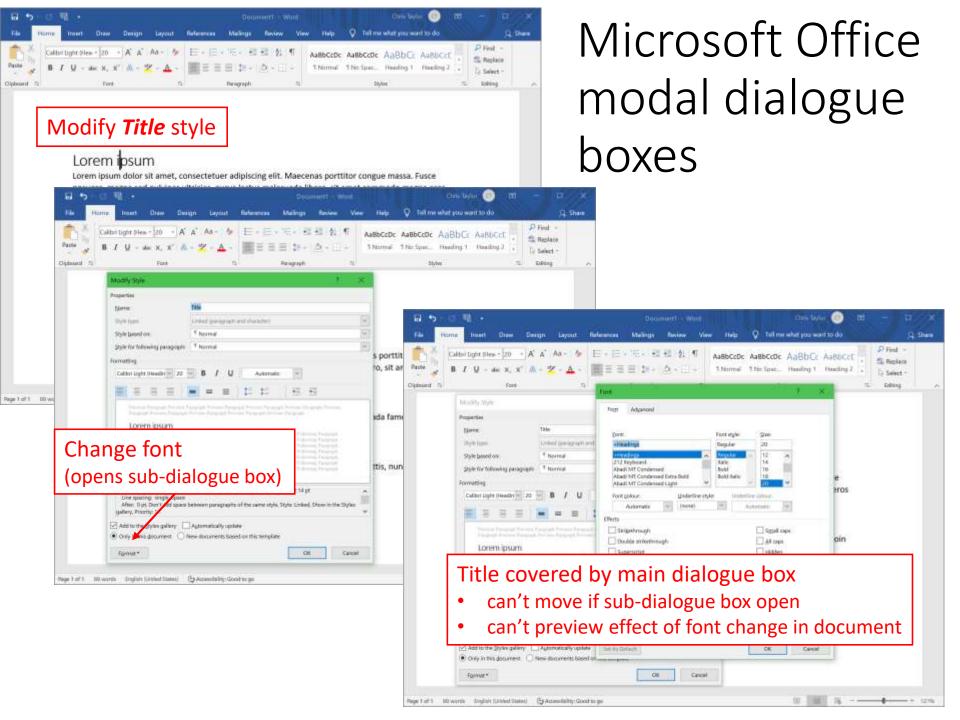


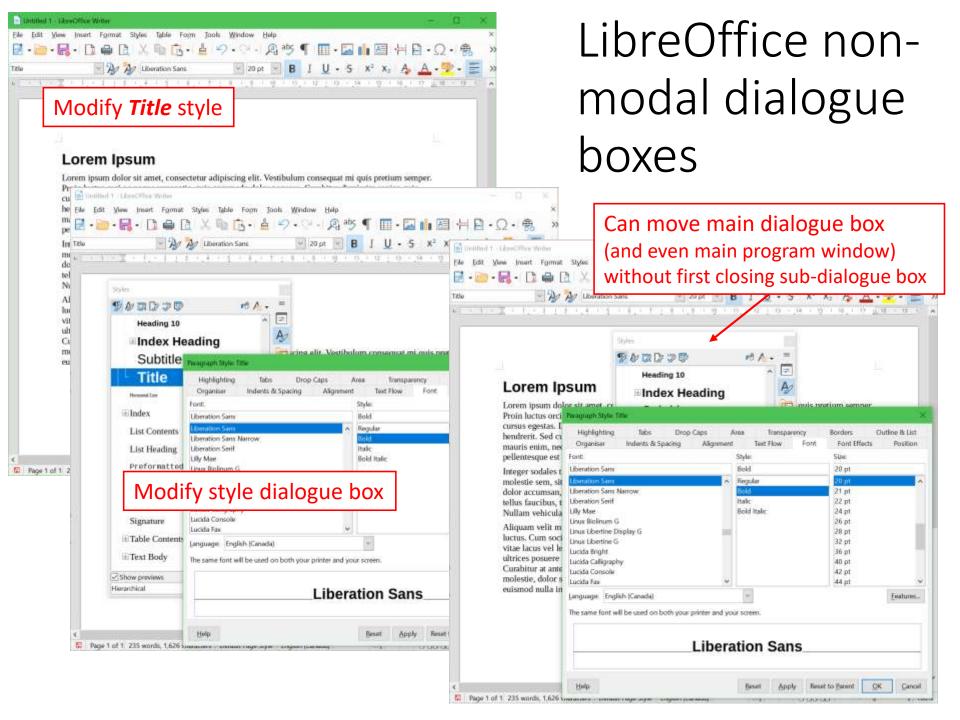
LibreOffice
The Document Foundary n

# Modal dialogue boxes

- Dialogue box appears on top of main content and disables the main content until the user finishes with the dialog box.
- Microsoft Office uses modal dialogue boxes
  - a pain in the...
- LibreOffice uses non-modal dialogue boxes
  - a more fluid editing process









# Basic editing—you're covered

- Margin control
- Justification
- Font control
- Styles
- Graphics\*
- Form controls
- Block select
  - I didn't know you could do that in Word!

# Contour around graphics

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nonummy augue. Suspend

### Microsoft Word

words don't overlap area of graphic

### LibreOffice Writer

- words (optionally) contour around elements in graphic
- contour can be edited

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# Contour around graphics

### document conversion

### LibreOffice Writer

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### Writer .odf file opened in Word

text wrapped tight to border of graphic

### Exported from LibreOffice Writer to Word format

graphic placed over text

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# Block/column select

### Forward from email:

- > Lorem ip Text copied from an email
- > adipiscin unwanted ">" at start of every line
- > massa. Fusce posuere, magna sed pulvinar
- > ultricies, purus lectus malesuada libero, sit
- > amet commodo magna eros quis urna.



## 

### Both can block/column select

- sometimes things are done differently
- sometimes it is not obvious

#### Text effects

Microsoft Word

extensive text effects

Shadow on text

Reflection

Glow

3-D Bevel

LibreOffice Writer

• a single shadow effect

Shadow on text

Reflection

Glow

3-D Bevel



# Styles

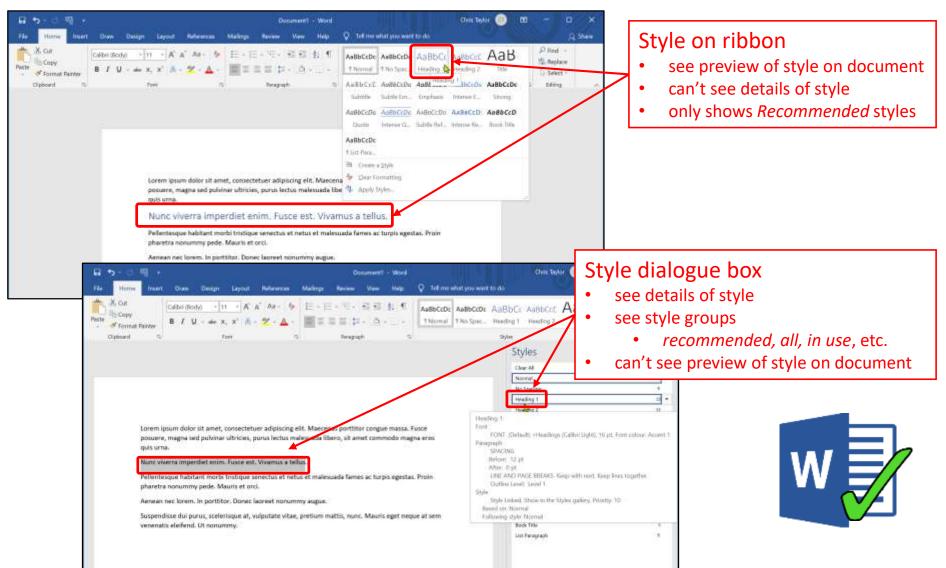


- Microsoft Word
  - previewing styles: mixed
  - editing styles: poor (tedious)

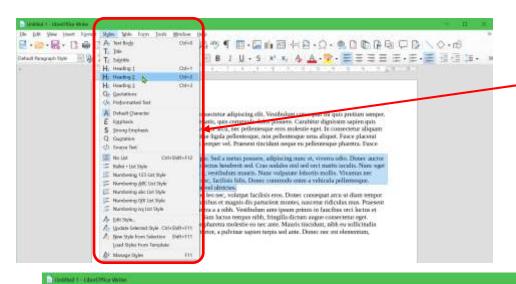


- LibreOffice Writer
  - previewing styles: poor
  - editing styles: very good

# Word: preview styles



### Writer: preview styles – a bit



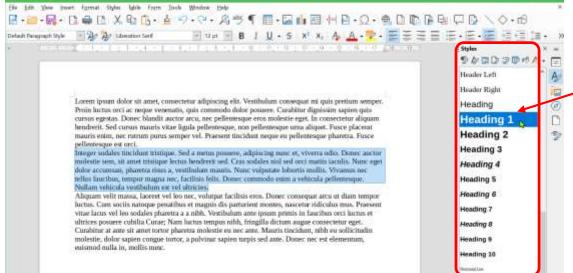
#### Menu:

- can't preview style effect
  - (menu or on document)
- can't see all styles

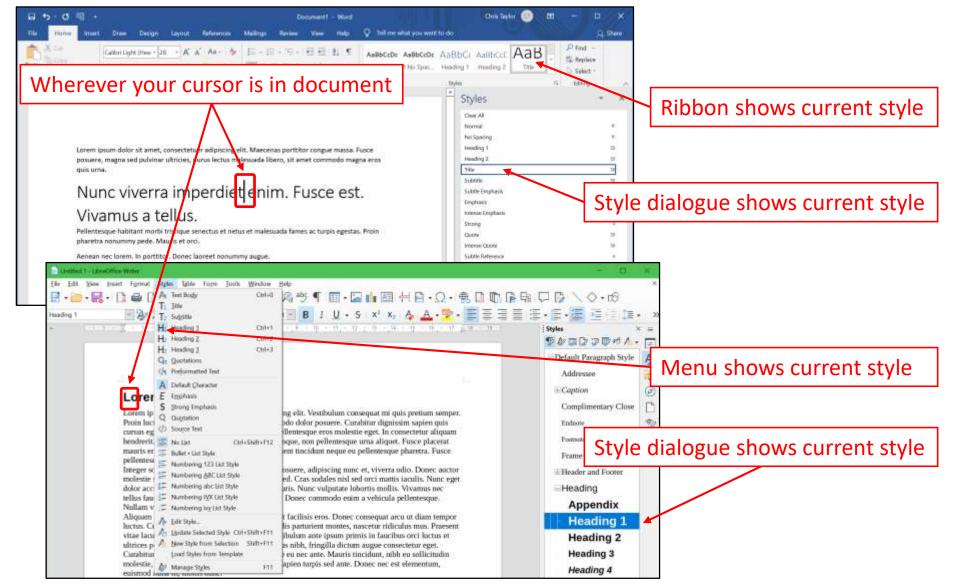
#### Styles dialogue:

- preview style in dialogue
- see styles groups
  - all, applied, etc.
- can't preview style on document
- can't see details of style

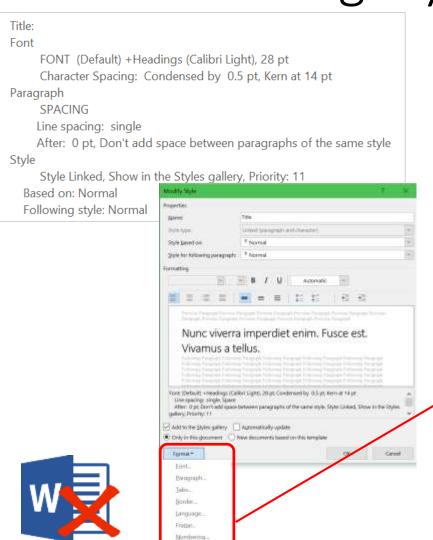




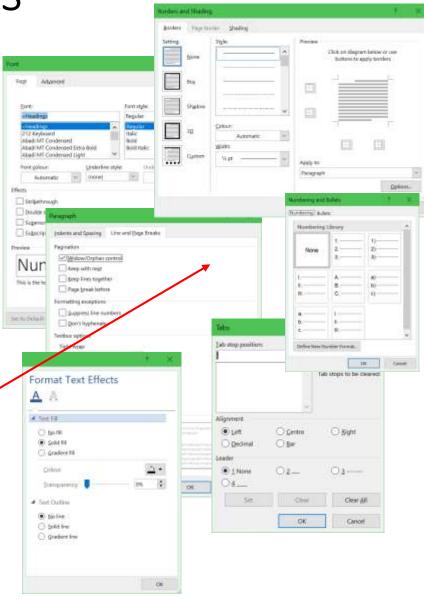
Both show what style is applied



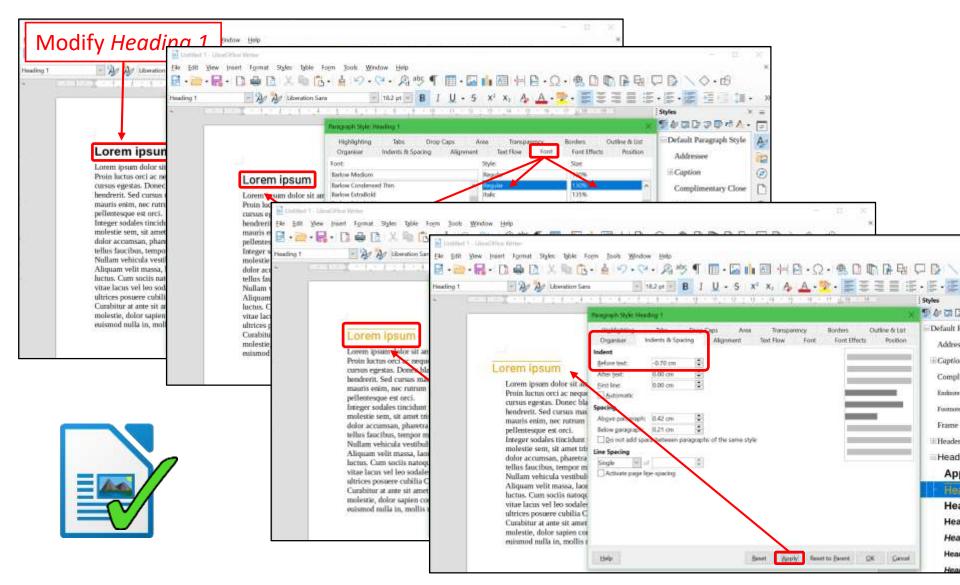
Word: editing styles



Shortcut jay... Test Effects...



# Writer: editing styles



#### Overall conclusion

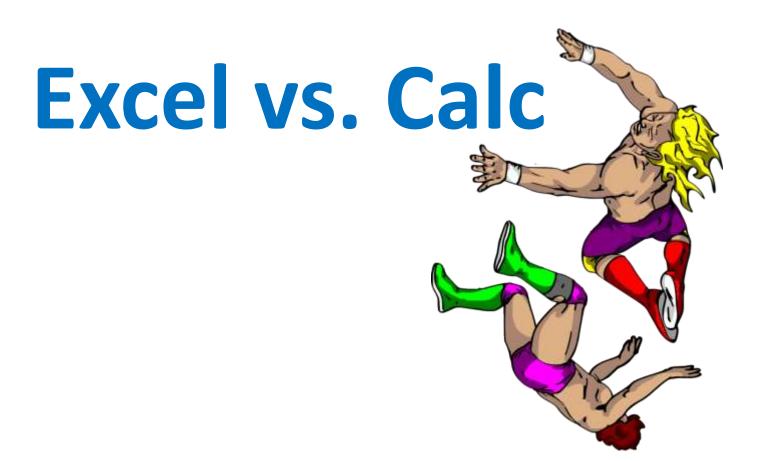
- Overall capabilities are very similar
- LibreOffice obviously tried to duplicate Microsoft Word
  - ...and did a credible job
- Minor differences
  - some cases Microsoft Word "better"
  - some cases LibreOffice Writer "better"
- Quite a few things are done a little—or lot—differently
  - your best friends
    - manual for Writer (Microsoft has no manual)
    - Google

#### Recommendation—mixed

- If using only one—Word or Writer
  - overall capability: too close to call



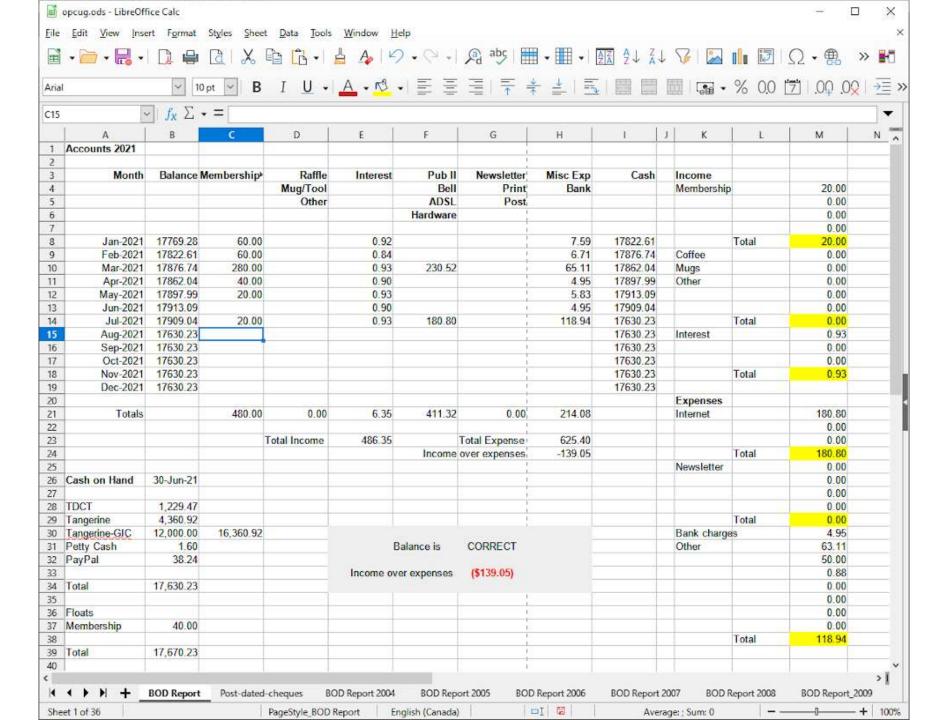
- File created in Microsoft Word?
  - edit/use Microsoft Word
- File created in LibreOffice Writer?
  - edit/use LibreOffice Writer
- Mix and match?
  - if you have to work in Word on file created in Writer?
  - if you have to work in Writer on file created in Word?
    - import/export with Writer rather than with Word

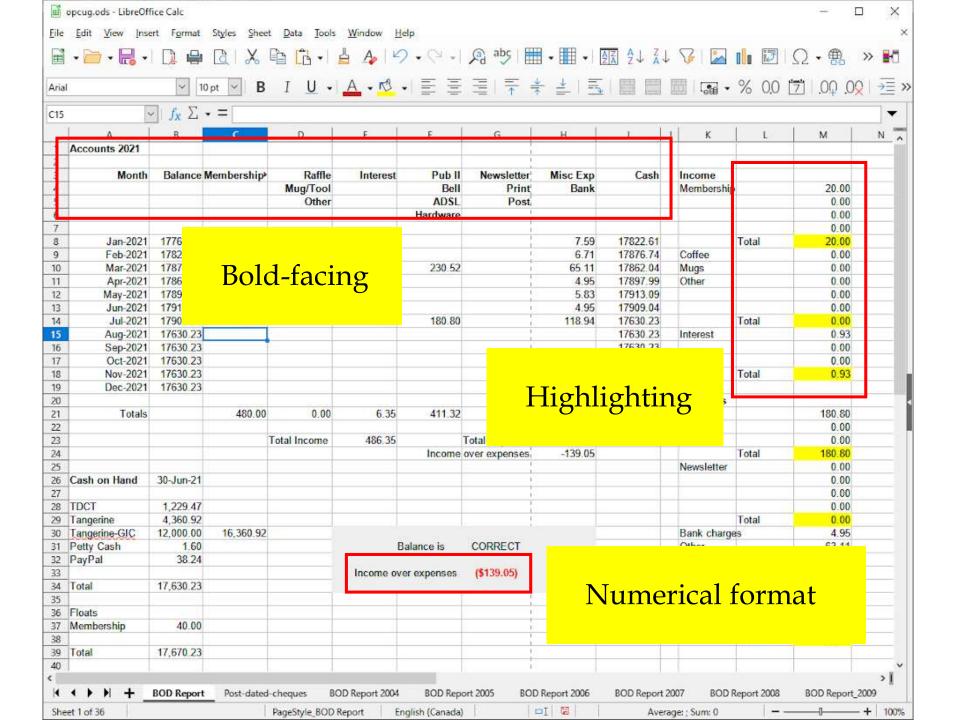


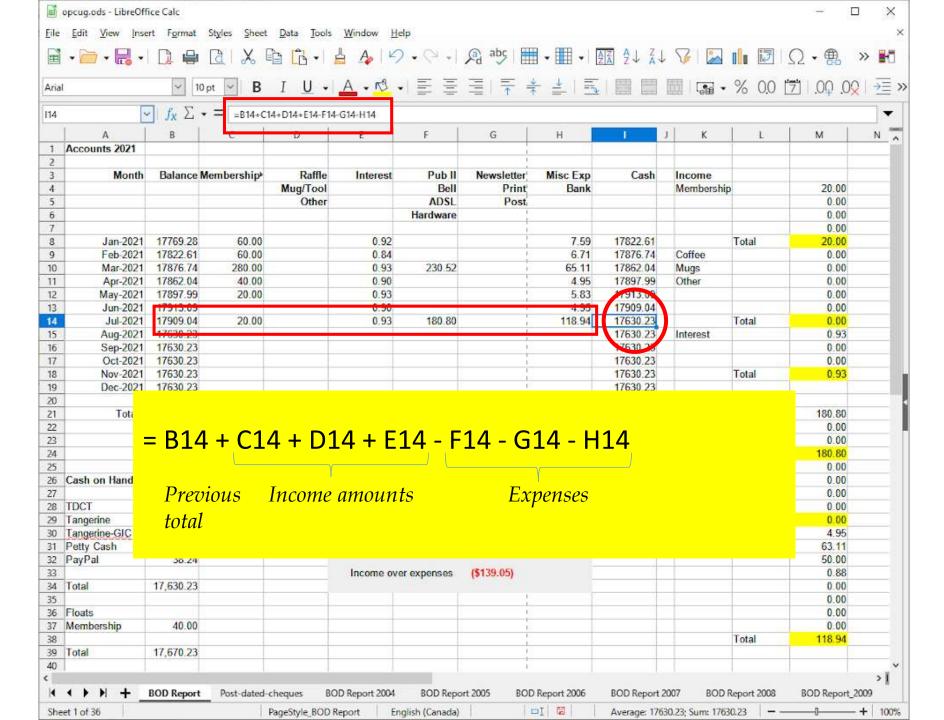
# Spreadsheets

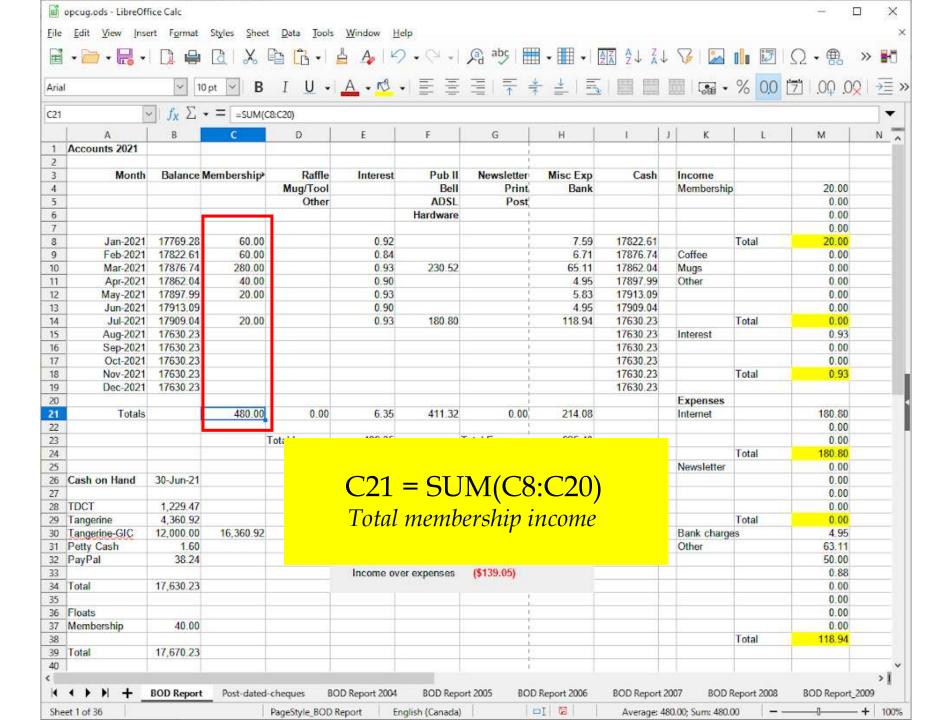
- Numerical calculations (financial applications)
- But, can also handle text, dates...
- Wide range of available formulae
- Data analysis (e.g. pivot tables)
- Complex formatting (e.g. conditional)
- Tables, graphs and charts
- Search, sort and filter
- Macros to automate repetitive tasks

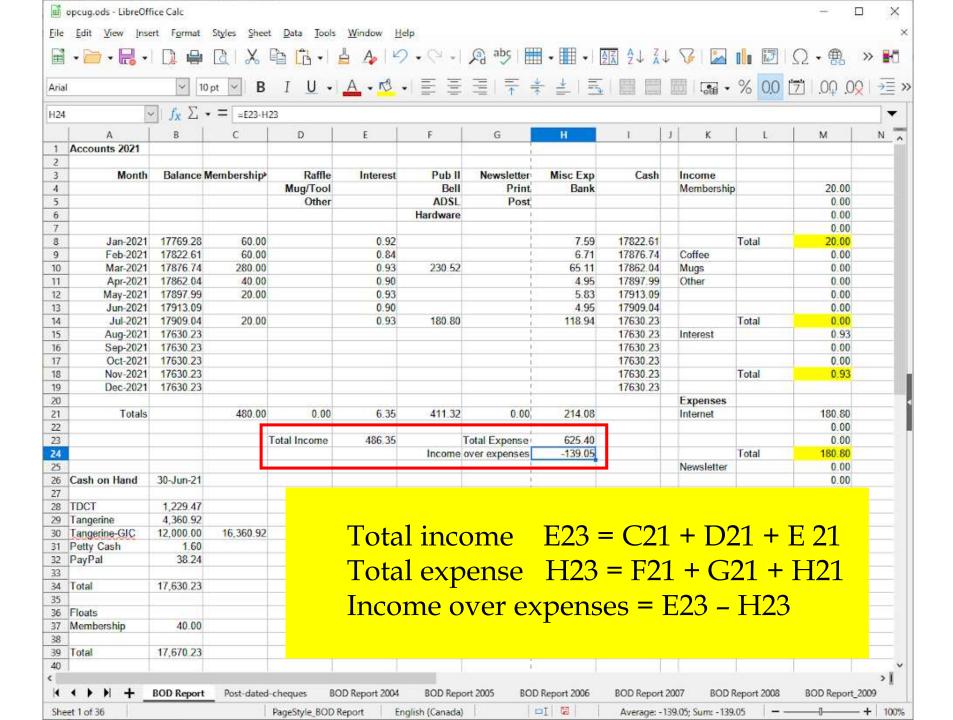


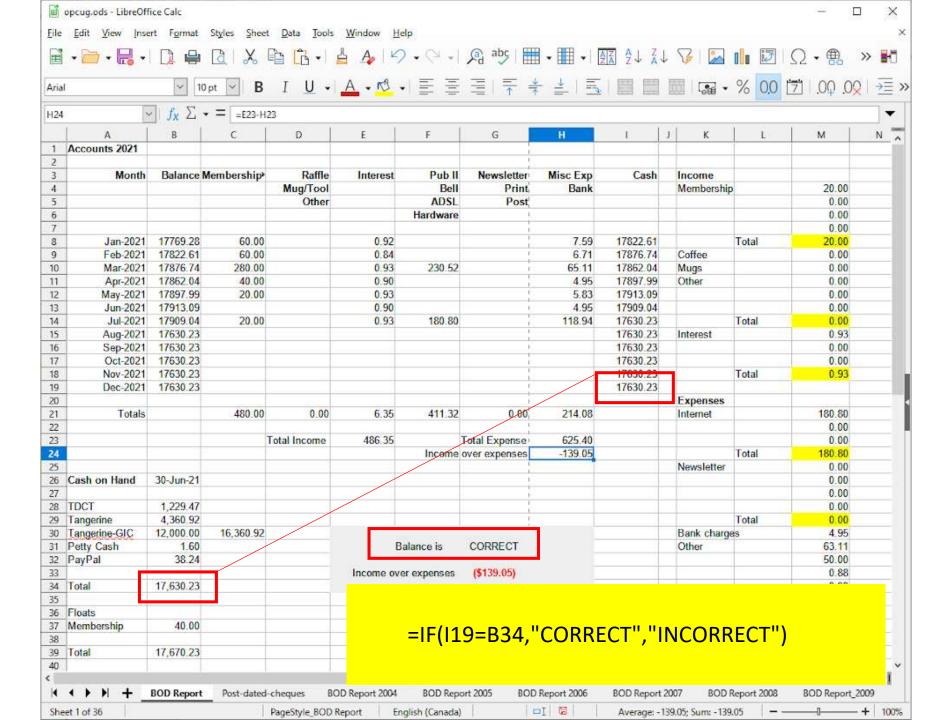


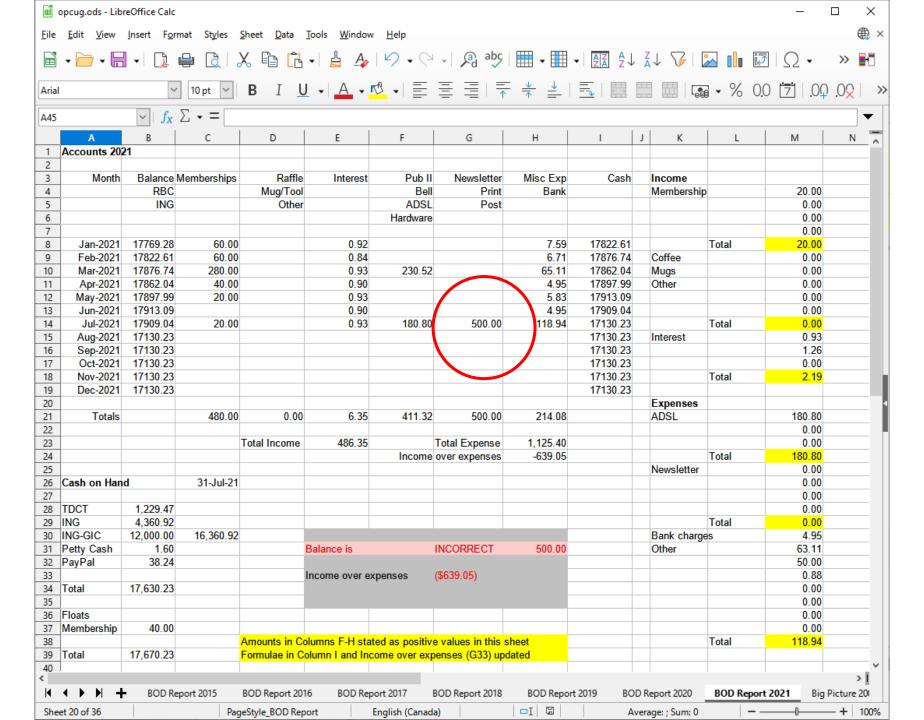




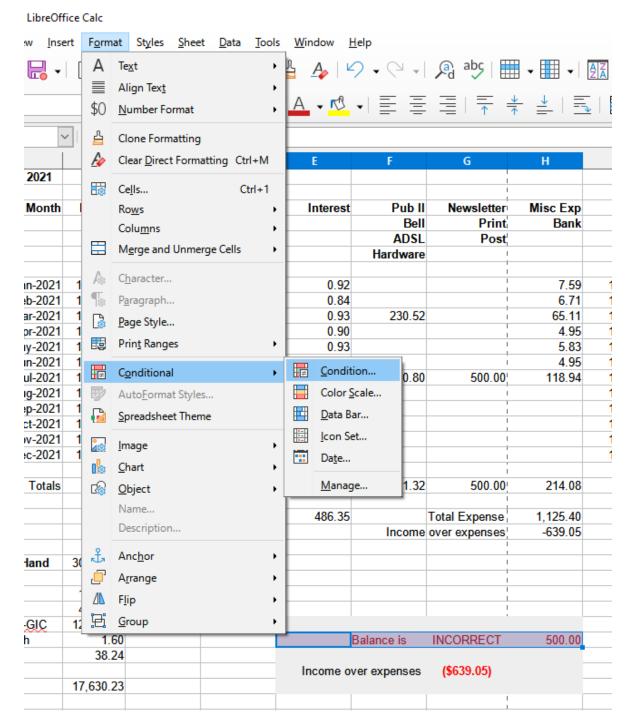


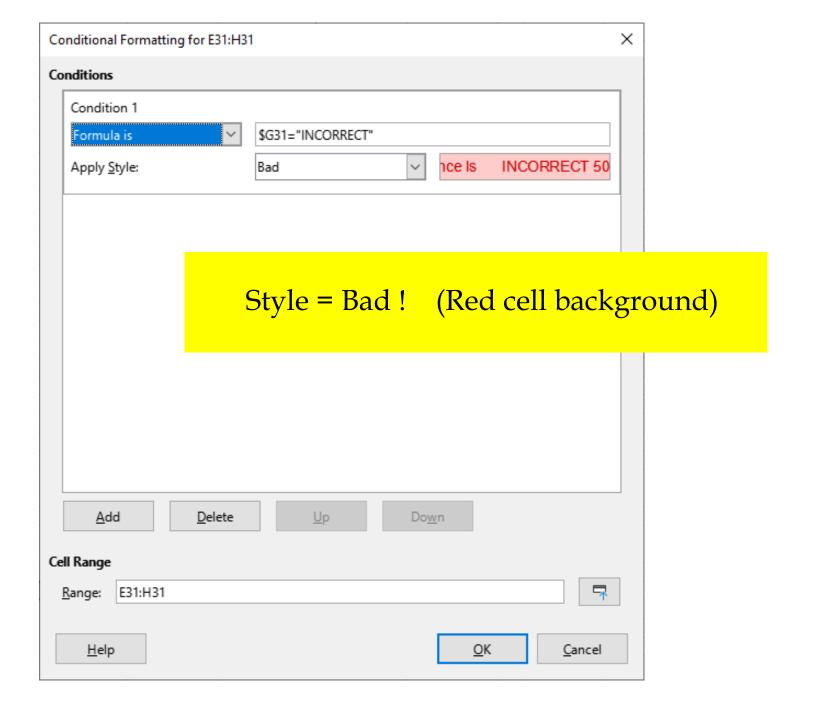


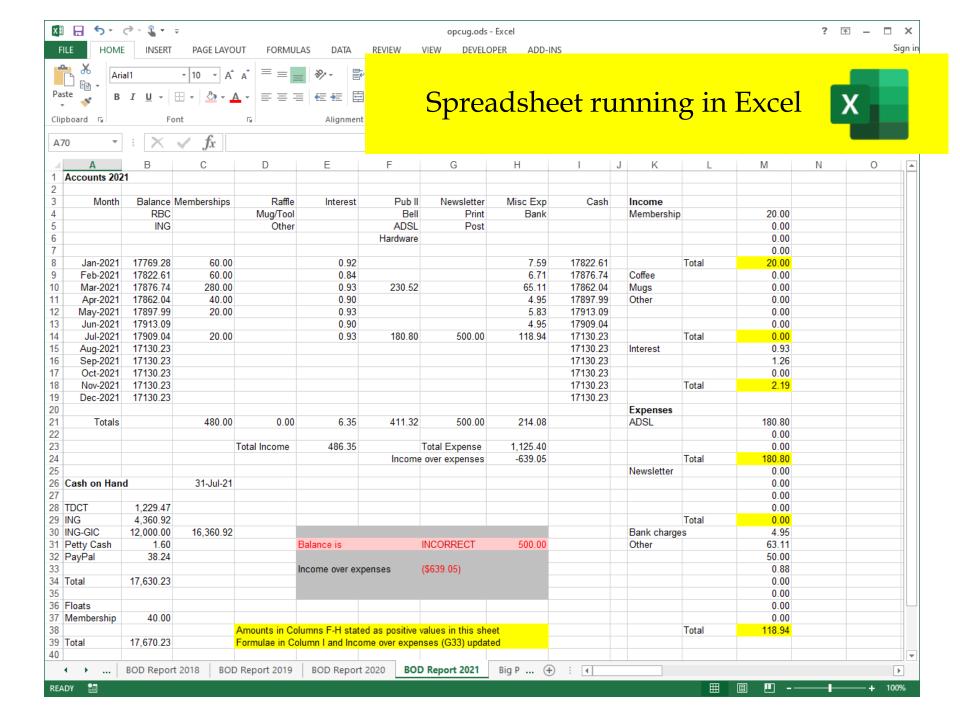


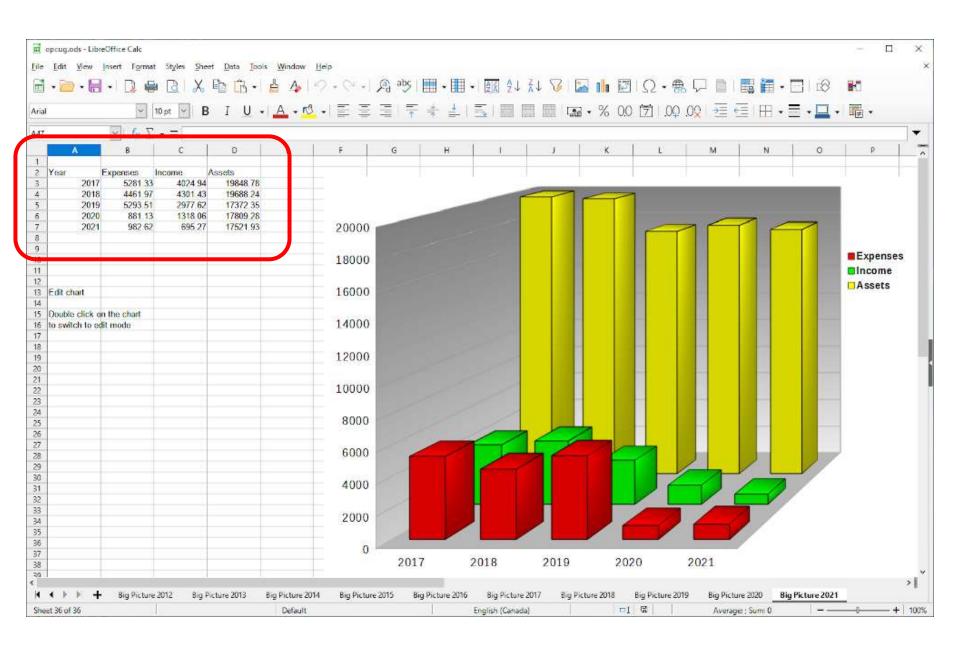


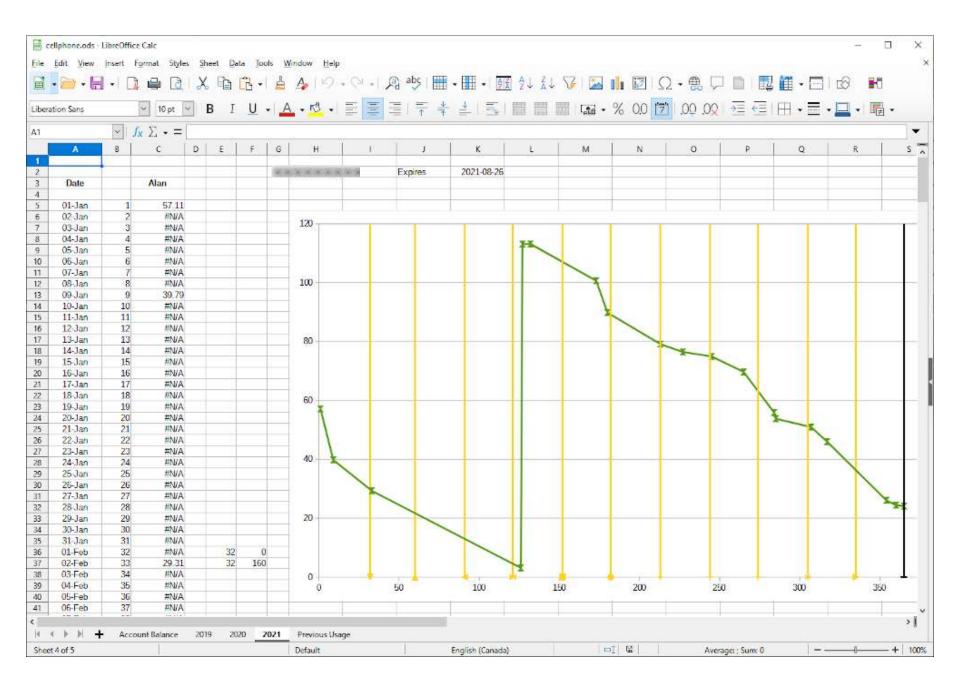
# **Conditional Formatting**

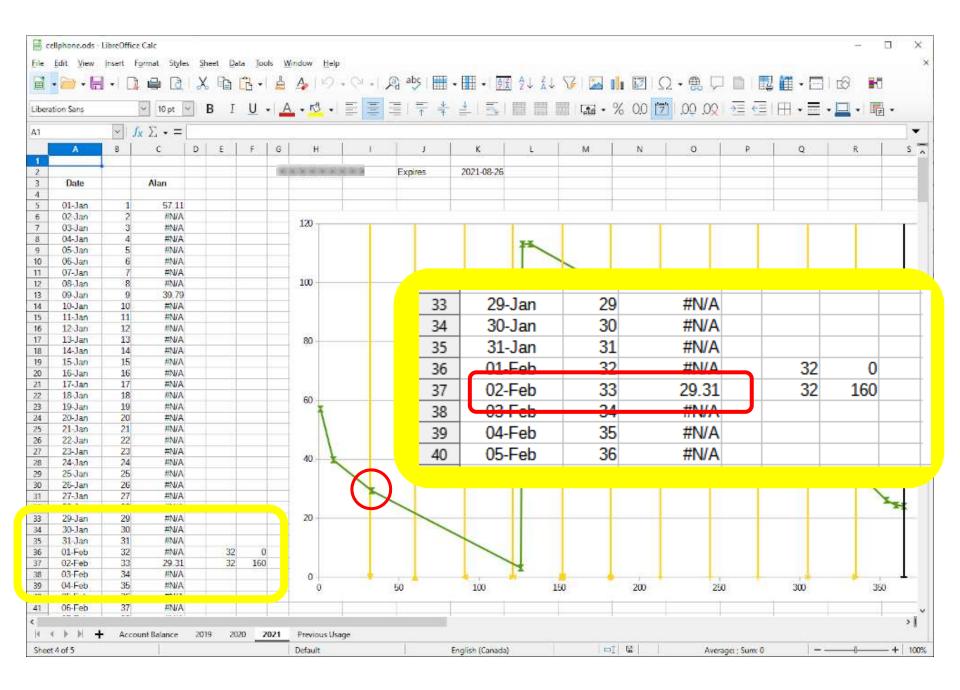


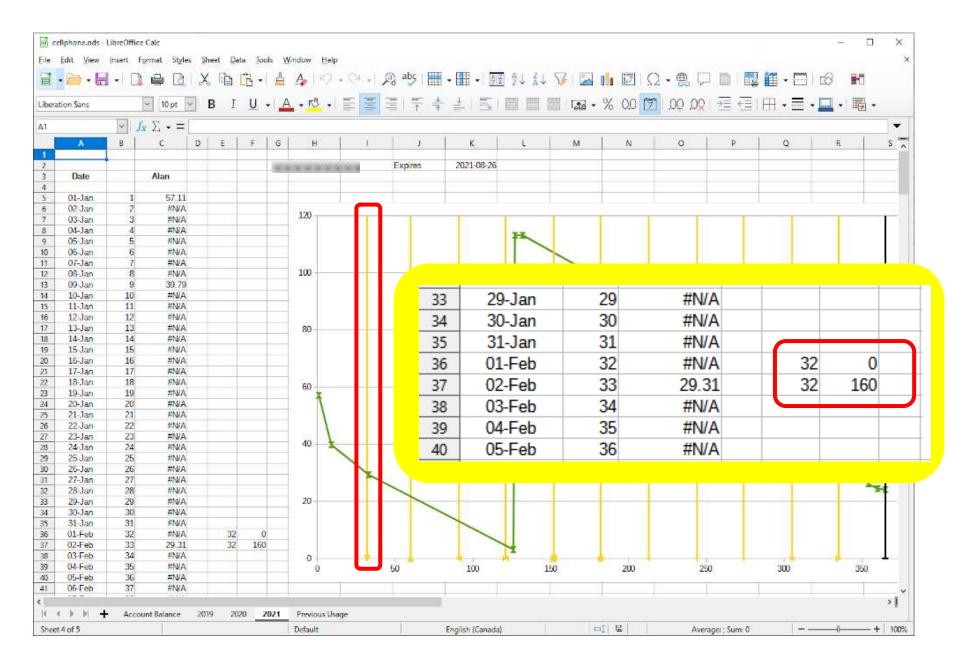


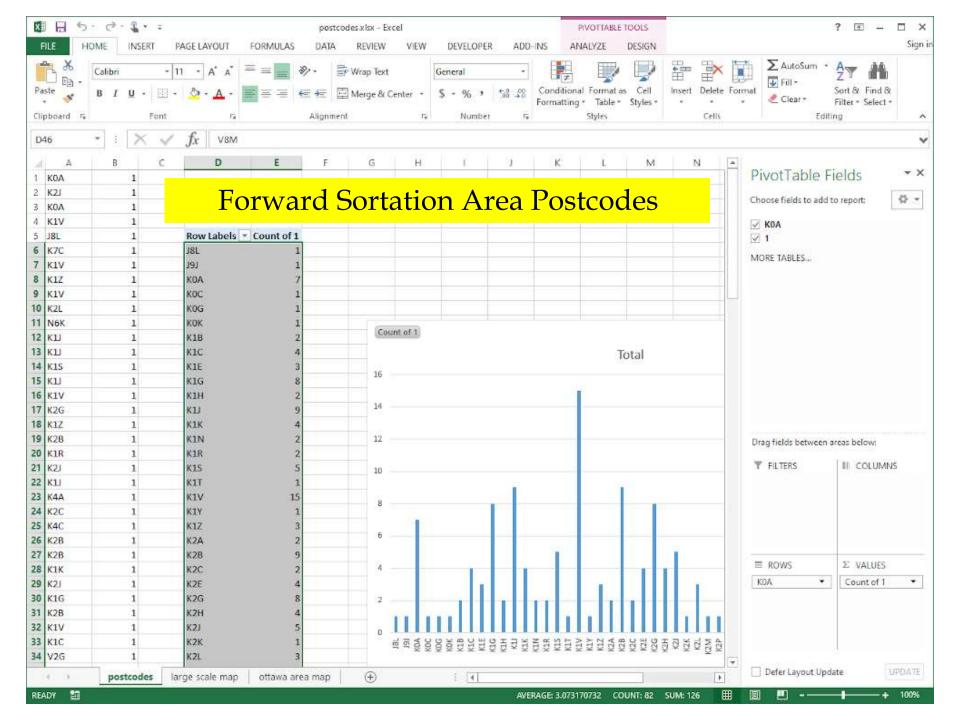


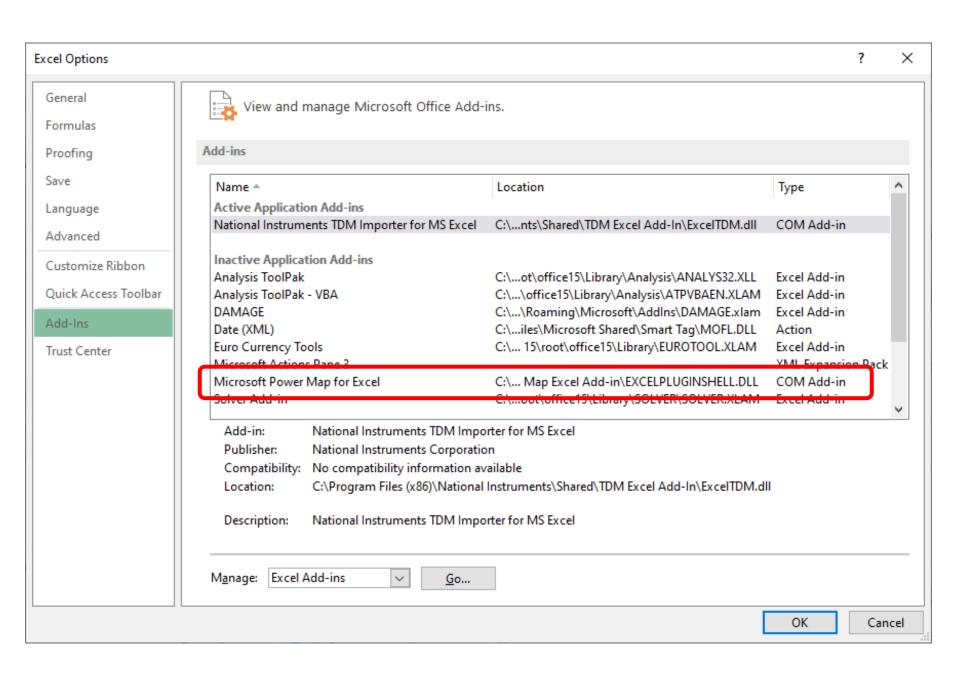


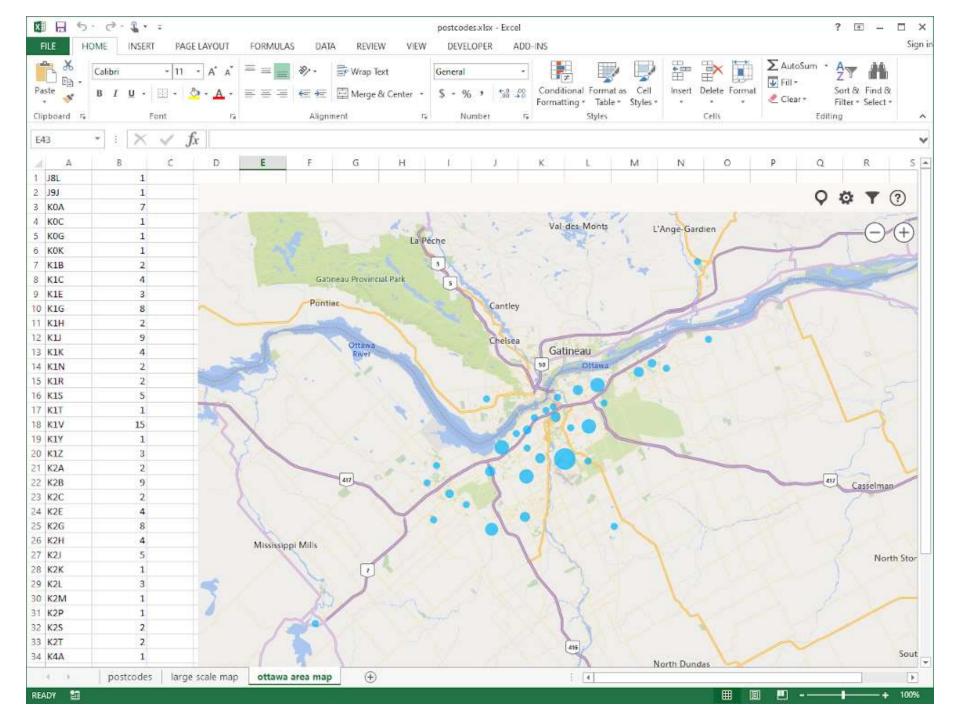


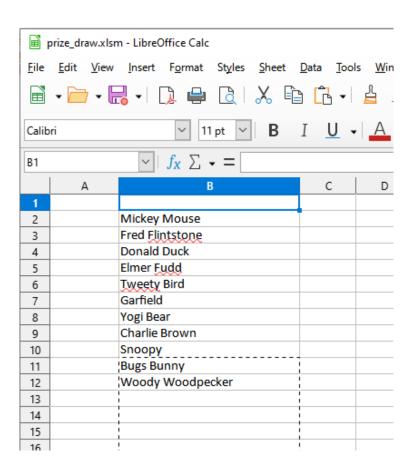






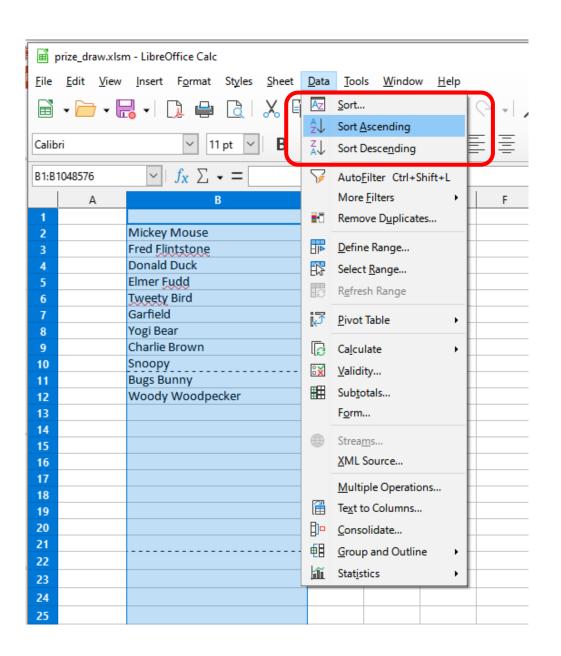


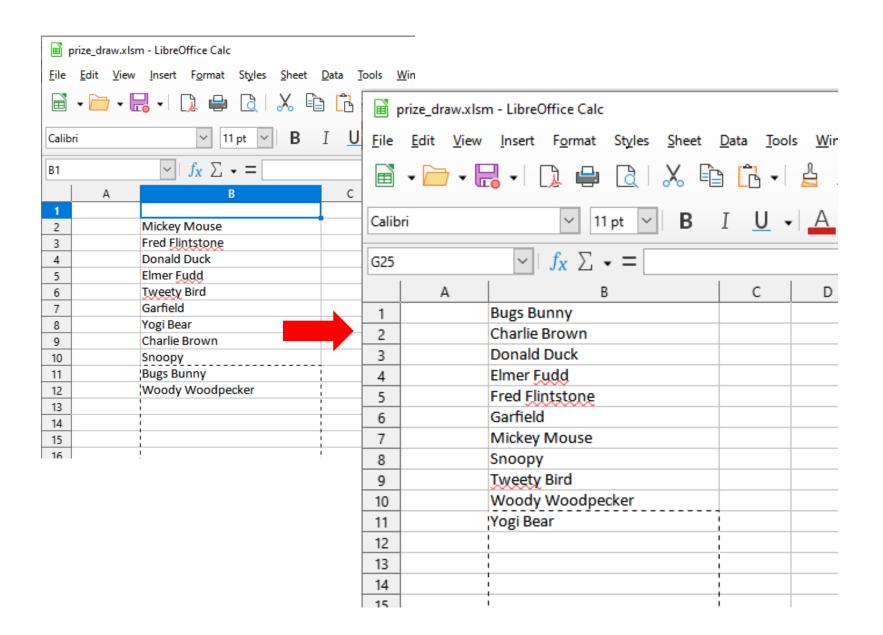


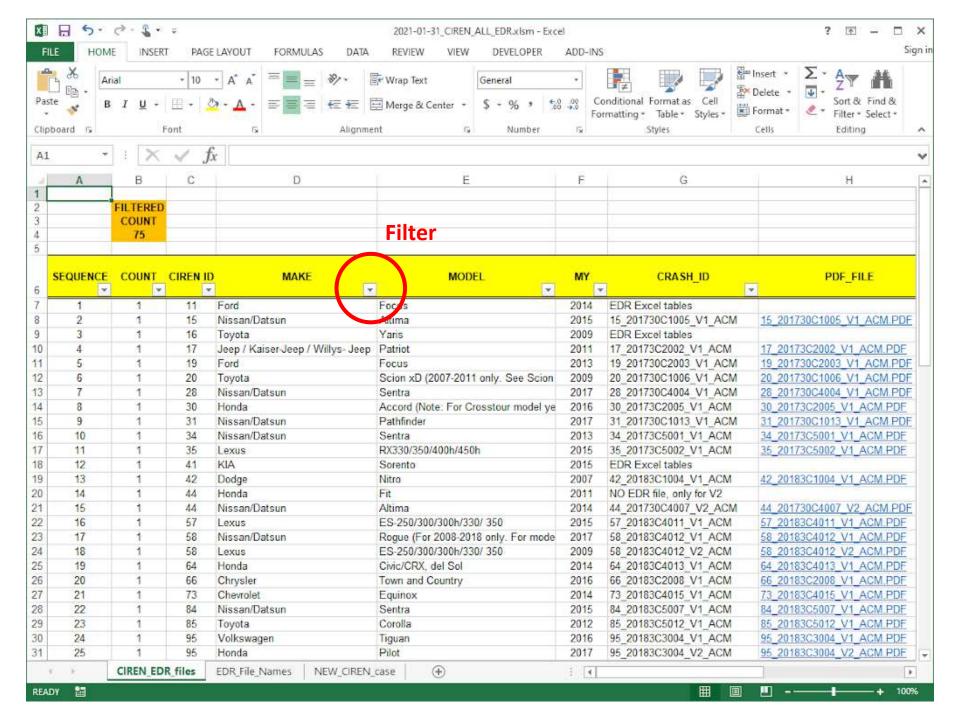


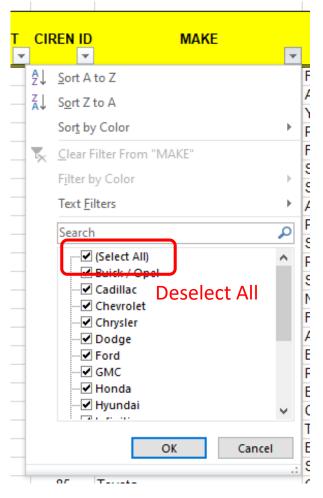
#### Sorting data

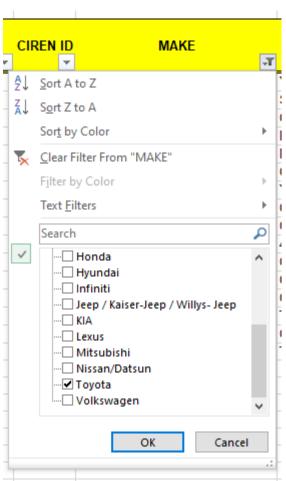


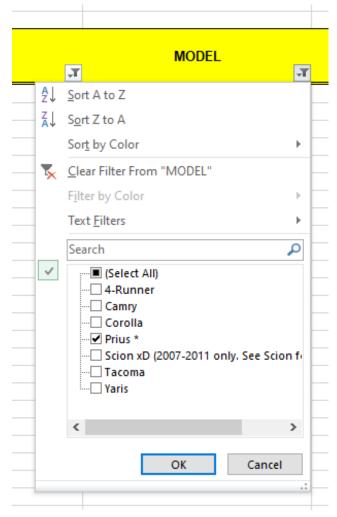


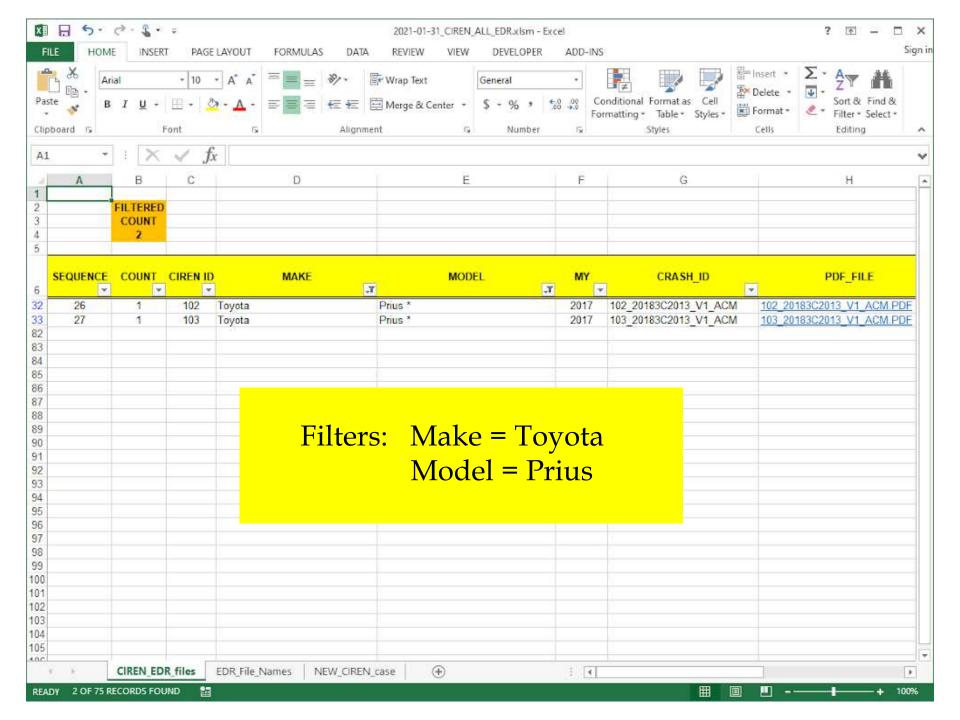


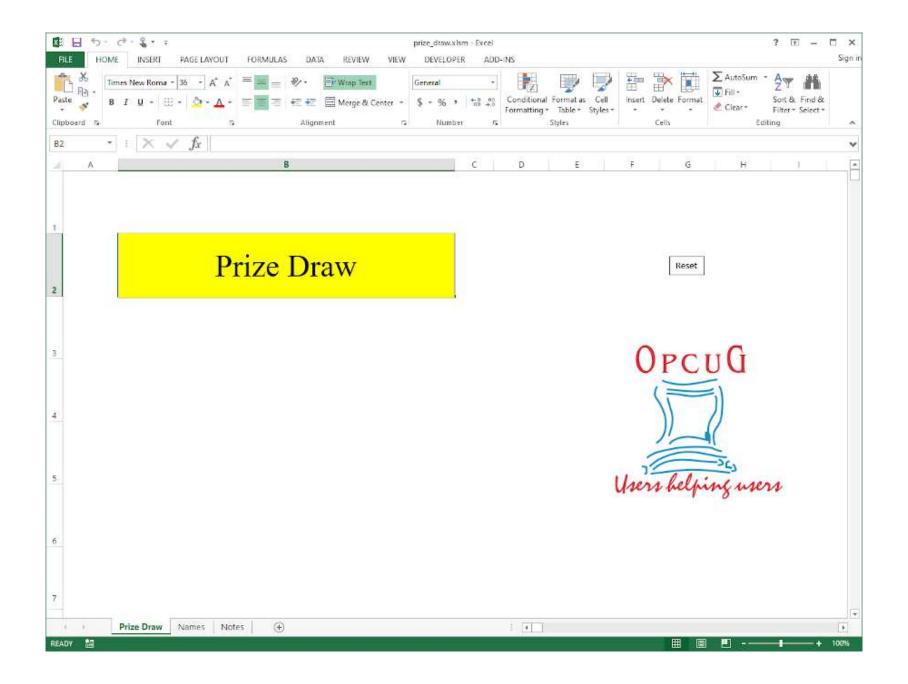


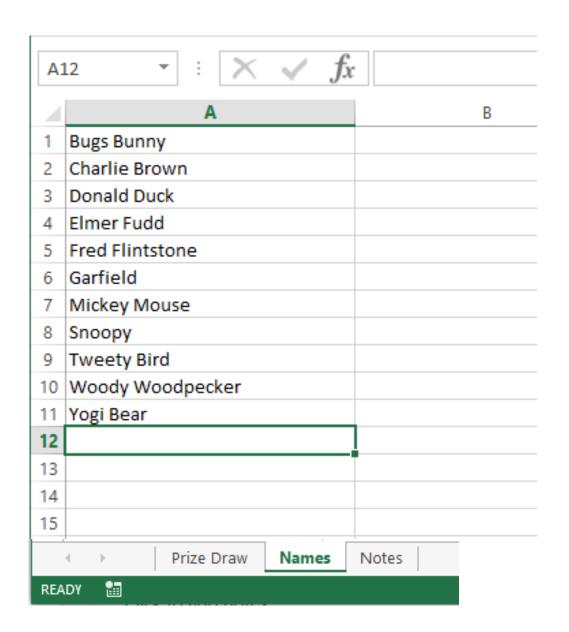


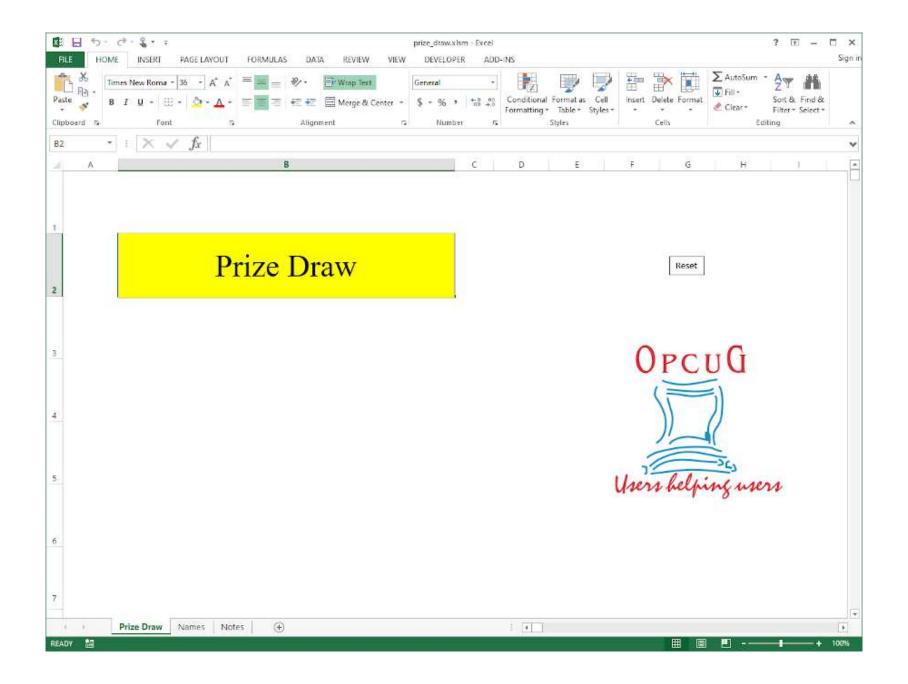


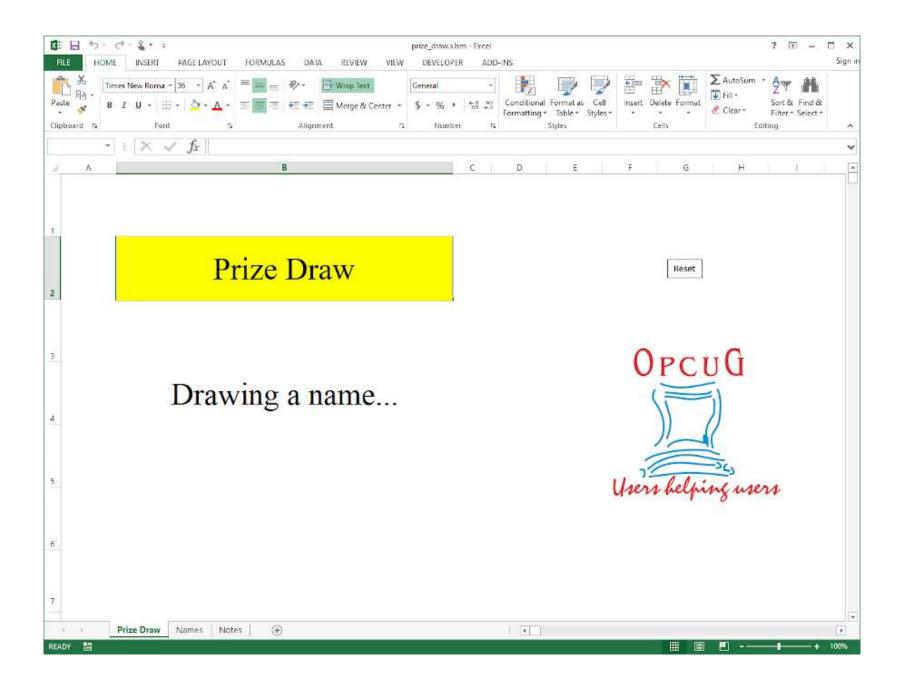


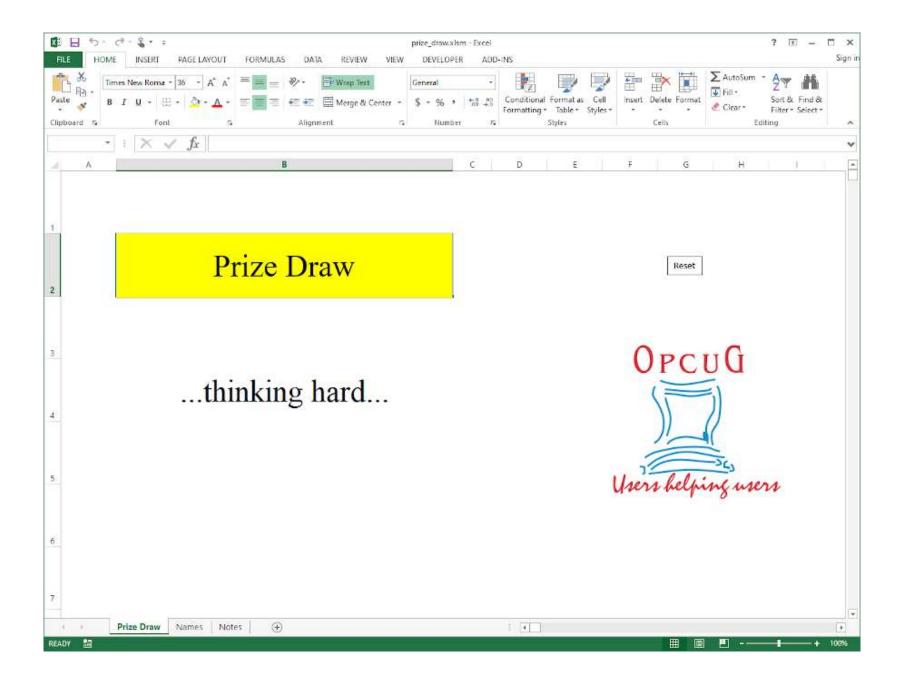


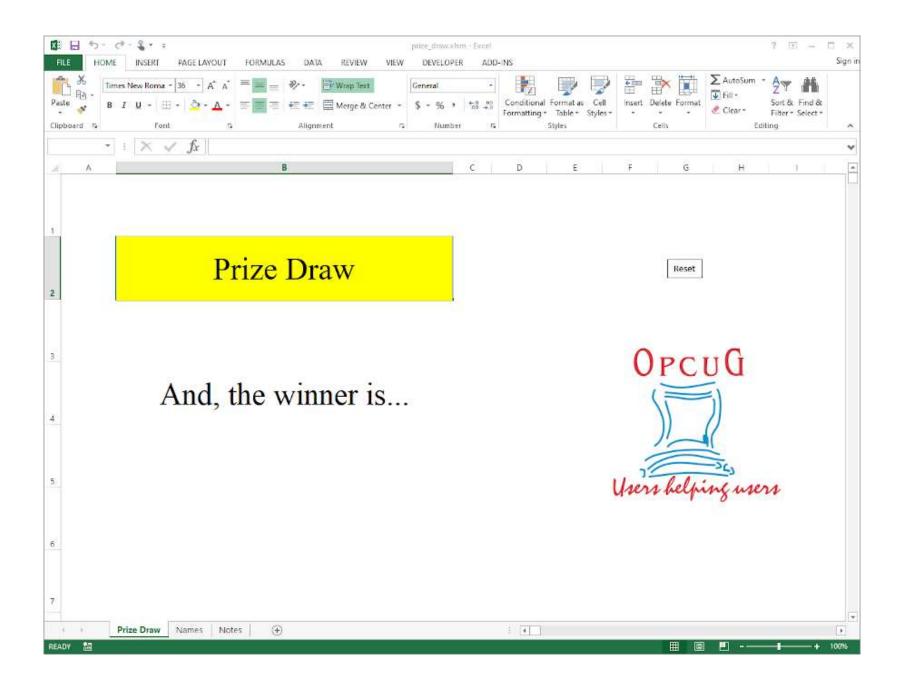












- ' Random draw for a single name from a list
- ' Select a random number between Low and High
- ' High will be reset as the number of names in the list

```
Dim last_rowA As Integer
Dim all_names As Range
Dim Low As Integer
Dim High As Integer
Low = 1
High = 1
Dim random_number As Double
Dim selected_name As String
selected_name = ""
```

```
' Use the Names worksheet

Sheets("Names").Select

' Identify the row number for the name of the last individual
' in the list in Col A; set the range of names, and the
' maximum row number

With ActiveSheet
    last_rowA = .Cells(.Rows.Count, "A").End(xlUp).Row
    Set all_names = Range("Al:A" + CStr(last_rowA))
    High = last_rowA
End With
```

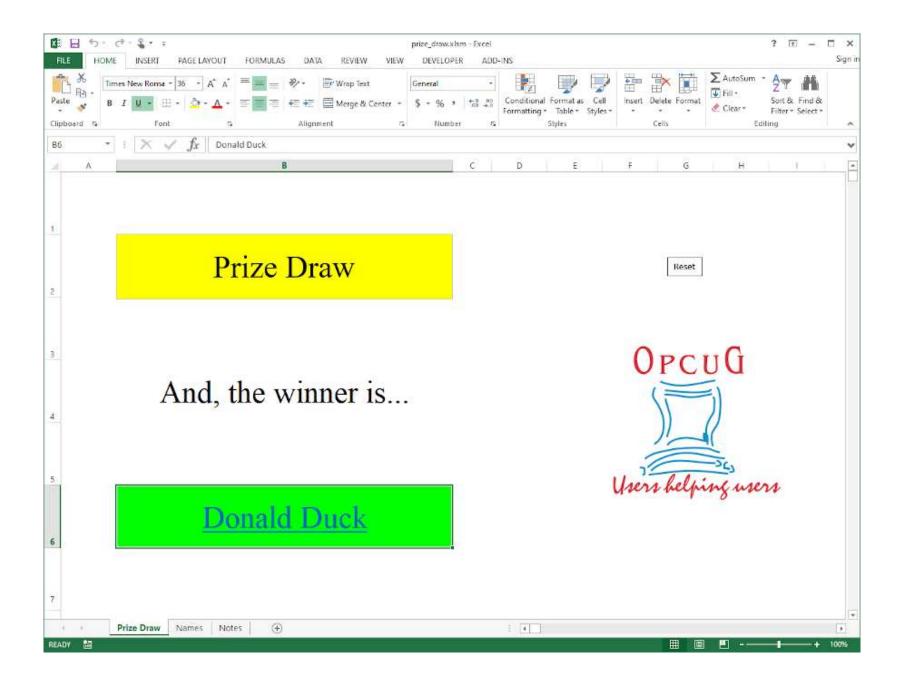
```
' Display "Drawing a name..."
Application.ScreenUpdating = True
Range("B4").Value = "Drawing a name..."
Range("B4").HorizontalAlignment = xlCenter
Range("B4").VerticalAlignment = xlCenter
With Selection.Font.
    .Name = "Times New Roman"
    .Size = 36
End With
Range ("B2") . Select
Application.ScreenUpdating = True
Application.Wait (Now + TimeValue("00:00:03"))
Application.ScreenUpdating = False
```

' Generate a random number from the list of workshop participants

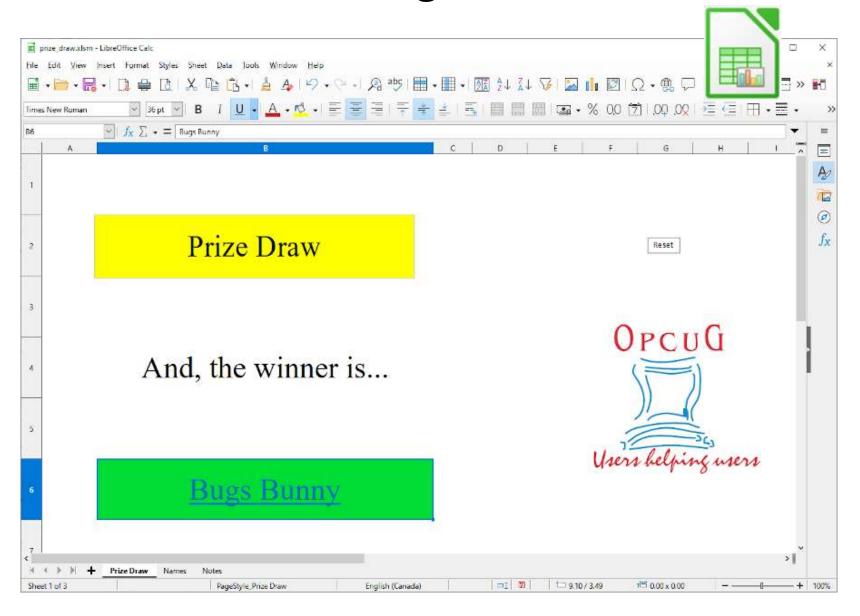
```
random number = Int(High * Rnd() + Low)
```

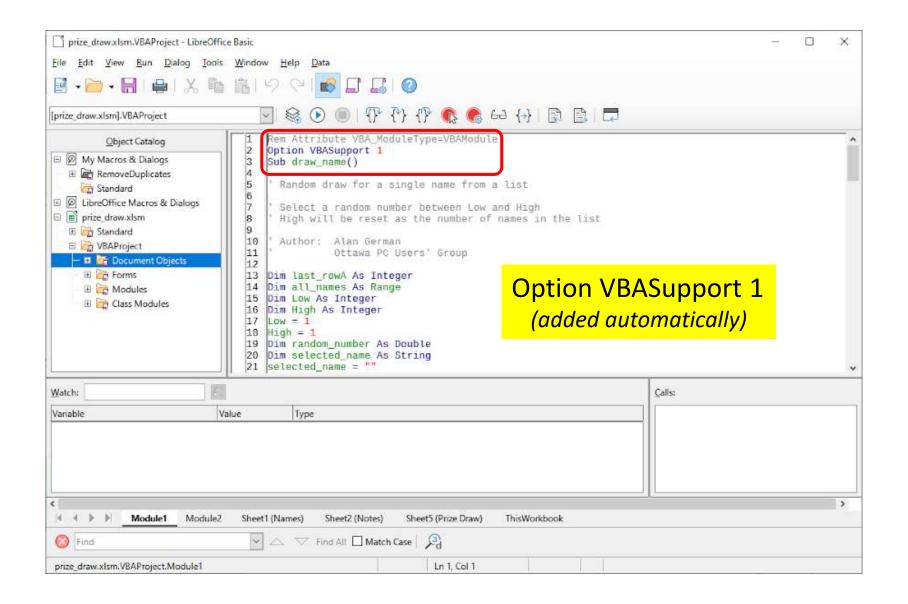
' Associate the participant's name with the random number

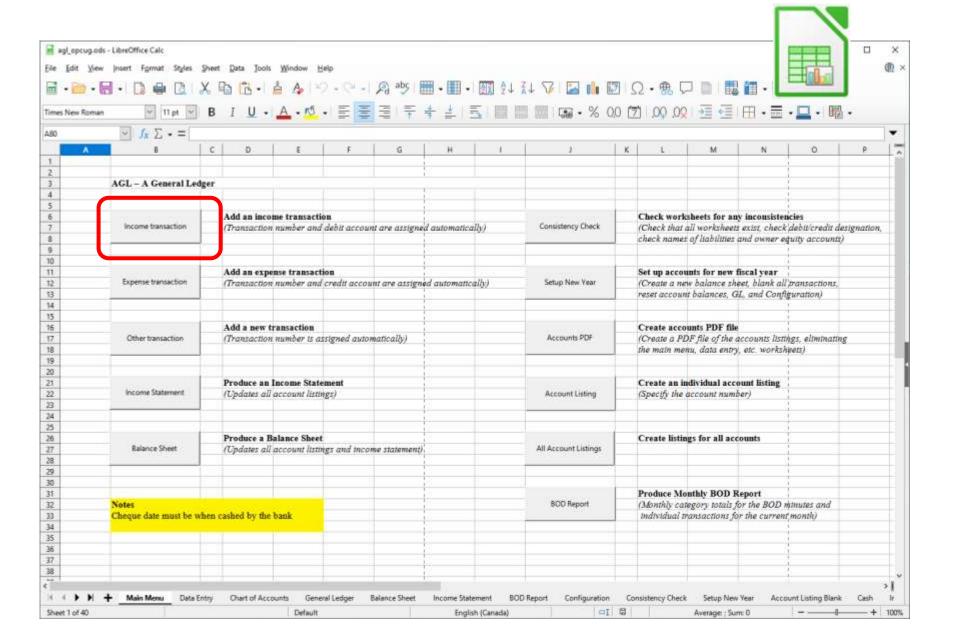
```
selected name = Sheets("Names").Range("A" + CStr(random number)).Value
```

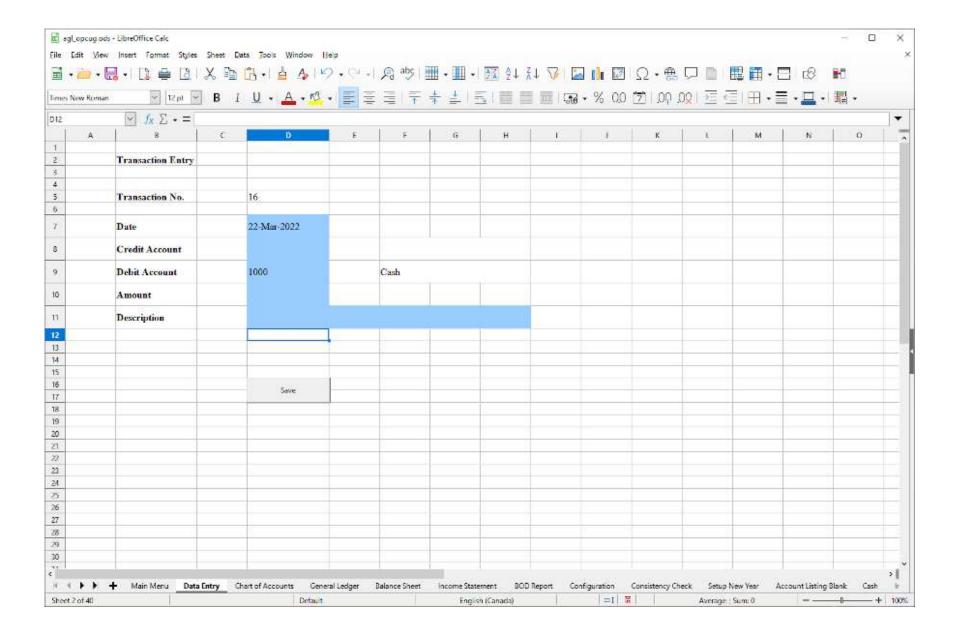


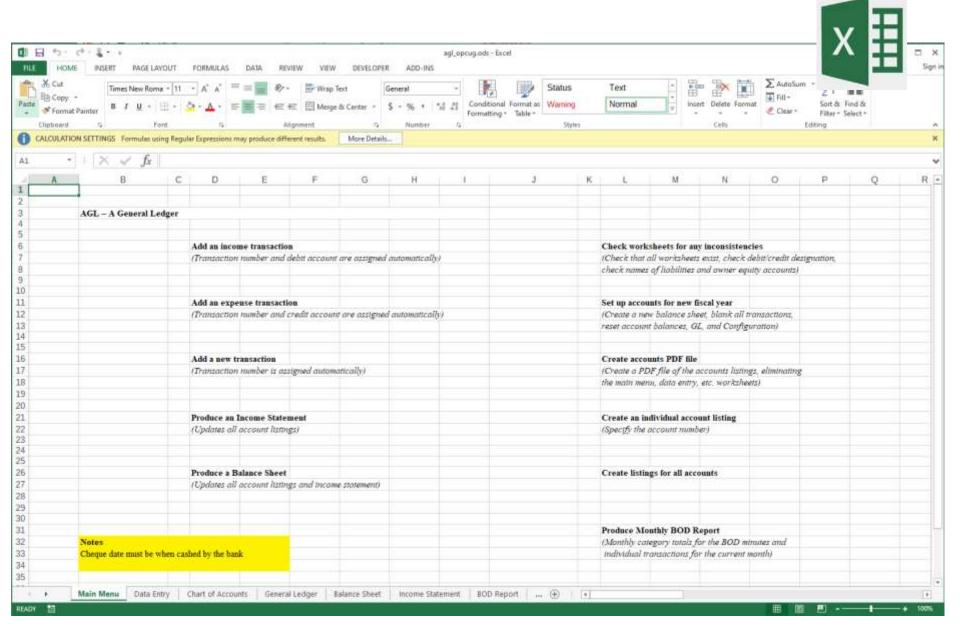
#### VBA Macro Running in LibreOffice Calc

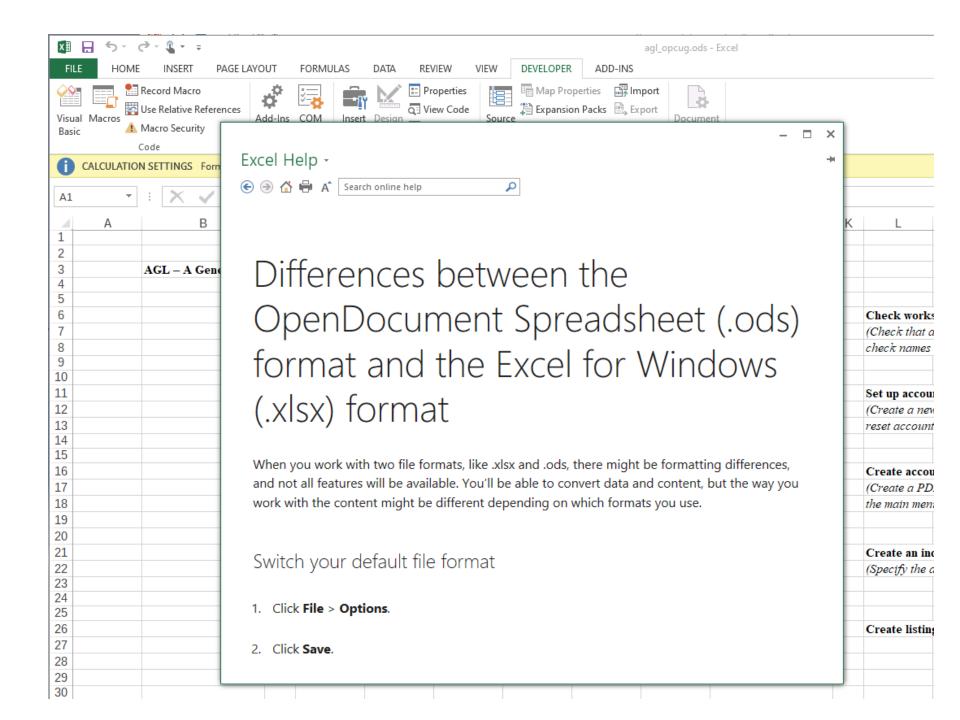


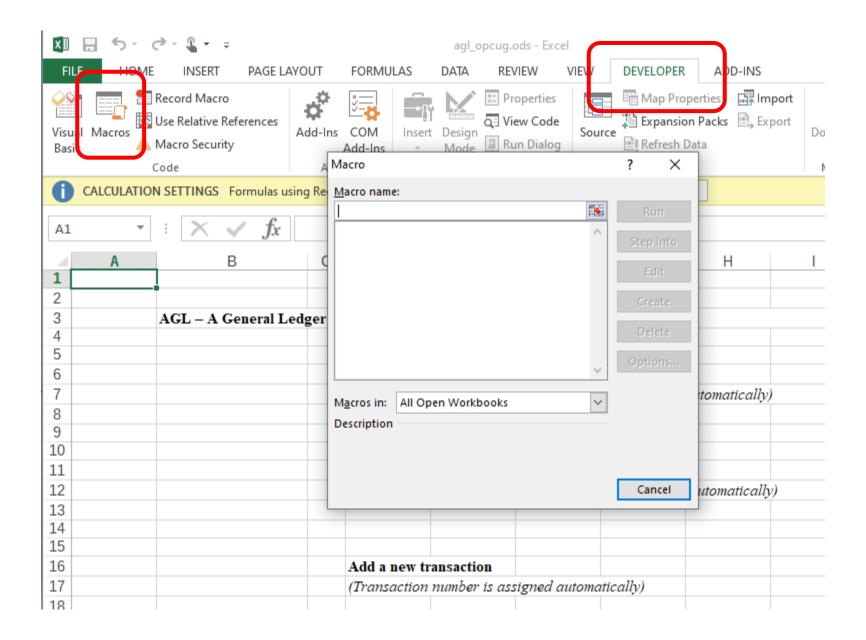














## Microsoft Excel vs.

#### LibreOffice Calc

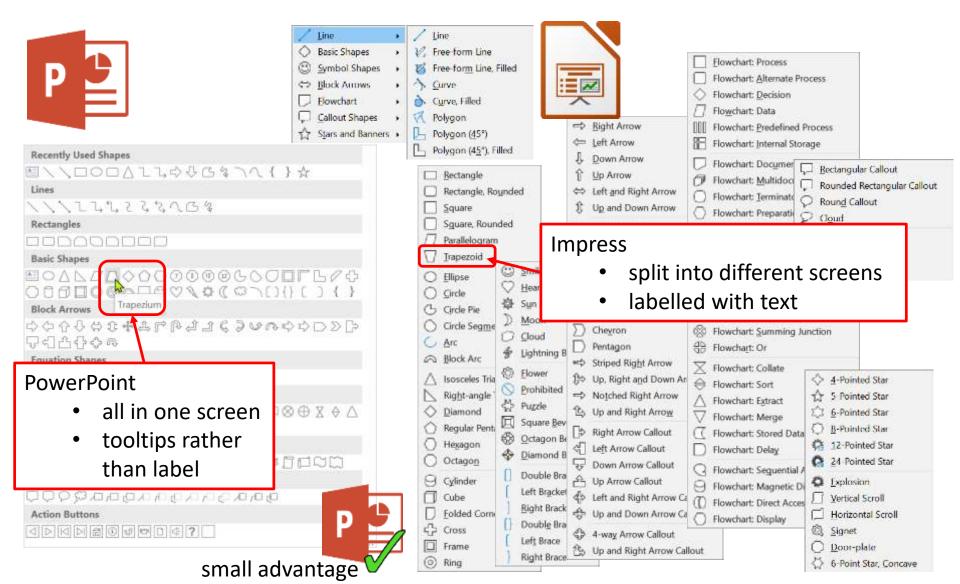


- For most users it's a wash
- The packages work in much the same way, with the same major features
- The main exception is in macro programming
- VBA and LibreOffice Basic are different
- LO developers are working hard to make VBA macros compatible
- No reciprocity, VBA won't run LO Basic

## PowerPoint

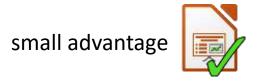
VS. Impress

## Shapes—you're covered!



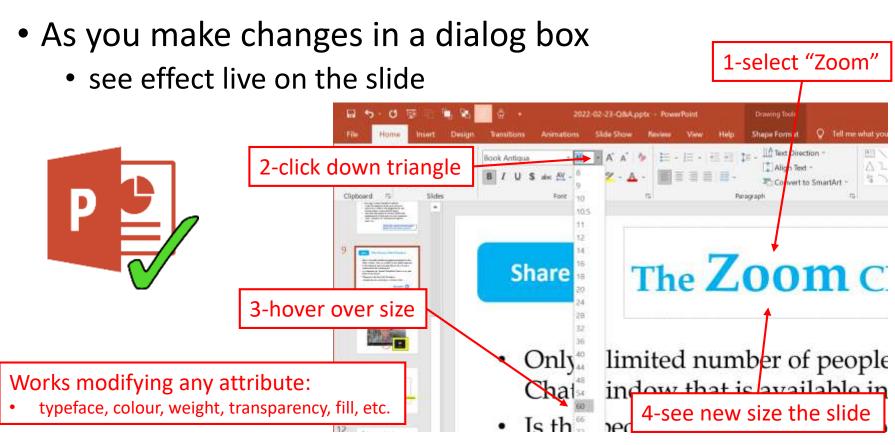
### Arranging objects—you're covered!

- PowerPoint and Impress both allow extensive
  - snap to grid / objects
  - flip horizontally, vertically
  - align
    - left, right, centre, top, bottom
  - group
  - layer
- Impress a few more capabilities when
  - snapping
  - distributing objects



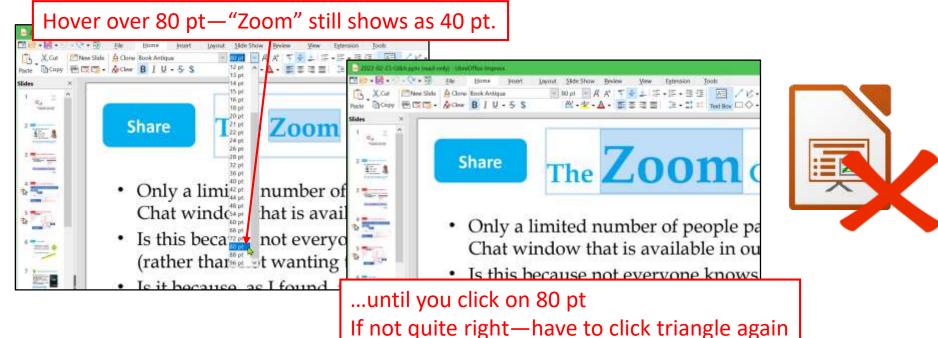
#### Modifying objects—PowerPoint

 PowerPoint has a significant advantage when modifying objects (text, outlines, fills, size, etc.)



#### Modifying objects—Impress

Impress doesn't show effects of change until commit

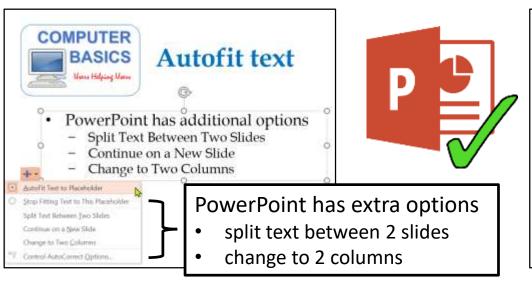


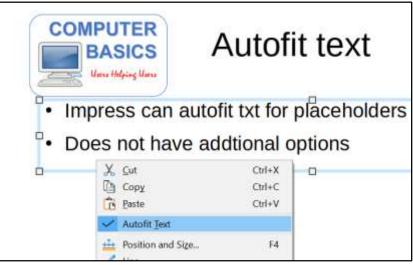
Same when modifying any attribute:

• typeface, colour, weight, transparency, fill, etc.

#### Auto-fit text—you're covered

- Nice feature in both PowerPoint and Impress
  - placeholders on masters & text boxes
  - you can over-ride this
- Avoid content running off page / covering other content

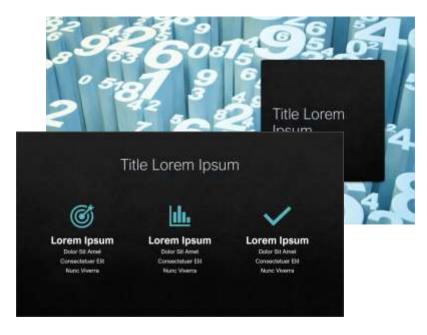




#### Layouts—you're covered

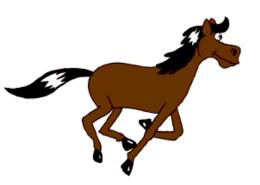
- Both PowerPoint and Impress have lots of layouts
  - easily customise the slide masters
    - PowerPoint: a little more straightforward





#### Animations—you're covered!

- Animations control how object appear/leave
  - order, effect (fade/wipe/float/spin/etc), timing
  - 40+ animations for appear/leave
    - most seem identical
    - some act slightly differently
- Motion paths control how objects move on slide
  - PowerPoint and Impress both have enormous control



#### Transitions—you're covered!

- Transitions morph from one slide to next
  - Impress: 36 transitions, PowerPoint: 49 transitions
  - lots of differences
  - PowerPoint generally more impressive
  - when backing up
    - PowerPoint transitions run in reverse
    - Impress ignores transitions
  - half of Impress transitions don't work (on my computer)



### Personal opinion...

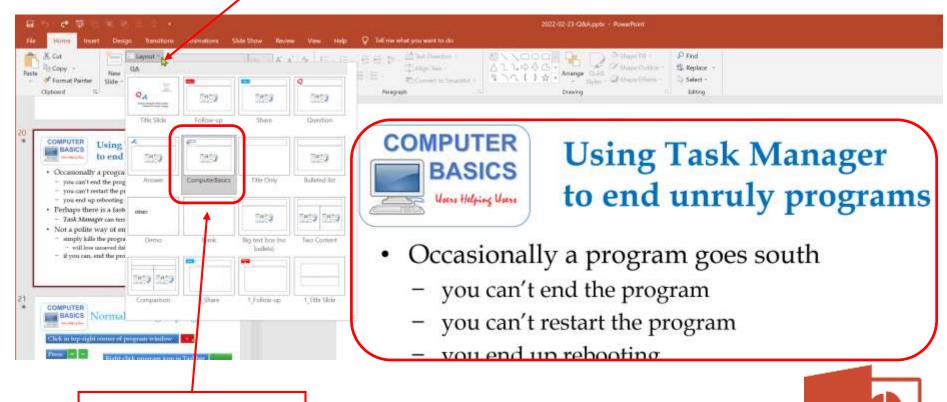
Do you want your audience remembering your slide transitions...

...or the content of your slides?

Maybe simple transitions are best

#### PowerPoint: current layout

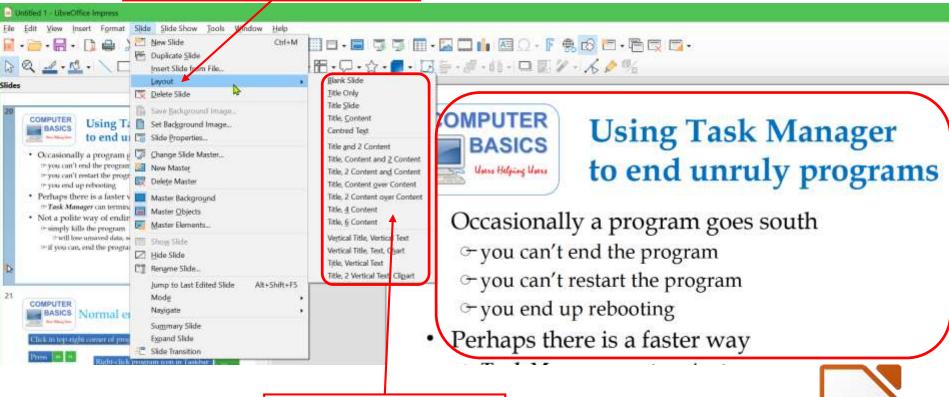
Select *Layout* on *Home* tab



Current selection for **Layout** is highlighted

#### Impress: current layout

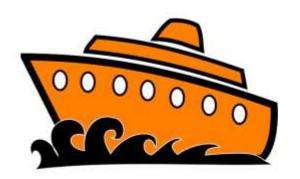
Select *Layout* on *Slide* menu



Current selection for Layout not highlighted



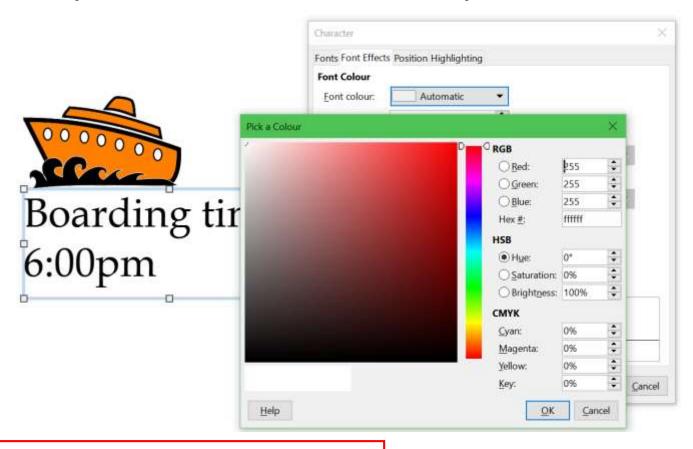
#### PowerPoint: colour picker



# Boarding time: 6:00pm



#### Impress: no colour picker



Must know colour value of other object



#### Compatibility issue: text boxes

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#### As created in PowerPoint

- 3-column text box with 3D effects
- 3 colours in gradient fill
- PowerPoint can have many colours in gradients

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#### **Exported from PowerPoint as odp** file & opened in Impress

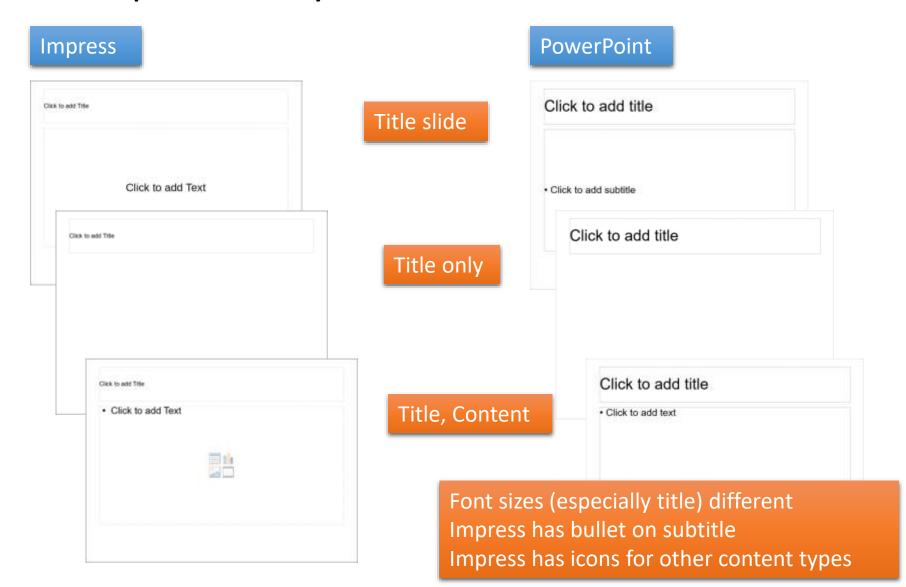
- No columns
- No 3D effects
- Impress can only handle 2 colours in gradient fill

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#### Saved from PowerPoint as pptx file & opened in Impress

- Columns retained
- No 3D effects
- Impress can only handle 2 colours in gradient fill

#### Compatibility issues: slide master



#### Compatibility issues: it gets worse

Compatibility issues: it gets worse
Content for layout

Compatibility issues: it gets worse

Deck created in Impress
Saved as PowerPoint
Edited in PowerPoint
Coreate new slide & choose Title, Content for layout

Messed up thumbnail Slide normal

Saved as PowerPoint EditoriatifflowerPoint if gets worse Creste new slide & choose Title, Content for layout

Saved as PowerPoint Editopath ReynorPoint if gets worse Create new side & choose Title, Content for layout Deck created in Impress
Saved as PowerPoint
Editeralitib Pibyvies Deist it gets worse
Create new slide & choose Title,
Content for layout

Duplicated slide 1
Slide 2 messed up
Slide 1 still appear normally (except in thumbnail)

#### Overall conclusion

- Overall capabilities are very similar
- LibreOffice obviously tried to duplicate Microsoft PowerPoint
  - ...and did a credible job
- Minor differences
  - some cases PowerPoint "better"
  - some cases Impress "better"
- Quite a few things are done a little—or lot—differently
  - your best friends
    - manual for Impress (Microsoft has no manual)
    - Google

#### Recommendation—mixed

- If using only one—PowerPoint or Impress
  - capability: too close to call
  - PowerPoint slightly easier to use



- File created in PowerPoint?
  - edit/use PowerPoint
- File created in Impress?
  - edit/use Impress
- Mix and match?
  - if you have to work in PowerPoint on file created in Impress?
  - if you have to work in Impress on file created in PowerPoint?
  - can probably edit existing slides without things messing up
  - don't create any new slides
  - don't duplicate existing slides
  - Import/export with Impress rather than with PowerPoint



#### What are the issues?

- Can I save money?
- Is open source better than closed source?
- Which suite is better supported?
- Which suite is best/more capable?
- If I switch, will I have problems?
- What about compatibility?
- Should I switch?



#### Can I save money?

- Microsoft Office 365 (subscription) \$70-\$100/year
- Microsoft Office ("perpetual") \$150-\$250
  - Microsoft lifecycle—a moving target
    - it used to be 10 years before extended support ended
  - Office 2019 (released 2018-09-24)
    - mainstream support ends 2023-10-10 (5 years)
    - extended support ends 2025-10-14 (+ 2 years)
- LibreOffice free



#### Open source vs. closed source

- hard to argue against open source
  - most people probably really don't care
- a philosophical issue perhaps



### Which suite is better supported?

- Which suite is better supported?
  - both enjoy excellent support
    - from developers/vendor and from community





# Which suite is best/most capable?

- Both very capable
  - LibreOffice worked hard to duplicate functions in Microsoft Office and gone beyond in some regards





## If I switch, will I have problems?

- Perhaps—it depends on your usage
  - most problems are more annoyances than show-stoppers





#### What about compatibility?

- Getting much better in recent years
  - issues still arise using documents created by other suite
    - LibreOffice better at importing/exporting Microsoft formats
    - Microsoft Office worse at importing LibreOffice formats



- Biggest problem could be
  - not knowing when fidelity has not been maintained
- If concerned about fidelity, best:
  - work with Microsoft documents—use Microsoft Office
  - work with LibreOffice documents—use LibreOffice

#### What about compatibility?

- Microsoft users can freely use LibreOffice when needed
- LibreOffice users can't freely use Microsoft Office when needed

- It is a Microsoft Office Format world
  - more likely to receive Microsoft Office files from others



#### Should I switch?

- Microsoft Office users switch to LibreOffice?
  - If looking to save money, perhaps
  - If looking to reduce issues with fidelity, perhaps not
- LibreOffice users switch to Microsoft Office?
  - If looking to reduce issues with fidelity, perhaps
  - If looking to save money, perhaps not



#### May Meeting



# Me & My Mac

Gillian Villeneuve, MUGOO

(Macintosh User Group Of Ottawa)

May 11, 2022 7:30 pm



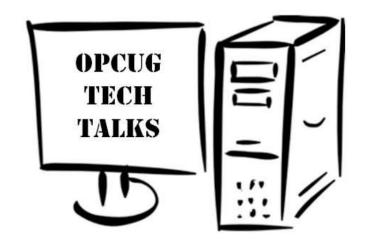
# Basic photo editing May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 pm

How many times have you looked at a photo and wished you could brighten just the main subject? Or perhaps you had an image printed and don't like how the store cropped it. Are the colours in your photo less vibrant than they were in person?

Lynda Buske will show how all these issues can be addressed using free photo editing software available for both Windows and MacOS.

Full details at:

https://opcug.ca/events/photoediting/





Lynda Buske

#### **Registration required**

Free for OPCUG members \$20.00 for non-members (including one-year membership)





Send your questions, answers, and topics you wish to share to:

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca