

MS Office Home/Business or Office Pro

An April 2011 discussion on SoloSez, the email listserv for general practice, solo and small firm lawyers

Anything really essential in Office Pro to justify the extra \$130? (I'm looking at prices for OEM versions for Office 2010 at buycheapsoftware.com).

If the difference was just Publisher, then no. But I would say yes you must have Access. Great tool and has so many uses.

Tamara Portnoy
Paralegal and Software Engineer, New Mexico

The difference is Pro includes Access and Publisher.

Not to beat the spot where the dead horse used to lay but..
<http://rstlaw.wordpress.com/2010/11/04/may-i-see-your-license/>

Disclaimer: No horses were harmed in the making of this e-mail. I've still never been an attorney.

Ben M. Schorr, Arizona

Ah. Couldn't care less. I use MySQL for db. And InDesign for DTP. Only reason I want Word is for reading docs sent by others. Lost a big chunk of yesterday because AbiWord couldn't get the footers right and LibreOffice screwed up the outline numbering of a 50 page document one of my mentors sent me. Grr.

Best,

Robert Thomas Hayes Link

If you are taking courses at a community college or have a child in school, you or they may be eligible for an education discount which can be significant.

Keith E. Davis< Texas

Truth is, all those crazy license variations are one of the biggest incentives to go FOSS. For instance, your article, linked above, mentions a loophole whereby one can install on mobile devices. No such clause in the retail box version of Office 2007 Home/Student.

If I didn't have to read docs prepared by others I would never have any desire for Word or WP or the rest. OpenOffice/LibreOffice run on the three major OSes, and are perfectly adequate, and I never worry about having failed to observe some fiddling little detail in the license.

Best,

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Robert Thomas Hayes Link

It's been a while since I've looked at 2007 Home & Student but that's not really for business use anyhow. (and doesn't include Outlook). However, the Home & Student retail license allows install on three separate computers (even with 3 separate users) so they probably didn't think it needed the secondary device clause.

Disclaimer: Even sitting in an airport I'm not an attorney.

Ben M. Schorr
Chief Executive Officer

So, Ben...if I have no use for Outlook (I use Gmail and Firefox), and I want to put Office on my desktop and laptop and one other laptop in the family, do you recommend Home and Student? Does it have excel, powerpoint and word?

Those are all I use, plus Adobe.

Meg Tebo, Illinois

That's exactly what I have at home and for the same reason. I didn't need Outlook on any of the machines where I intended to install Office so I bought the student version.

--Tamara Portnoy

Well...that depends upon how you feel about license agreements. Technically the EULA of the Home & Student edition says it's not to be used in a for-profit organization. So...no, I don't recommend it for businesses.

There is a Home & Business Edition which is the entry-level edition for business users (and does include Outlook).

Disclaimer: Still at the airport. Still not an attorney.

Ben M. Schorr
Chief Executive Officer

Well...you can just buy Word by itself. <http://amzn.to/igC25a>

Disclaimer: My kind of town, Chicago is. Still not a lawyer.

Ben M. Schorr
Chief Executive Officer