

Office Suites – Deep Dive for Presentations

Consider the following table below of file formats.



File Format
(Italic = Open Only)

	<u>LibreOffice Impress 6.3</u>	<u>SoftMaker '18 Presentations</u>	<u>WPS Presentation 10.1</u>
<i>.odp</i> (ODF Native)		.prd (Native)	.dps (Native)
<i>.otp</i> (ODF Native)		.prv (Native)	.dpt (Native)
		.prs (Native)	
<i>.ppt</i> (Office 97-2003)		.ppt (Office 97, 2000-2003)	.ppt
<i>.pot</i> (Office 97-2003)		.pot	.pot
<i>.pps</i> (Office 97-03 Auto play)		.pps	.pps
<i>.pptx</i> (Office 365 / OoXML)		.pptx	.pptx
<i>.potx</i> (Office 365 Template)		.potx	.potx
<i>.ppsx</i> (Office 365 Auto play)		.ppsx	.ppsx
<i>.pptm</i> (Office 365 w VBA)			.pptm
			.potm
			.ppsm
			.jpg
			.png
			.tif
			.bmp
			<i>.mht/mhtml</i>
			.pdf
<i>.fodp</i> (Flat XML ODF present)			
<i>.uop</i> (Unified Office Present)			
<i>.pdf</i>			
<i>.odg</i> (ODF Drawing)			
<i>.sxi/sti</i> (OpenOffice Present)			
<i>.sxd</i> (OpenOffice Drawing)			
<i>.cgm</i> (ComputerGraphics Meta)			
<i>.key</i> (iWorks Keynote)			
<i>.cwk</i> (Claris Works)			
<i>.ppt/pot</i> (Office Legacy)			
<i>.svg/.svgz</i>			
<i>.ssd</i> (Star Office Present)		.prd/prv (Native legacy)	
		.rtf (Rich Text)	

Regarding Formatting Issues, I tested each suite with a medium-complexity document involving styles, font sizing, several images, text boxes, slide notes, layouts, one video file, and spanning 28-slides.

LibreOffice 6.3



Opening Files Saved in LibreOffice using LibreOffice

Impress:

- .ppt (PowerPoint 97-2003) - 90% - The entirety of the presentation remained intact aside from the 'zoom' issue and the loss of the video clip.
- .pptx (Microsoft PowerPoint 365) - 90% - All formatting, notes, layout, fonts, sizes, images, text, text boxes, transitions were retained. The movie clip did not retain, and the 'Zoom' animation (consisting of a question mark) caused slide 20 to freeze. Removing the animation fixed the issue and the presentation could then play all the way through.
- .fodp (Flat OpenDoc) – 90% - Retained formatting, notes, layout, fonts, sizes, images, text, text boxes. All was well for the first 20 slides. After this, the presentation, itself, continued, but the slides did not refresh/reflect this on the presentation screen. Slide 20 simply stayed up there and the rest did not show. The trouble seemed to lie in the "Zoom" animations on slide 20. Removing the animation and restarting the presentation resulted in smooth transitions and the entire presentation played. The embedded video did not play, but rather showed a 'Video was here' box.
- .uop (Unified Office Presentation) – 6% - The slide count is correct, and that's about it. Background images were retained, and a few remained in their original places. All text (*With the odd exception of the slide notes on slide 16 for whatever reason*) were completely missing. Notes were missing aside from the exception. Unified format needs a little more unifying yet.
- .odp (Native) – All formatting was preserved. As you would expect, no issues here aside from the troublesome "Zoom" animation.

Opening Files Saved in LibreOffice using MS Word 2007:

- .ppt – 98.5% - Entire presentation was intact. Fonts may be substituted, but sizing was consistent. Video was retained in the document (*as long as it was in the same directory as the presentation file*). The video seemed to be playing, but not displaying on the slide. The slide would freeze while the video 'played' and then after after a few seconds it would 'end/stop'... freezing the presentation screen. Only by 'ESC' the presentation could you get back to PowerPoint. Skipping the video resumes the presentation as normal.
- .pptx (Office365 & OoXML) – 98.5% Similar to .ppt.

Opening Files Created in Rival Office Suites:

- .ppt (SoftMaker – Presentations) - 65% Basic presentation was kept intact. Font sizes were not always preserved, and worse, EVERY SINGLE piece of text had every conceivable font typeface applied. Bold, Italics, Strike Through, Underlined, white. Very strange. To make presentations usable, one would have to re-format and resize all document text. Images retained their positions and sizes. Libre, again, choked on the 'zooming' question mark on slide 20. The video did not transfer to the presentation, as SM Presentations does not seem to support this feature.

- .pptx (SoftMaker – Presentations) – 80% All text was readable. Animations were painfully slow. All pictures retained their positions. Some text did not appear where it was supposed to. Again, the font sizes did not seem to translate correctly. But, believe it or not, the ZOOM animation on slide 20... worked completely without a hitch! (Gah! Go figure!) The video was missing in the file as SM Presentations does not seem to support this feature.
- .ppt (WPS - Prestation) - 1% - What came through were slides of the SLIDE NOTES. Each slide editable contained text (in black) consisting of all the slide notes, and one graphic representing a generic blank ‘slide’ in the upper left corner of each slide. 21 slides of this showed up out of a 28-slide presentation.
- .pptx (WPS - Presentation) – 90% - Slight issue with font sizes being a bit larger than original. Video did not play, but rather, an ‘Image’ of the video stayed static on the slide. The ‘zoom’ issue on slide 20 surfaced, but zoom worked on other text in other slides. Animations seemed slow.
- .wps (WPS – Presentation) – 1% - LibreOffice does not officially support this format, but I thought I’d see what happens anyway. Surprisingly enough, what came through was the SLIDE NOTES from the .wps presentation. Each slide editable contained text (in black) consisting of all the slide notes, and one graphic representing a generic blank ‘slide’ in the upper left corner of each slide. 21 slides of this showed up out of a 28-slide presentation. I was super impressed that it even tried!
- .ppt (Microsoft Office 07) – 98.5% - Absolutely beautiful. Animations were smooth and quick, tiny issue with the fonts being a tiny bit big. The zoom issue on slide 20 surfaced. A .png graphic still frame appeared in place of the movie. Graphics retained their places. Some text appeared out of place due to the slightly larger font size. Shrinking the font back down returned them to their original places.
- .pptx (Microsoft Office 07) - 98.5% - Absolutely beautiful. Animations were smooth and quick, tiny issue with the fonts being a tiny bit big. The zoom issue on slide 20 surfaced. A .png graphic still frame appeared in place of the movie. Graphics retained their places. Some text appeared out of place due to the slightly larger font size. Shrinking the font back down returned them to their original places.

NOTES: Right off the bat I was impressed at the sheer amount of file formats LibreOffice will try to read. Apple’s *.key Keynote files, for example, preserved all of the slide notes with their formatting. The slides contained weirdly formatted text, but the original text was still there. None of the graphics, transitions, movies, or animations transferred.

All files ran smoothly within LibreOffice, aside from one consistent problem with the ‘zoom’ animation. This could likely have something to do with the OpenGL animation, itself, my graphics driver, or the compositor I choose to use.

The award for File Format Versatility goes to LibreOffice! While it is still an ongoing professional-grade project, LibreOffice has come such a long way. Hopefully quirks like this will continue to improve consistently with each new release.

Regarding Formatting Issues, I tested each suite with a medium-complexity document involving styles, font sizing, several images, text boxes, slide notes, layouts, one video file, and spanning 28-slides.

SoftMaker 18 – Presentations

Opening Files Saved in SoftMaker using SoftMaker Presentations:

- .ppt (Office 97-2003) - 99% Most formatting was preserved. Some text did not retain its original position. Some animations seem slower. As you would expect, no issues here. Video feature lacking.
- .pptx (Microsoft PowerPoint 365) - 99% Most formatting was preserved. Some text did not retain its original position. Some animations seem slower. As you would expect, no issues here. Video feature lacking.
- .prdx (Native) – 100% - All formatting was preserved. As you would expect, no issues here. Video feature lacking.



Opening Files Saved in SM Presentations using MS Word 2007:

- .ppt – 0% - Could not open the file. File was missing something that rendered it corrupt according to MS Office.
- .pptx (Office365 & OoXML) – 90% - Opened in its entirety, minus the video. The frame in which the video would have resided was there, but no video as SM Office does not support this feature. Some fonts were not quite sized correctly, but the rest of the presentation was usable.

Opening Files Created in Rival Office Suites:

- .ppt (LibreOffice – Impress) - 98% - Treated the video as a picture. All formatting was preserved. A little sluggish on the animations, but a beautiful job well done on translations. Too bad it doesn't support video.
- .pptx (LibreOffice – Impress) – 98% - Treated the video as a picture. All formatting was preserved. A little sluggish on the animations, but a beautiful job well done on translations. Too bad it doesn't support video.
- .odt (LibreOffice – Impress) - 0% not supported. Wouldn't even try.
- .ppt (WPS - Prestation) - 97.5% - Treated the video as a picture. All formatting was preserved. A little sluggish on the animations, but a beautiful job well done on translations. The actual notes transferred well, but the slide thumbnails were blank. A minor detail, as it doesn't affect much, but it can be helpful to see WHICH slide you are working on when you are typing notes. Too bad it doesn't support video.
- .pptx (WPS - Presentation) – 98% - Treated the video as a picture. All formatting was preserved. A little sluggish on the animations, but a beautiful job well done on translations. Too bad it doesn't support video.
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NOTES: I like that there are several options for the user interface. It caters to both the reflex Ribbon user as well as the sensible Menu driven work flow. These are available in both Light and Dark variations. Overall, it LOOKS more Microsofty Officey in appearance.

One of the downsides is that SM Office 18 is unable to insert videos into or use its presentations. (*At least this seems to be the case on the Linux version.*) This is a shame. The animations are smooth, and of a higher resolution than LibreOffice.

A good solid choice, if you can get by without videos in your presentations. Animations were smooth as silk, if a bit slow. Transitions were of a higher 'resolution'/quality than LibreOffice. I paid \$80 for my copy of SpinMaker Office 18 for Linux, and upgrades to newer versions should run around \$50~ish.

SUB-NOTE: Don't forget, you can also try their 'FreeOffice' version for no charge. Quite a number of the features found in the full version appear in the Free version. (*Which is more than I can say for Microsoft Office 365 web apps*)

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WPS 10.1 – Presentation



Opening Files Saved in WPS using WPS - Presentation:

- .pptx (Microsoft 365) - 98% - Absolutely beautifully done. Everything was intact. However, in this version of WPS, the video clips could not be saved in the file, and are replaced with an image of the video clip. Animations and transitions are quick, if a tad choppy.
- .ppt (Word 97) - 98% - Absolutely beautifully done. Everything was intact. However, in this version of WPS, the video clips could not be saved in the file, and are replaced with an image of the video clip. Animations and transitions are quick, if a tad choppy.
- .wps (Native) – 98% - Absolutely beautifully done. Everything was intact. However, in this version of WPS, the video clips could not be saved in the file, and are replaced with an image of the video clip. To get the video to play during the presentation, you must insert it in before you present it. (*aka, it is in memory, and cannot be attached to the file itself.*) It plays fine in the editor. Animations and transitions are quick, if a tiny bit choppy. Terrific job, but confusing as to why video clips cannot be saved with its native format.

Opening Files Saved in WPS - Presentation using MS Word 2007:

- .ppt – 98% - Absolutely beautifully done. Everything was intact aside from the video not translating. In its place was a .png file of a still from the video.
- .pptx (Office365) – 98% - Absolutely beautifully done. Everything was intact aside from the video not translating. In its place was a .png file of a still from the video.

Opening Files Created in Rival Office Suites:

- .ppt (LibreOffice - Impress) - 98.1% - Absolutely beautifully done. Everything was intact. The video clip was replaced with an place-holder image. Animations and transitions are quick, if a tad choppy.
- .pptx (LibreOffice - Impress) – 98% - Absolutely beautifully done. Everything was intact. The video clip was lost. Not even a place holder to show where it should have gone. Animations and transitions are quick, if a tad choppy.
- .odp (LibreOffice - Impress) - 0% - Wouldn't even try.
- .ppt (SoftMaker - Presentations) - 98% - Absolutely beautifully done. Everything was intact. Font sizes were slightly off in some cases. The video clip was replaced with an place-holder frame. But SM 18 doesn't support this feature, so I didn't expect to see a video. Animations and transitions are quick, if a tad choppy.
- .pptx (SoftMaker - Presentations) – 98% - Absolutely beautifully done. Everything was intact. Font sizes were slightly off in some cases. The video clip was replaced with an place-holder frame. But SM 18 doesn't support this feature, so I didn't expect to see a video. Animations and transitions are quick, if a tad choppy.
- .prdx (SoftMaker – Presentations) – 0% - Yeah, that wasn't going to happen.

- .ppt (MS Office 07) - 98% - Absolutely beautifully done. Everything was intact. The video was present, but would not play during the presentation. It plays fine in the editor. Ever-so-slight increase in font size put some text boxes slightly out of place. Resizing texts returns them to their proper place. Animations and transitions are quick, if a tiny bit choppy. Not too noticeable.
- .pptx (MS Office 07) - 98% - Absolutely beautifully done. Everything was intact. The video was present, but would not play during the presentation. It plays fine in the editor. Ever-so-slight increase in font size put some text boxes slightly out of place. Resizing texts returns them to their proper place. Animations and transitions are quick, if a tiny bit choppy. Not too noticeable.

NOTES: WPS writer does what it does *expertly*. I like that there are several options for the user interface. It caters to both the reflex Ribbon user as well as the sensible Menu driven work flow.

I like being able to edit the slide notes directly beneath the slide while being able to adjust things on the slide itself. It's a slick feature that works well in PowerPoint, and I was very delighted to find it here.

It wins the best Microsoft Office Compatibility award, aside from video animations.

PDF RESULTS:

PDF (SoftMaker – Text Maker) -

PDF (LibreOffice) - PDF Reader saw all formatting as perfectly preserved.

PDF (WPS Office) -