

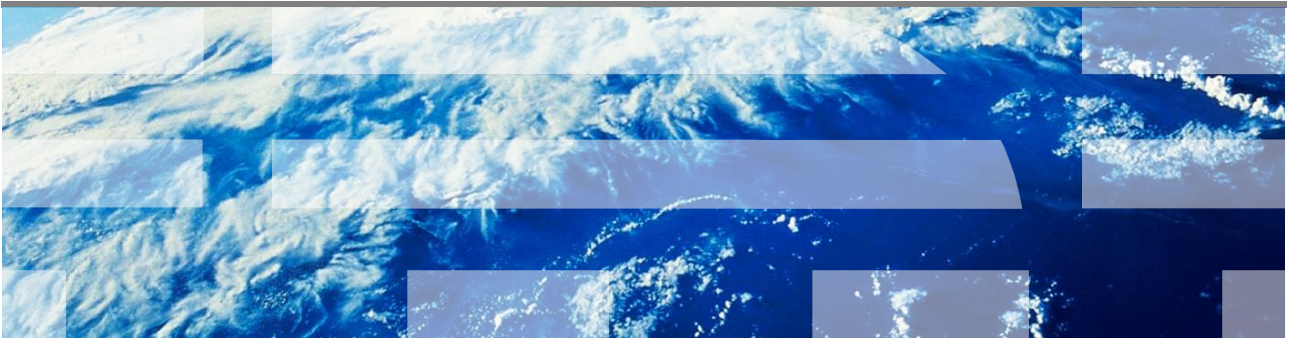


---

# **IBM Productivity Solutions Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

---

IBM® Lotus® Symphony™ 3.0.1  
Apache™ OpenOffice the IBM Edition  
IBM Docs®



February 2012



## Table of Contents

- Q1. I've seen a number of articles in the press stating that IBM is "dumping" or closing down Lotus Symphony. Is this true?*
- Q2. What is Lotus Symphony 3.0.1 and why is this release important?*
- Q3. What is the Apache OpenOffice Project and how is IBM participating?*
- Q4. How does Lotus Symphony fit within the OpenOffice project?*
- Q5. How will the OpenOffice project affect Lotus Symphony going forward?*
- Q6. How will Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition be different from the Apache OpenOffice 4.0 release?*
- Q7. Is IBM planning to charge for Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition or the extensions?*
- Q8. Will Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition have a different license and be closed source or proprietary?*
- Q9. Will Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition be embedded in the IBM Lotus Notes™ client like Lotus Symphony can be today?*
- Q10. Will IBM stop using Lotus Symphony internally and shift to the Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition?*
- Q11. What are the plans for Lotus Symphony 3.0.1?*
- Q12. IBM offers support at no additional charge for Lotus Symphony to those customers running Lotus Notes 8 or higher on IBM Software maintenance. Will IBM support those customers if they use Apache OpenOffice the IBM edition?*
- Q13. When will the Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition be available?*
- Q14. Is the new IBM Docs based on OpenOffice code?*
- Q15. What should a current Lotus Symphony customer be doing?*
- Q16. Why is IBM supporting the OpenOffice Community?*
- Q17. If I am considering Microsoft alternatives but not yet on Lotus Symphony, should I wait for Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition?*
- Q18. What is a fork?*
- Q19. What about LibreOffice?*
- Q20. Can LibreOffice get code from the Apache project and join the project?*
- Q21. IBM has a Lotus Symphony Quickstart services offering today. Will there be similar offerings for the Apache OpenOffice and the IBM Edition?*
- Q22. What is going to be different between Lotus Symphony 3.0.1 and Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition?*
- Q23. We just wrote an application or business process to work in Lotus Symphony and/or we migrated applications or business processes off of Microsoft Office. How easy will it be to migrate that application or business process to Apache OpenOffice the IBM edition?*



*Q1. I've seen a number of articles in the press stating that IBM is "dumping" or closing down Lotus Symphony. Is this true?*

A1. No. Some reports incorrectly inferred that IBM's strategy for future efforts around a unified open-source desktop productivity solution meant a change in direction. IBM has just released Lotus Symphony 3.0.1, will contribute the Symphony codebase to the Apache OpenOffice project, and will distribute and support IBM versions of future Apache OpenOffice releases to customers as has been done with Lotus Symphony today.

*Q2. What is Lotus Symphony 3.0.1 and why is this release important?*

A2. On January 17, 2012, IBM released Lotus Symphony 3.0.1. This new update includes many improvements, enhancements and fixes to the Lotus Symphony product, along with a companion set of native mobile Symphony viewers for Android and iOS. You can find more information about this release here:

<http://www-03.ibm.com/software/lotus/symphony/help.nsf/ReleaseNotes>

*Q3. What is the Apache OpenOffice Project and how is IBM participating?*

A3. In June of 2011, Oracle submitted an 'Incubation Proposal' to the Apache Software Foundation proposing a new open source project for OpenOffice. This proposal was accepted by the Apache Software Foundation. Since then, IBMers and other volunteers worldwide have been working to move OpenOffice over to the Apache infrastructure in an effort to contribute to this community. In addition, the community has been working on creating an Apache-licensed version of the original OpenOffice.org source code, Apache OpenOffice 3.4, and expect to complete the work in first quarter 2012. This release will be the foundation for all the future releases of Apache OpenOffice.

*Q4. How does Lotus Symphony fit within the OpenOffice project?*

A4. Lotus Symphony is and always has been based on the OpenOffice.org source code. In June of 2011, IBM announced that it was going to donate the Lotus Symphony source code to the new Apache OpenOffice project. You can read more about those plans here: <http://www.edbrill.com/edbrill/edbrill.nsf/dx/bob-sutor-ibm-to-donate-symphony-code-to-apache-for-consideration>

*Q5. How will the OpenOffice project affect Lotus Symphony going forward?*

A5. IBM is planning to shift focus from continued development of Lotus Symphony as an independent "fork" of OpenOffice, and instead focus energy and resources on the Apache OpenOffice community. IBM will work within the community to combine the Symphony source code enhancements--like the context sensitive sidebar--into a new Apache OpenOffice release expected to be called Apache OpenOffice 4.0. You can find more details on what other features are planned for this release and future releases at the Apache OpenOffice website here:

[https://cwiki.apache.org/confluence/display/OO\\_USERS/AOO+4.0+Feature+Planning](https://cwiki.apache.org/confluence/display/OO_USERS/AOO+4.0+Feature+Planning)

IBM intends to distribute a version of the upcoming Apache OpenOffice 4.0 code as Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition. IBM has also added resources in Hamburg, Germany to the Lotus Symphony team with very deep skills in the core OpenOffice codebase.



*Q6. How will Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition be different from the Apache OpenOffice 4.0 release?*

A6. Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition will be based on the same exact code as Apache OpenOffice release 4.0, and will include a set of additional IBM extensions. These extensions will further integrate Apache OpenOffice 4.0 to other products like IBM Connections™, IBM Docs, IBM SmartCloud for Social Business and others over time.

*Q7. Is IBM planning to charge for Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition or the extensions?*

A7. At this time, IBM plans on providing Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition at no charge. The IBM extensions will be offered at no charge through the Apache OpenOffice extensions repository.

*Q8. Will Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition have a different license and be closed source or proprietary?*

A8. Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition will include the same code and license as the Apache OpenOffice 4.0, which will be downloadable directly from the Apache website. The source code will also be available at no charge. IBM also plans on pre-packaging a set of extensions for the convenience of those clients that desire additional integration with other IBM products.

*Q9. Will Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition be embedded in the IBM Lotus Notes™ client like Lotus Symphony can be today?*

A9. No. Lotus Symphony 3.0.1 will remain as the supported product for those customers that prefer to run Lotus Symphony embedded in Lotus Notes.

*Q10. Will IBM stop using Lotus Symphony internally and shift to the Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition?*

A10. IBM is actively deploying Lotus Symphony 3.0.1 at this time to over 400,000 users worldwide. IBM plans to subsequently deploy Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition in early 2013 based on the current projected timelines.

*Q11. What are the plans for Lotus Symphony 3.0.1?*

A11. Lotus Symphony 3.0.1 is the current release being deployed by IBM and customers worldwide. It will continue to be supported and enhanced as needed for the lifecycle of the IBM Lotus Notes 8.5.x clients. IBM also plans to ship Lotus Symphony 3.0.1 as part of the planned 2012 release of Lotus Notes Social Edition. IBM also plans to make an add-on installer available for customers running Lotus Notes 8.5.3 to facilitate upgrade to Lotus Symphony 3.0.1 .

*Q12. IBM offers support at no additional charge for Lotus Symphony to those customers running Lotus Notes 8 or higher on IBM Software maintenance. Will IBM support those customers if they use Apache OpenOffice the IBM edition?*



A12. Yes. IBM plans to extend the same level of support to our Lotus Notes customers who are on active maintenance to those running Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition.

*Q13. When will the Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition be available?*

A13. IBM does not dictate the release of this code and works within the Apache OpenOffice community. IBM expects Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition to be available shortly after the final Apache OpenOffice 4.0 release is complete, possibly in the fourth quarter of 2012.

*Q14. Is the new IBM Docs based on OpenOffice code?*

A14. No, IBM Docs is new code under development. However it will support creating content in the Open Document Formats. Because many users want and need a rich desktop client to create professional documents, IBM is building IBM Docs, Lotus Symphony, and Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition to deliver user experiences that compliment each other and support working together. IBM Docs Beta is available today, and requires only a browser and a Lotus Greenhouse account. Interested parties may try the beta product at <http://greenhouse.lotus.com> (no-charge registration is required).

*Q15. What should a current Lotus Symphony customer be doing?*

A15. Current Lotus Symphony customers should download Lotus Symphony 3.0.1 and deploy it. Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition essentially represents the next release of Lotus Symphony. IBM continues to contribute to the development of the product but is changing the branding and the way it is developed. While the release will not be branded Lotus Symphony it will contain the Lotus Symphony code incorporated with the Apache OpenOffice 3.4 code. All of your existing content in Lotus Symphony will be accessible in the Apache OpenOffice releases, along with an updated look and feel and new features. Customers should treat this as any other version-to-version upgrade .

*Q16. Why is IBM supporting the OpenOffice Community?*

A16. Open source is the epitome of collaboration and IBM continues to emphasize long-standing support of the open source community. This is evidenced by the more than 120 projects to which IBM has contributed, including more than \$1billion in Linux development.

Open source software can be an important source of innovation because it brings together people from different backgrounds and perspectives to work on and solve common business and IT problems. It is a popular tool for the research community. And, its use is exploding within the university community, which is often the incubator for cutting-edge research and, subsequently, wealth-creating innovations. Open standards enable the seamless connection of internal and external entities using different technologies. They allow quick adjustment to changing needs and processes, and the rapid building of new solutions that involve multiple hardware and software platforms. These best-of-breed solutions will, in many cases, include open source software, but they will just as often include open standards-based, commercial software.

*Q17. If I am considering Microsoft alternatives but not yet on Lotus Symphony, should I wait for Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition?*



A17. No. IBM is now positioned with a strong portfolio of office productivity solutions to meet most of the needs in an organization. Lotus Symphony 3.0.1 is a rich desktop client that gives advanced office productivity functions and IBM Docs is a cloud- or on-premises based, collaborative office productivity suite. Both products support the Open Document Format and Microsoft Office files formats. Based on their users' needs, organizations can choose to deploy either or both solutions.

When Apache OpenOffice 4 the IBM Edition is available, it will be the next major desktop release for customers. Customers can upgrade their Symphony 3.0.1 deployments with Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition when they are ready. Since both products are based on the OpenOffice code base and support ODF and Microsoft Office file formats, this should be a natural, or business-as-usual upgrade for their organization.

*Q18. What is a fork?*

A18. A fork is a term used in the open source development community. One of the key tenets of open source is the ability for others to share the original work and create new downstream derivatives. When a downstream derivative stops donating new code and/or fixes to the main project it is said to have "forked" the codestream. This means it is no longer built on the same base and differs in core ways. This is a common occurrence in the open source community and is not necessarily a bad thing. One of the consequences of forking is that you can dilute the number of resources you had access to in the original project and/or create competition between projects for that same resource. This is one of the main reasons IBM decided to end the development of Lotus Symphony as a fork and bring all the Lotus Symphony unique code and developer resources back to the main project Apache OpenOffice.

*Q19. What about LibreOffice?*

A19. LibreOffice is based on an original fork of the OpenOffice.org source code. It was originally created by Novell and called Go-OO.org. A number of original OpenOffice.org community members created The Document Foundation and LibreOffice.

*Q20. Can LibreOffice get code from the Apache project and join the project?*

A20. Yes. The Apache license allows anyone to access the projects source code and create a downstream deliverable without requiring any donations back to the original project. The Document Foundation members are free to contribute to the Apache OpenOffice project as well. Anyone can join the project and participate.

*Q21. IBM has a Lotus Symphony Quickstart services offering today. Will there be similar offerings for the Apache OpenOffice and the IBM Edition?*

A21. Yes. ISSL is working to update the existing Lotus Symphony services offerings to add the ability to help our customers use and deploy Lotus Symphony, Apache OpenOffice and Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition.

*Q22. What is going to be different between Lotus Symphony 3.0.1 and Apache OpenOffice the IBM Edition?*



A22. The major differences our users should expect will be in 2 areas. Apache OpenOffice does not run on the Lotus Expeditor platform which will change hardware requirements and startup time. Apache OpenOffice will also operate more like Microsoft Office in that each application will launch in its own window. There will also be slight differences in the look and feel. There will be more functions available as well with the inclusion of the Database and Drawing applications. All content created will transition seamlessly.

The other difference is that Apache OpenOffice will not be able to be embedded in the Lotus Notes application. It will only run in standalone mode.

*Q23. We just wrote an application or business process to work in Lotus Symphony and/or we migrated applications or business processes off of Microsoft Office. How easy will it be to migrate that application or business process to Apache OpenOffice the IBM edition?*

A23. Both Lotus Symphony and Apache OpenOffice are based on the same code and share the underlying UNO APIs. The method of deployment and packaging is different between the two products so some re-packaging work will be needed. In addition, the Apache OpenOffice programming model allows for more languages to be used in addition to Java. The Extension model is well documented and IBM has deeply skilled resources who joined from Oracle who can help.