

Team OpenOffice.org presents Release Candidate

OpenOffice.org 3.3.0 Version's weaknesses eliminated

HAMBURG, Germany, December 21, 2011

On December 21, 2011 Team OpenOffice.org is publishing a release candidate based on OpenOffice.org 3.3.0 with important security fixes and problem corrections.

The release candidate is named "White Label Office 3.3.1" because the Apache Software Foundation (ASF) holds the trademark rights of the brand "OpenOffice.org". Team OpenOffice.org and the ASF could not reach an agreement for a shared usage. By publishing White Label Office 3.3.1, Team OpenOffice.org is taking the first step towards a maintenance release for OpenOffice.org 3.3.0. The release candidate is intended to serve as a starting point for creating the best possible version in collaboration with the users.

With the maintenance release planned in early 2012 Team OpenOffice.org wants to point out, there is no time to lose. Since the main sponsor Oracle has opted out, it is urgently necessary to continue binding essential and professional developer skills to the project. With help of donations, Team OpenOffice.org wants to secure these skills and increase them in the long run.

In the spring of 2011 Oracle decided to stop funding the project OpenOffice.org and transferred the rights to the ASF, a volunteer organization for the promotion of software projects. The actual developers were not involved in this decision. As the ASF has not agreed with the distribution of the release candidate under the title "OpenOffice.org 3.3.1", Team OpenOffice.org located in Hamburg, Germany now provides it as "White Label Office 3.3.1" to gather user feedback. Team OpenOffice.org highly values interexchange with the open source community and connected networks.

"It is our wish to enter closer form of collaboration with the users than for any previous version," explains Stefan Taxhet from Team OpenOffice.org. "By giving us their feedback the users can participate in the creation of the new version and make suggestions for new features and functions they would like to have in an up-to-date office suite. To enhance direct contact with our users, we are actively communicating via all well-established social media channels."

The current release candidate consists of important security fixes, various bug fixes and colored document icons for a better differentiation. This preliminary version is compatible with the operating systems Windows, Linux and Mac OS X and is available in five languages: English, German, Italian, Spanish and French.

"It's all about sending a positive signal. We want to show our many users, whether they are private users or companies, that progress is being made. We appreciate any kind of support," says Stefan Taxhet from Team OpenOffice.org.

Taxhet is one of the project's founding fathers and has already worked on StarOffice, the origin of OpenOffice.org. Together with his colleagues he has witnessed how Oracle became the main sponsor after the acquisition of Sun Microsystems. Sponsors have changed over the course of time but the team of engineers has remained the same since the beginning. Without a main sponsor however, this expertise in programming is at stake. As the ASF does not employ software engineers, the commitment of the team in Hamburg plays a crucial part in the further development of OpenOffice. The participation of many of the project's founding fathers secures

the essential know-how. To preserve it and guarantee the product's familiar good quality, Team OpenOffice.org depends on support and donations by the users.

For more information, please visit:

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