

A brief overview and comparison of:

- Microsoft Excel (2007/2010)
- Sun/Oracle OpenOffice Calc
- Google Docs Spreadsheets including Collaboration on Shared Spreadsheets

Larry Wittig
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Prepared using Google Docs Presentations

Microsoft Excel

- General Comments on Excel
 - Excel is the de facto spreadsheet used by businesses both in the US and around the world
 - Excel is part of Microsoft Office -- the Home and Student edition is about \$115 from Amazon
 - There is a free version (Office Starter 2010) that comes loaded on some PCs that has advertisements on the page (this is on the Senior Center Computers)
 - And there is MS Works (~\$40) that previously was often pre-installed on many computers
- Example(s) of more complex SS:
 - Home inventory
 - 2010-IRS1040
- Demo of some items from my earlier Excel presentation

OpenOffice Calc

- General comments on Open Office (OO) Calc
 - Free download from Sun/Oracle with no advertisements
 - A very good and reasonably advanced spreadsheet
 - It has the feel and look of Microsoft Office ~2002
- Demo some of the items from my earlier Excel presentation that I pasted into a OO Calc

Google Spreadsheets (GS)

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- Free on Web -- you need Google account to start a new GS
- I find it much more limited (and maybe harder to use) than Excel, but it has other qualities that make it better for some things.
 - This may be because (as in all Google docs) you are working in HTML
- Web-based: the spreadsheet & software is on the Web and not on your computer you're using
 - You can back it up to a local PC by saving it (for example) as an Excel file
- Stored on Web -- anyone can access and work on it from any computer with Web access provided you know the WEB address
- Because its Hypertext based -- many things are more awkward
 - For example how you insert a web link

- **Several folks can access and work on a GS even at the same time -- you can share and jointly maintain a GS**
- What I think know now:
 - When you are working on a SS you can see other users that are linked to it
 - But whether or not you see their e-mail address depends on how they signed on
 - You can also see what cell they are working on
 - I don't know what happens when two or more folks try to work on the same cell at the same time, it may depend on who got there first
 - You can "chat" with others when you working on a spreadsheet at the same time
- I'll present an example where I think our group can share a spreadsheet on recommended URLs

Google Spreadsheets (GS)

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- When communication with the Web is slow GS can be a bit frustrating -- for example computations take a while may make you may think it's not working
- [Brief video on Google Docs in general](#)
- [GS specific video](#)
- Demo how we (LC&TG) could use GS to collaborate on sharing information