



Code Weavers' CrossOver

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July 2003

Outline

- Introduction to CrossOver
- Overview of Wine
- Why use Windows Applications?
- CrossOver Office and supported Applications
- CrossOver Plugin and supported Applications
- Brief mention of CrossOver Office Server Edition
- Cost and Support
- Summary

Introduction to CrossOver

- CrossOver is a line of products based on a specialized version of Wine.
- Much easier to use than Wine alone.
- Products include CrossOver Office, CrossOver Plugin and CrossOver Office Server Edition
- Provides support for specific Windows applications running on Linux
- Provides integration of Windows programs into the Linux desktop environment, pretty close to native Linux applications
- Licensing is a combination of LGPL and proprietary. All enhancements to Wine are rolled back into Wine.

Overview of Wine

- Wine is an implementation of the Windows API on top of X.
- Consists of a loader and DLLs to run native Windows applications on various UNIX platforms
- What Wine is not:
 - Wine is Not an Emulator (hence the name Wine)
 - Not a virtual machine
- Wine does not require Windows or a Windows license.
- Because Wine is not an emulator or virtual machine, it doesn't require any additional resources to run Windows applications, other than those required by the application.

Why use Windows Applications?

- There are not always good Open Source replacements for all Windows applications.
- Even when there are very good replacements for Windows apps, they are not always 100% compatible with the Windows apps.
 - Examples:
 - OpenOffice vs. Microsoft Office
 - GnuCash vs. Intuit Quicken or Microsoft Money
- Some people may just like a Windows application better than the Open Source equivalent.
- May be easier to migrate to Linux if it doesn't have to be an all or nothing proposition.

CrossOver Office

- CrossOver Office is a CodeWeavers product that is specifically targeted at running Windows productivity (Office) applications on Linux.
- Includes a simple installation and setup utility to allow end-users to get up and running without being a Linux expert, this is a big improvement over Wine
- Easy installation and setup of supported Windows applications and some that are not officially supported using the actual Windows installers.
- Does a nice job of integrating Windows applications into your KDE or Gnome desktop environment. Your mileage may vary with other desktops.
- Unfortunately, not all Windows applications are supported, but the list growing all the time

Applications Supported by CrossOver Office

- Applications supported by CodeWeavers
 - Microsoft Office XP and 97
 - Word
 - Excel
 - Powerpoint
 - Outlook (supported in Office 2000 only)
 - Internet Explorer
 - Access (supported in Office 2000 only)
 - Lotus Notes
 - Microsoft Visio
 - Adobe Photoshop
 - Quicken

CrossOver Plugin

- CrossOver Plugin is another CodeWeavers product that allows the use of Windows plugins within Linux browsers.
- Because CrossOver Plugin enables the use of Windows plugins, a great deal of Web content that used to be available to only Windows users is now available to Linux users.
- There are compatible Linux plugins available for some (not all) of this content, but in many cases the quality is not as good or the newest codecs are not supported.
- CrossOver Plugin's installation and setup again uses the Windows installers so setup and installation is simplified.
- Seamlessly integrates Windows plugins into Linux browsers.

Plugins Supported by CrossOver Plugin

- Apple QuickTime
- Macromedia Shockwave Director
- Macromedia Flash
- Microsoft Windows Media Player 6.4
- Real Player 8
- Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint viewers
- More

CrossOver Office Server Edition

- CrossOver Office Server Edition is a thin-client based version CrossOver Office.
- Supports all of the applications supported by CrossOver Office.
- Should reduce the maintenance involved in large installations by centralizing the applications to one or more servers

CrossOver Applications Costs

- How much does it Cost?
 - Single copy of CrossOver Office only: \$54.95
 - Single copy of CrossOver Plugin only: \$24.95
 - Single copy of CrossOver Bundle (Office + Plugin): \$69.95
 - Volume discounts start at 2 or more copies for all of the above, educational discounts are also available
 - CrossOver Office Server Edition starts at \$1195.00 for the initial server plus \$1212.50 for the first 25 client licenses
- In addition to the cost of CrossOver products, you still have to own a copy of each of the office applications for each of the users that will be using them (even for the Server Edition).
- Still much cheaper to buy CrossOver Office or CrossOver Plugin than to pay for a Windows license

Support For CrossOver Applications

- What type of support is provided?
 - There is no phone support provided.
 - Support is provided through email and a ticketing system.
 - There are also discussion mailing lists that help a great deal with unsupported issues (such as getting apps to work that are not on the supported list)
 - Free upgrades for the duration of support
- What is the duration of support?
 - 6 months for single users, 12 months for volume purchases
 - Support extensions are available and when purchased within 30 days of the original support expiration, provides for 12 months additional support. The cost for the extensions is priced at roughly 60% of the original cost.

Summary

- CrossOver products can help bridge the gap between Windows and Linux but will not provide 100% Windows compatibility
- CrossOver can provide Windows application compatibility without the resource intensive environment of a virtual machine.
- CrossOver can help in the migration from Windows to Linux.
- Wine will do most of what CrossOver does but it takes more manual, technical work to make it happen.
- Cost of CrossOver products are less than licensing fees for Windows.

Additional Resources

- CodeWeavers Web Site
 - <http://www.codeweavers.com>
- Wine Web Site
 - <http://www.winehq.com>