

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SoftMaker Office 2018 for Linux: beta version now publicly available**

**December 6, 2017 – German software developer SoftMaker today announced the public beta test of SoftMaker Office 2018 for Linux. Like the Windows version released a few weeks ago, it offers a completely re-designed user interface, which allows users to work with either classic menus or ribbons. For the first time, the Office suite is available as a 64-bit version. Thanks to its native use of the Microsoft file formats DOCX, XLSX and PPTX, it offers seamless compatibility with Microsoft Office.**

### In brief:

* SoftMaker Office 2018 for Linux is now publicly available in beta.
* The Windows version has already started shipping; a version for macOS is under development.
* Anyone interested can download the beta version at [www.softmaker.com](http://www.softmaker.com).
* The Office suite contains the word processor TextMaker 2018, the spreadsheet application PlanMaker 2018, the presentation application Presentations 2018 and exclusive add-ons for the popular e-mail client Thunderbird.
* The new user interface allows users to work with either ribbons or the classic menu interface.
* By using DOCX, XLSX and PPTX file formats natively, SoftMaker Office 2018 offers seamless compatibility with Microsoft Office.
* SoftMaker Office 2018 for Linux is available in 32-bit and 64-bit versions.

The free beta version of SoftMaker Office 2018 for Linux is now available to the public. The Office suite contains the latest versions of the word processor TextMaker, the spreadsheet application PlanMaker and the presentation application Presentations. In addition, SoftMaker includes exclusive add-ons for the popular e-mail application Thunderbird, improving the user interface and adding new functions for managing large e-mail folders more quickly.

**SoftMaker Office 2018 comes with a new user interface**

**Now with ribbons:** Users can now work either with the new ribbon interface or with classic menus and toolbars. Unlike Microsoft Office, SoftMaker Office 2018 gives users access to the classic menus in ribbon mode, too. This makes it easier for users to migrate to ribbons.

However, not only ribbon users benefit from the improvements to the user interface, but also users who rely on the familiar interface: When working with classic toolbars, too, numerous new pop-up elements with catalog-like templates ensure an efficient and intuitive workflow.

SoftMaker Office 2018 now uses the Gnome standard file dialogs for file operations, making navigation in directories more convenient.

**Seamless compatibility with Microsoft Office**

All applications of SoftMaker’s Office suite now use the Microsoft file formats DOCX, XLSX and PPTX natively. Files can be exchanged directly with Microsoft Office users without conversion, obviating the need to import or export documents.

For the first time, PlanMaker includes an import filter for OpenDocument Calc (ODS).

**Numerous improvements for beginners and professionals**

SoftMaker Office 2018 for Linux offers a comprehensive package of innovation and convenience for occasional users and professionals alike. For example, it is now possible to work with the programs in the same way web browsers work: users can place documents in tabs as or in separate windows, and even “drag” them out of one window and “drop” them into another.

Not only does the word processor **TextMaker 2018** feature a real-time word counter, often sought after by journalists and academics, but also offers integrated Berlitz dictionaries for reliable translations of foreign-language documents.

In the spreadsheet application **PlanMaker 2018**, entire areas of worksheets can now be marked as “tables.” These enable fast formatting, analysis and dynamic adding of new data.

The presentation application **Presentations 2018** offers numerous new animations and slide transitions based on OpenGL, including impressive 3D effects. This makes it easier than ever to create spectacular presentations.

The slide-master concept of Presentations has also been revamped: With the new version, any number of master layouts can be created, which in turn can contain any number of placeholders. Not only does this simplify the creation of professional presentations, it also ensures seamless compatibility with Microsoft PowerPoint.

The new “speaker view” helps with professional presentations on dual monitors: While the audience sees the presentation on a monitor or projector, the presenter keeps control using the “cockpit” on a second monitor: here, he or she can review the current and next slide, navigate through the presentation or add comments and drawings.

**Now available as a true 64-bit version**

SoftMaker Office 2018 is not only available as 32-bit software, but also in 64 bits. Users of 64-bit Linux systems benefit from the fact that SoftMaker Office 2018 can now be installed without the need to install additional compatibility libraries.

**Everyone is invited to test**

“With SoftMaker Office 2018, we are raising the bar in terms of compatibility, user-friendliness and functionality,” says Managing Director Martin Kotulla. “Everyone is invited to take a look at the free beta version for Linux – we are looking forward to the feedback from the Linux community.”

The **beta version of SoftMaker Office 2018 for Linux** can be downloaded free on the SoftMaker website [www.softmaker.com](http://www.softmaker.com). The beta for macOS will be released soon.

Direct link to beta download: <http://www.softmaker.com/en/softmaker-office-linux-download>

**About SoftMaker**

SoftMaker has been developing Office software since its inception in 1987: word processing (TextMaker), spreadsheet (PlanMaker) and presentation software (Presentations). The flagship SoftMaker Office is available for Windows, Linux, Android and soon macOS. The outstanding features of software from SoftMaker are ease-of-use, extremely high compatibility with Microsoft Office and speed. Coupled with competitive pricing, these features offer an unbeatable combination. SoftMaker’s second core strength is high-quality computer fonts. With the two product lines MegaFont NEXT and infiniType, home users as well as professional designers, printers and publishers receive font libraries of the highest quality.

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