

Star Office a Challenge for MSOffice?

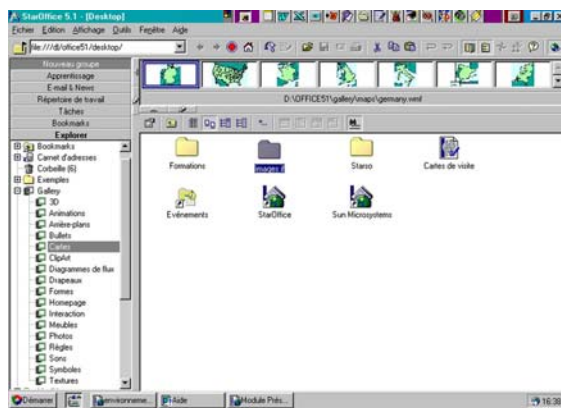
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The paper presents a new integrated software for the office, StarOffice, design for the French countries. It has a lot of the MSOffice facilities, including a word processor that provides extensive control over long documents and formatting, versatile spreadsheets and multimedia presentations and more, like the math module, the schedule and mail organizer module.

Keywords: software, office, module.

Is MSOffice the best software to solve the current tasks in an office? Or due to the language, or software obstacles, we can't see other more efficient office software? The paper presents a challenge for MSOffice, the office software *StarOffice*, a total business solution.

StarOffice software is affordable, easy to use, and based on open standards. It offers word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, drawing, and database capabilities. Its familiar interface enables quick productivity and results for the business user and elegant output for the consumer.



StarOffice is an integrated software for the office, including a word processor that provides extensive control over long documents and formatting, versatile spreadsheets and multimedia presentations, and it has a lot of new modules comparable to MSOffice, as the module for math, mail and schedule organizer.

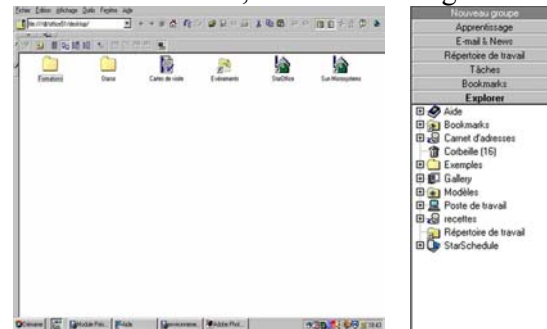
Star Office as an integrated software, has different parts:

1. **StarWriter** a powerful word processing;
2. **StarCalc** a versatile spreadsheets;

3. **StarImpress** for Multimedia presentations;
4. **StarDraw**, a powerful graphics application that enables the creation of dynamic 3D illustrations and special effects as well as saves them in a variety of common graphics file formats, is the module for drawing;
5. **StarImage** for pictures processing;
6. **StarMath** module for math calculations;
7. **StarBase**, a dynamic data source management tool allows you to connect, administer and access a wide range of data sources (including dBase and SQL) directly from StarOffice; for database processing, an easy-to-use relational database;
8. **StarChart** for graphics;
9. **StarOne/Starbasic** module for macro;
10. **StarSchedule** for organizing activities.

Star Office has also Intranet and Internet facilities for **mail**, like MS Outlook Express. It can be installed on Windows OS or Linux, Solaris platform and it has a G.U.I. similar to Windows or KDE for Linux.

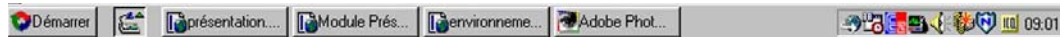
The StarOffice interface will substitute the OS interface and the desktop is similar with Windows interface, as in the next figures.



The menu bar and function bar have new facilities, like searching for URL addresses or files, like a Web page.



The taskbar is similar to Windows's.



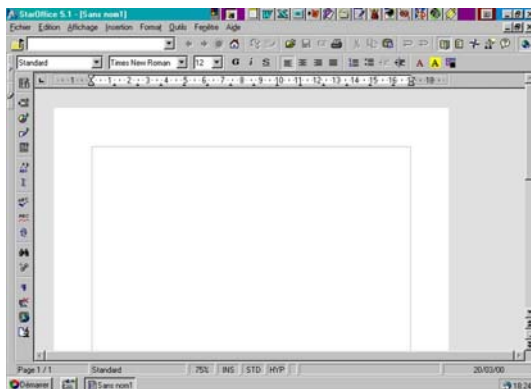
The software has also an Explorer similar to Windows Explorer. We can create new folders, move, copy, rename files etc.

StarWriter, the wordprocessor

StarOffice Writer is a powerful tool for creating professional documents, newsletters and brochures. You can easily integrate images and charts in documents, create business letters and extensive text documents with professional layouts, as well as create and publish Web content. Included are frequently used business document templates, as well as animation, graphics and images. Any editor that supports XML can be used to read, edit and save StarOffice documents. File sharing is easy, and users are not locked in to a proprietary vendor format.

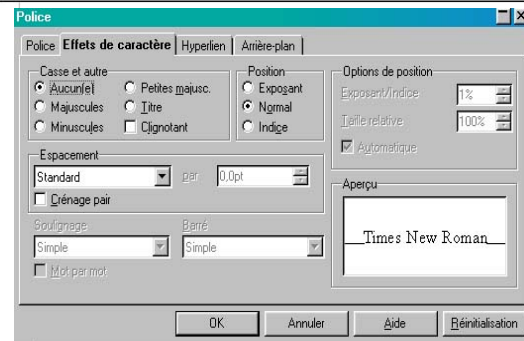
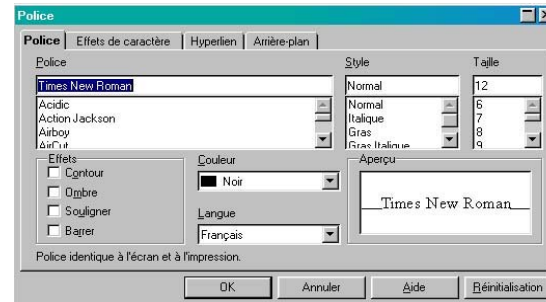
Bi-directional text support can set the StarOffice interface to display from right to left, working is more intuitively in languages that naturally write from right to left. It has complex Text Layout, correctly display complex text. You can work in languages requiring complex text layouts, such as characters that change when paired with other characters. It has Multi-platform font handling, FreeType and TrueType fonts supported, high quality fonts look the same on Linux, Solaris OS and Windows.

The menu bar is more complete than Word, and has new facilities.

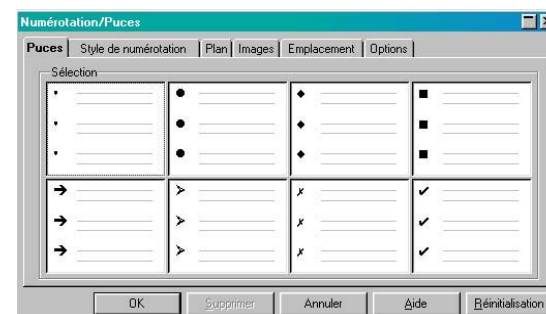
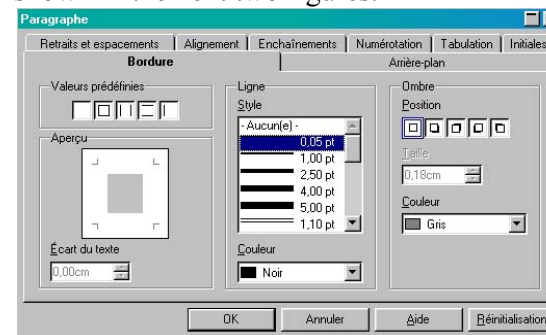


Character formatting is more easy and complete than in Word. In the next two figures you can see that it can select the type, style,

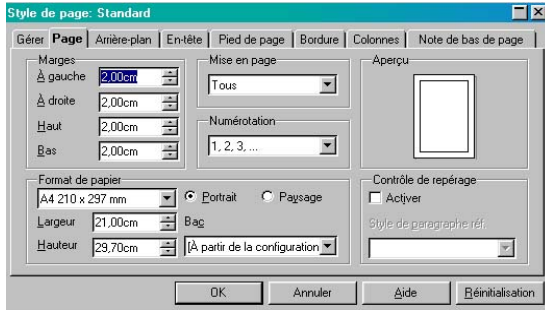
width, position, color and the language (including special characters) and special effects for the characters.



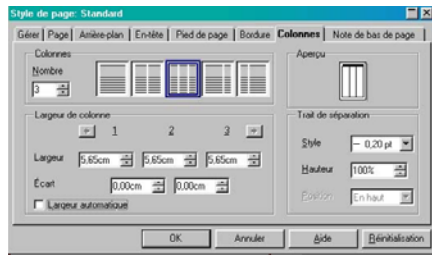
The paragraph formatting has a lot of options: alignment, indentations, borders with different types of lines and shadows in different positions, bullets and numbering, shown in the next two figures.



The page setup and style has inside the menu all the options, including paper size, orientation, borders, columns, header and footer, footnote and end notes etc.

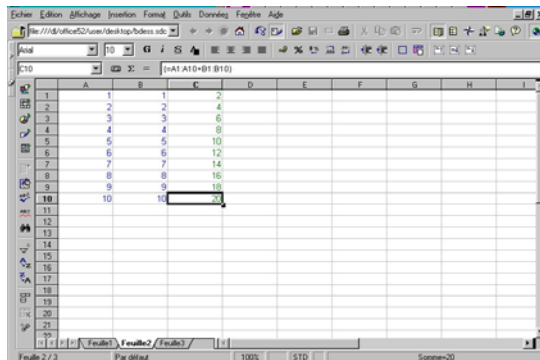


The document can be spitted in columns, and the user can selected not only the number and the dimensions of the columns but also for the lines between.



StarCalc, the spreadsheet

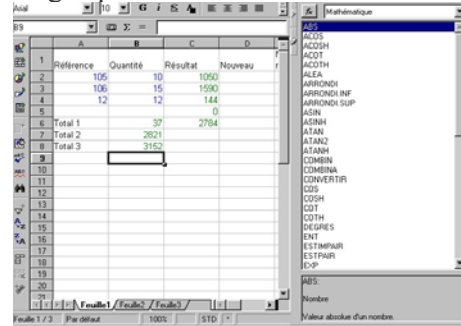
The StarCalc is the spreadsheet module, and has the formula bar, the menu bar, but also a menu for formatting cells, for graphics, for managing the files etc. StarOffice Calc is a sophisticated spreadsheet application with decision making analysis tools for performing advanced spreadsheet functions and data analysis. In addition, charting tools generate impressive, high quality 2-D and 3-D charts.



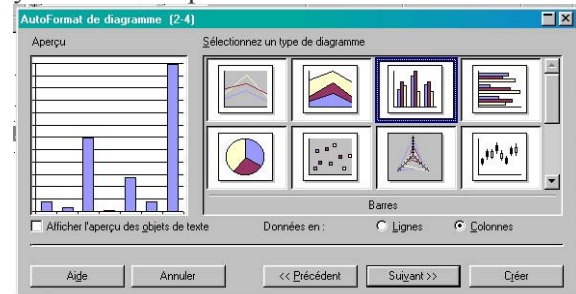
It has a lot of math, logic, financial and stastic functions shown in the next figure:

- apply subtotals to selected columns for rapid analysis of your data,

- easily manipulate and analyze XML data in a spreadsheet,
- access information at a glance and quickly summarize data with enhanced sorting and filtering capabilities.



The diagrams can be design automatically choosing from the given types, easily convert your data into powerful visuals.



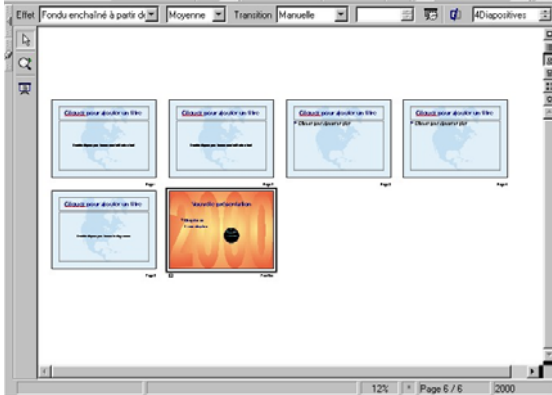
StarImpress, dinamic presentation

StarOffice Impress is a tool for creating effective multimedia presentations. It includes 2D and 3D clipart, special effects, animations and high-impact drawing tools, shown in the next figure. The features are:

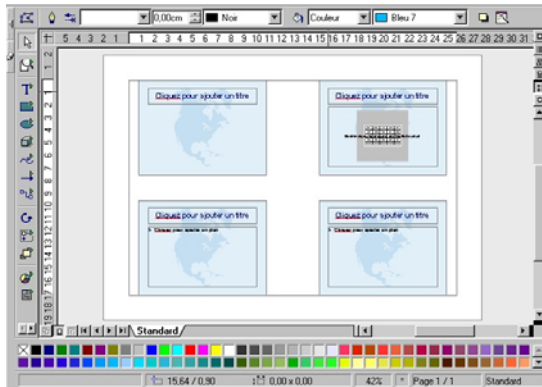
- easily create vector drawings and manipulate digital photographs,
- enhance your slide shows with graphics, sound and animation,
- create charts that show your organization's structure with tools that make them easy to update



You can choose from mode text, diapositive and prospectus. That means that we can combine and in the same page to display all the information. This is the diapositive mode.



The prospectus mode:



StarOffice can substitute with success the MSOffice and also MSOutlook and delivers real value with a full-featured set of tools, customer and technical support options, professional services and training, creating a collaborative, flexible and efficient working environment.

The suite responds to each user, offering interface customization features and accessibility compliance. Plus, it's integrated with the tools and technologies we use every day, keeping the students connected and prepared for the real world. It has a lot of features that makes it a real competitor for MSOffice:

- Interoperability; Read, edit and save files to file formats from other office suites, such as Microsoft Office.
- Easily share files within and outside your organization with the popular PDF read-only format.
- Export presentations to Macromedia Flash format; Display StarOffice multimedia presentations in almost any web browser.
- Easily mail documents without separately starting up the email client, or navigating a file hierarchy.
- Included are frequently used business document templates, as well as animation, graphics and images.
- Record a series of operations; save and assign to shortcut key.

The last version of StarOffice, StarOffice 7 Office Suite is the world's leading office productivity suite on Linux and the Solaris OS, and the leading alternative office suite on Windows.

StarOffice 7 software adds functionality to enable export to PDF, and to the Macromedia Flash format. It also introduces the new StarOffice Configuration Manager, the StarOffice Software Development Kit, a macro recorder, and support for assistive technologies, as well as for complex text layouts.

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