Free Alternatives for Microsoft Office

Office programs are essential for my work and Microsoft now wants you subscribe to Office 365 which also gives One Drive storage. I do not subscribe to 365 Office at $140 per year for there are better alternatives. I do have a basic free 365 Office which comes with my One Drive but the ribbon is very poor for my use. One of the first things I did was to install an old version of Microsoft Office (2016) on a disc I had. You can still buy older versions of Microsoft Office from Trade Me. I bought one from an Australian company once and it worked and I still use it. Microsoft Office was the initial application produced and it is still the world standard. Many other companies have now produced similar office programs which be very adequate.

LibreOffice

LibreOffice is a good free programs that can do just about everything MS Office can do. This suite has alternatives for Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Access. The LibreOffice suite has six programs: Writer (Word), Impress (PowerPoint), Calc (Excel), Base (Access), Math, and Draw. The biggest drawback to LibreOffice is that you can't pick and choose which of these you want to install – you have to install the entire suite.

All of the programs in the LibreOffice suite can open, edit, and save to MS Office and newer Office file formats.
You can read more about and/or download LibreOffice from here.

OpenOffice

OpenOffice has a word processor, a spreadsheet program, a presentation program, a graphics program, and a database program as part of its suite.
The programs and their corresponding MS Office program are listed below:
Writer (MS Word)
Calc (MS Excel)
Base (MS Access)
Impress (MS PowerPoint)
The main drawback to OpenOffice is, although you can save files in MS Office formats, it does not, by default, save to these formats but you can adjust this.

Most MS Office formats can be opened, edited and saved with OpenOffice, including DOC, DOCX, XML, XLS, XLW, DBF, PPT, PPS, and POTX.

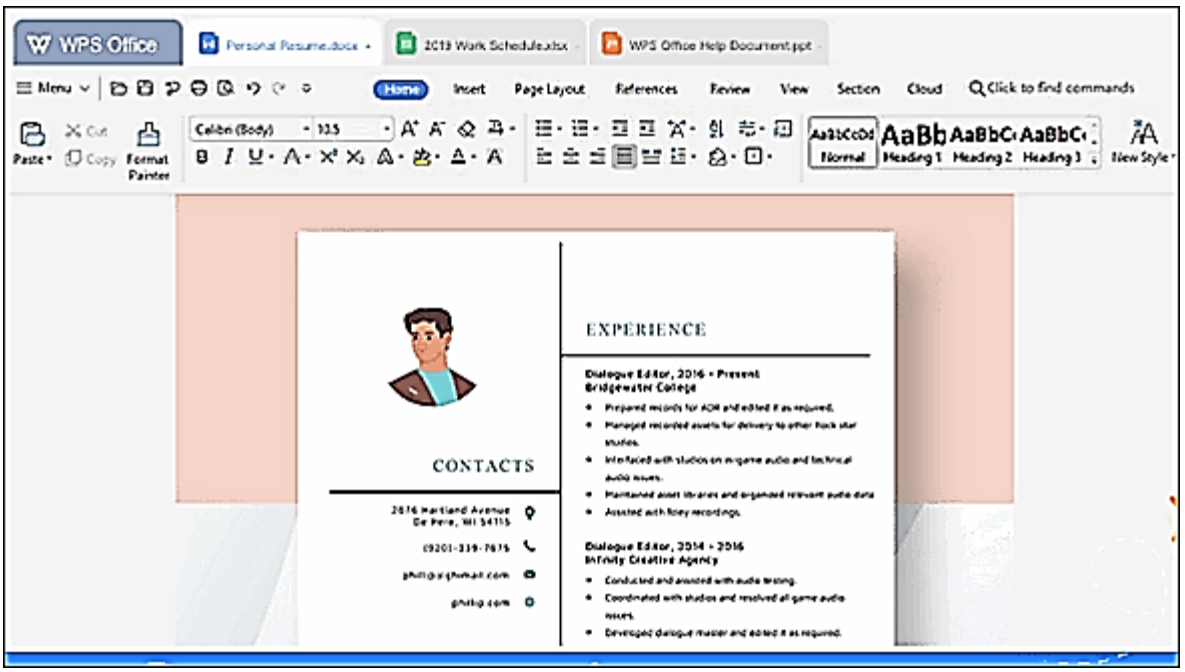
OpenOffice allows you to select which programs in the OpenOffice you want to install so you don't end up installing programs you won't use.
[You can read more about and/or download OpenOffice from the Apache OpenOffice website.]

WPS OFFICE FREE

WPS Office Free is a trimmed down version of WPS Office premium office suite, but it's doubtful you'll notice. WPS Office Free has 3 programs that look and work much like the latest versions of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint – and it has equivalent features. The ribbon is very like that of Microsoft office

WPS Office Free supports MS Office file formats so you can save your work in native Microsoft Office formats for easy sharing with Office users. WPS Office Free also comes with an excellent free PDF reader.

On the downside, the program often tries to prompt you into upgrading to the paid versions of WPS Office so there's an occasional ad, but these are few and far between and won't get in the way of your work. A small price to pay for everything you get in this suite completely free.

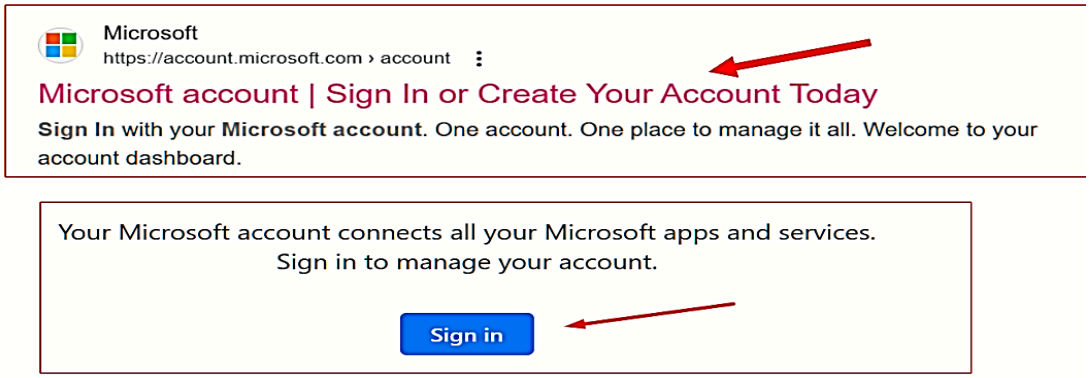


You can download WPS Office free here.

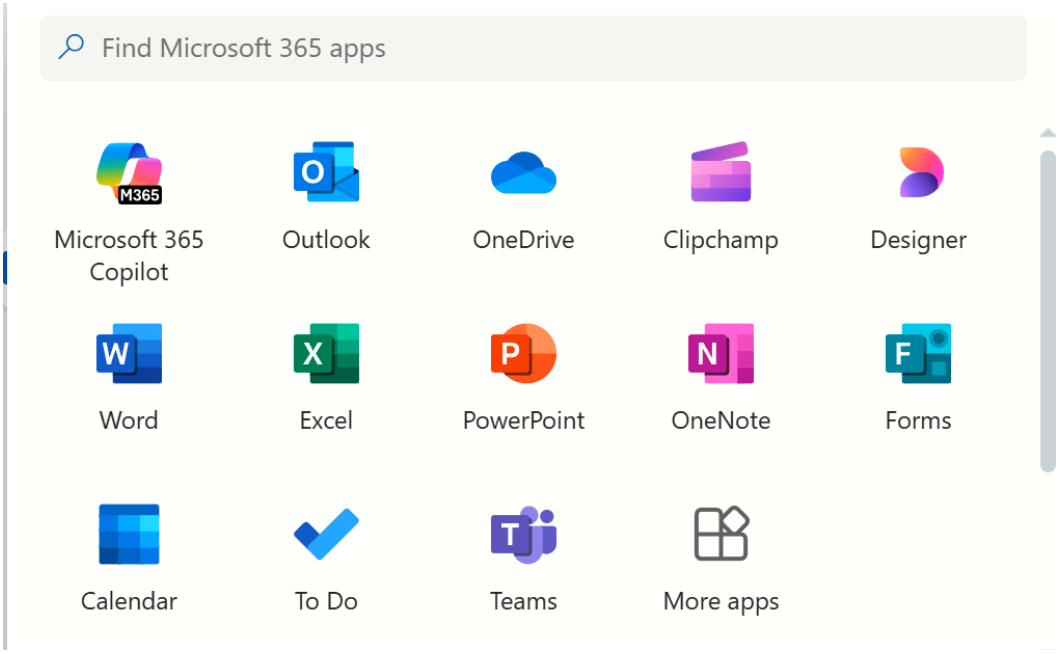
And of course both Microsoft and Google have Office suites online

Microsoft office online

You'll need a Microsoft Account.



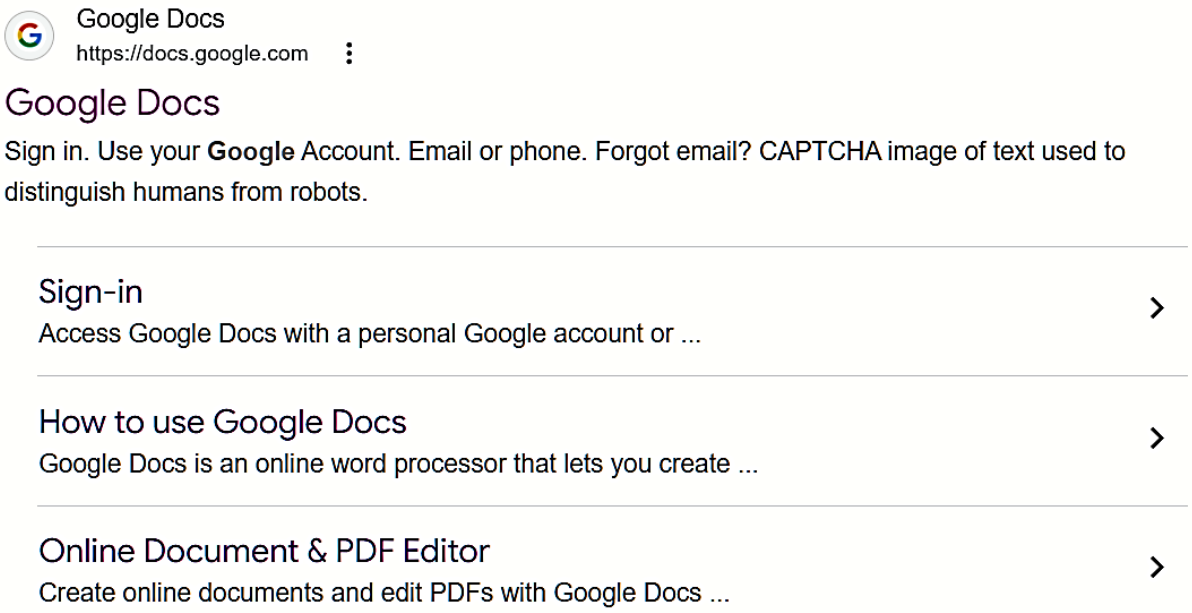
These are the options you have



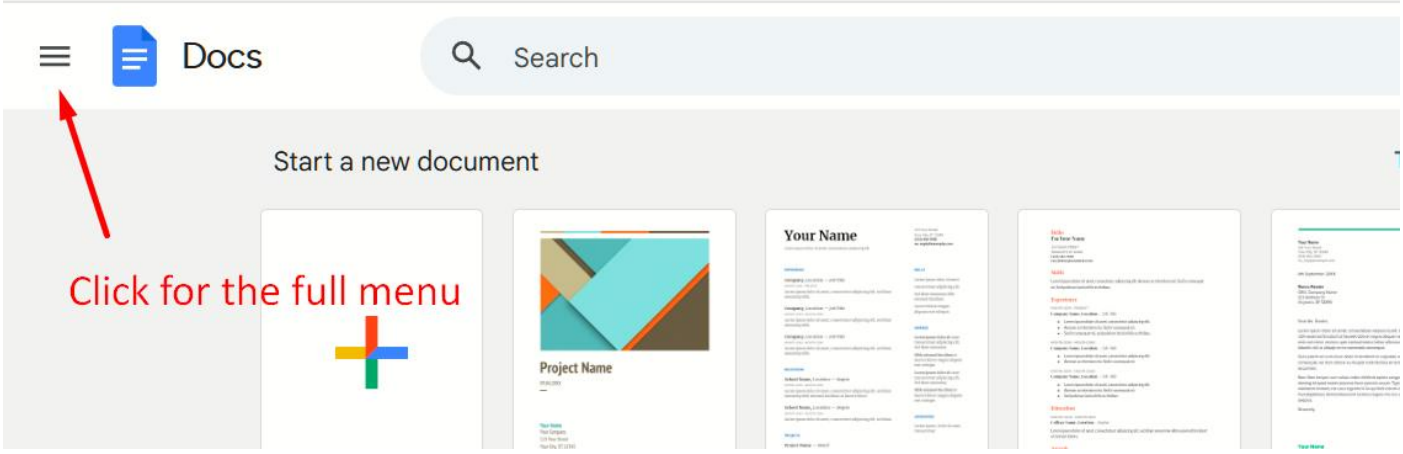
The ribbons are OK but not as good as the full Microsoft Office.

Google Docs- This is a very popular office program

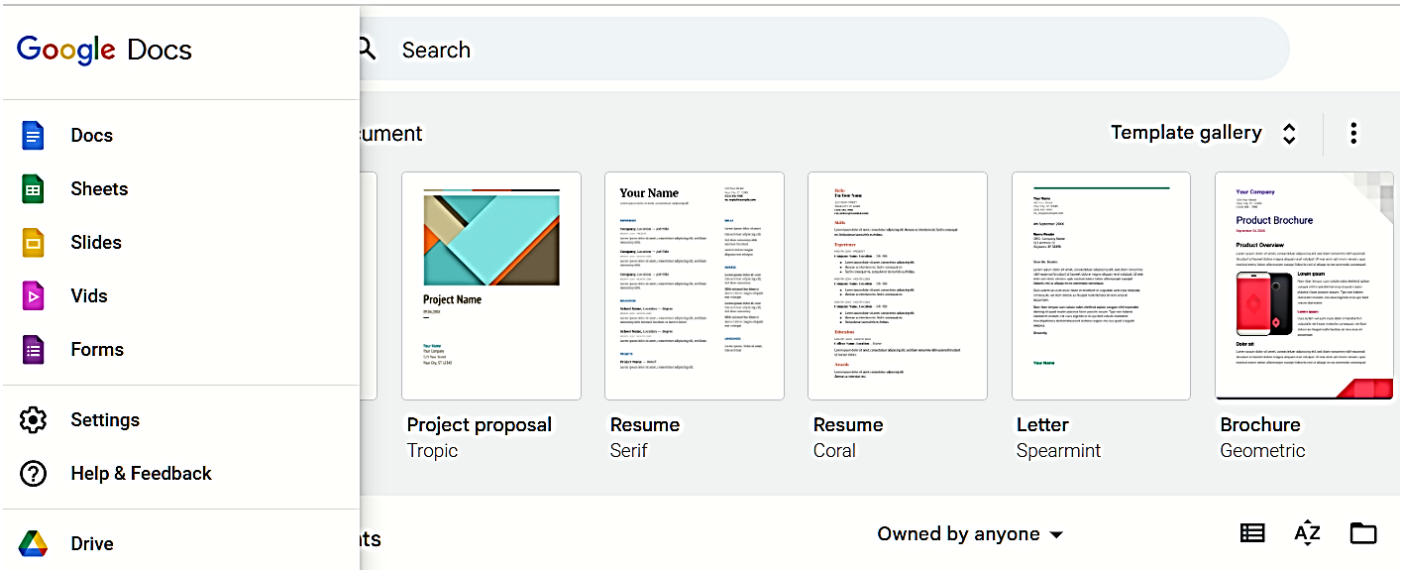
This is also a very good office suite. Make sure that you are signed in to Google or create a "Sign In. Type **"Google docs"** into **Google**. Click on the link as below.



I am already signed in. Click on the tree bars for the full menu.



There are documents, Sheets (spreadsheets), Slides (Presentations like a slideshow), make a Video, and Forms.



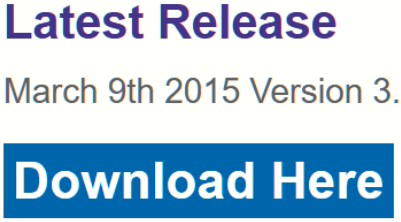
Abel Word

However you may just need a simple but very effective Word Document program **"Abel Word"** will give you this and it is a free download.

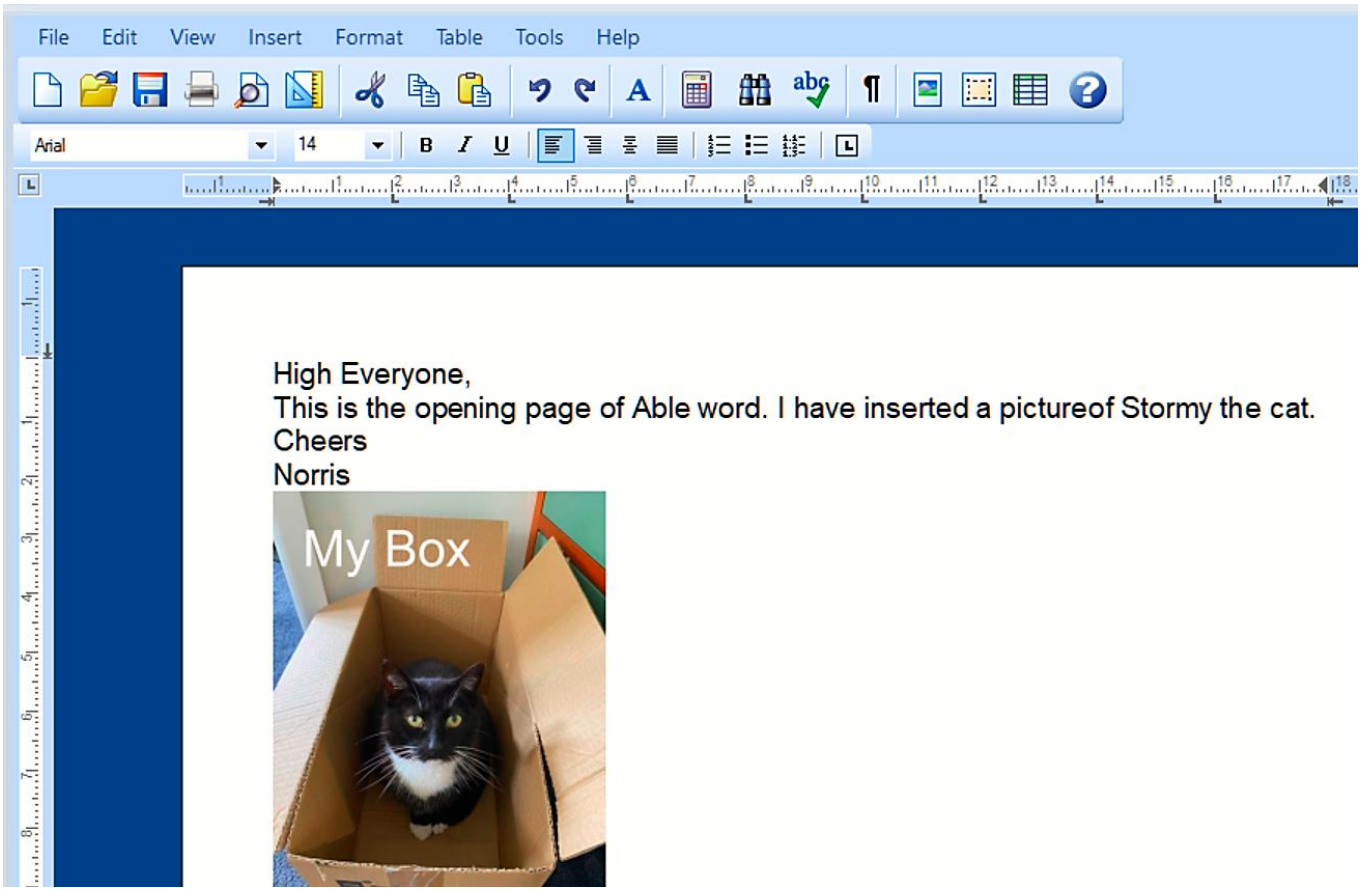
Able word has been around for a long time and the last version was produced in 2015. It is not easy to find on Google search sometimes. There is a similar program under **"Apache Abel word".** However I have a link you can click on below. It is a very small download to your download folder. When I started to download it I received a warning from Microsoft saying it was not Secure (But it is, it is just old, I found the installation clean) and you may have to click "Keep". There was no associated spam

Here is the link to download it.

http://www.ableword.net/downloads.html



Here is a screenshot of the opening page after installation with its Ribbon



It does have limitations such as an inability to rotate pictures so you should do this prior to inserting them using Microsoft Paint which is on Windows 10 and 11.