WPS Office

User: Marine Products Distributor
Industry: Marine supplies for commercial fishermen and recreational boaters

Largest distributor of marine products in the Pacific Northwest achieves significant cost savings without compromising performance with WPS Office

The Problem

Fisheries Supply Company is a family-owned business that opened its doors in 1928 at Pier 55 on Elliott Bay in Seattle, Washington. The supply company originally served commercial fishermen and canneries in the Pacific Northwest and later, expanded its business to serve wholesale and retail customers in the commercial and pleasure boat markets. Today it is the largest distributor of marine products in the Pacific Northwest, with a 36,000 square foot warehouse and one of the broadest selections of inventory in the industry.

Like all growing companies, Fisheries Supply has to carefully balance cost with resources that allow it to operate more efficiently. As the company prepared to upgrade from Microsoft Office 2003, the executive team was reluctant to switch all 100+ employees to Microsoft Office 365 to keep the potentially exorbitant cost down. Dee Todd, Fisheries Supply's IT administrator, was tasked with finding an alternative, less expensive solution that would perform equally well for the majority of the company's employees.

She tried both Open Office and Libre Office, but was dissatisfied with the results. Open Office was "really buggy," as was Libre Office. She also found them to be confusing for users and saved files to different formats than what they were accustomed to as a Microsoft Office user.

The Solution

As she continued her search for a Microsoft Office replacement, she came across WPS Office for Windows and decided to give it a try. "I purchased a WPS Office license to test it out and immediately thought it was awesome," says Dee. "It had nearly the same look and feel as Microsoft Office. I experienced very few bugs, if any, and was able to save files in the same format. I was hooked. It was the best alternative to MS Office for the company and you can't beat the price."

Since then, Dee has deployed WPS Office to a dozen more users and will continue to do so, particularly with new hires. "The last thing you want for a new employee is to struggle with software that is not familiar or requires a learning curve. With WPS Office, users can save time by focusing on the job at hand, not the software that supports it."

In addition to the familiarity factor and significantly lower cost, Dee found WPS Office very easy and efficient to use. For example, unique "tabbed" viewing (like a browser) gives users visibility into which documents are open at all times, and allows them to immediately navigate to the desired document with one keystroke – a "very cool" feature, according to Dee.

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Another benefit is the smaller footprint WPS Office has on a user's computer. Because the software doesn't open multiple instances of the app when opening multiple documents, there is much less "drag" on the system, freeing up resources. Users save time and power by navigating to and from documents more easily, and open new documents in Writer without having to launch the application each time, unlike MS Word, which launches a new instance of Word with each document opened.

Dee uses Writer and Spreadsheets most often for work documentation associated with computing equipment and IT infrastructure. Others use the software for different purposes, depending on their role and department. In sales for example, Spreadsheets is used for scheduling, purchasing and keeping a repository of product information.

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How It Works

WPS Office Suite is a complete suite that includes Writer, Presentation, Spreadsheets, and a built-in PDF reader, in an easy to use and familiar user interface. The suite offers complete compatibility with Microsoft Office Documents, as well as more than 230 fonts and hundreds of free templates. Integration with cloud providers such as Google Drive, Drop Box and Box gives users the ability to collaborate with others and support business operations.

WPS Office has a free Mobile Office Suite for Android that allows users to view, edit, and create Office documents anywhere. WPS Office has more than 550 million Android users and has received over 1,000,000 reviews on Google Play. The application is fully compatible with MS Office and Google Docs and is available free with no subscription required. WPS Office also offers a free Mobile Office Suite for iPhone and iPad, which is fully compatible with Microsoft Office and Google Docs and supports English, French, German, Portuguese, Spanish, and Japanese.

Learn More

To download a free Personal Version of WPS Office or the Premium Business 30-Day Trial, visit https://www.wps.com.

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