

Not Just (MS) Word

A Short Computer Course
The LIFE Institute

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My Path

- **1956 – first computer, an IBM 650**
- **1969 – first “personal” computer (IBM 1130)**
- **1977 – first Word Processor (AES Data)**
- **1981 – first IBM personal computer**
 - **WordStar (PC Write)**
 - **Word Perfect (Perfect Writer)**
 - **MS Word (LibreOffice/OpenOffice/StarOffice)**

In The "Can"

- **Background**
 - Varieties of "word" documents
 - Word processing options
- **AbiWord**
 - A "simple" WYSIWYG word processor
- **LibreOffice**
 - A "complete" WYSIWYG office suite

What would you like covered?

Personal Preference



Types of “Word” Documents

- **RAW text** – no formatting, no WYSIWYG
- **Outline** – easily move chunks around
- **WIKI** – easily link different sections
- **Light WYSISYG** – limited features
- **Heavy WYSIWYG** – almost too many features
- **Web Pages** – often linked to web server
- **Page/Book Layout** – beyond our scope

Features

- **Open Source**
- **Inexpensive**
- **File Format(s)**
- **Cloud Based**
- **Dictionary**
- **WYSIWYG**
- **Configurable**
- **Good web pages**
- **Work with PDF**
- **Security**
- **Co-Workers**
- **Operating System**

Windows XP [aside]

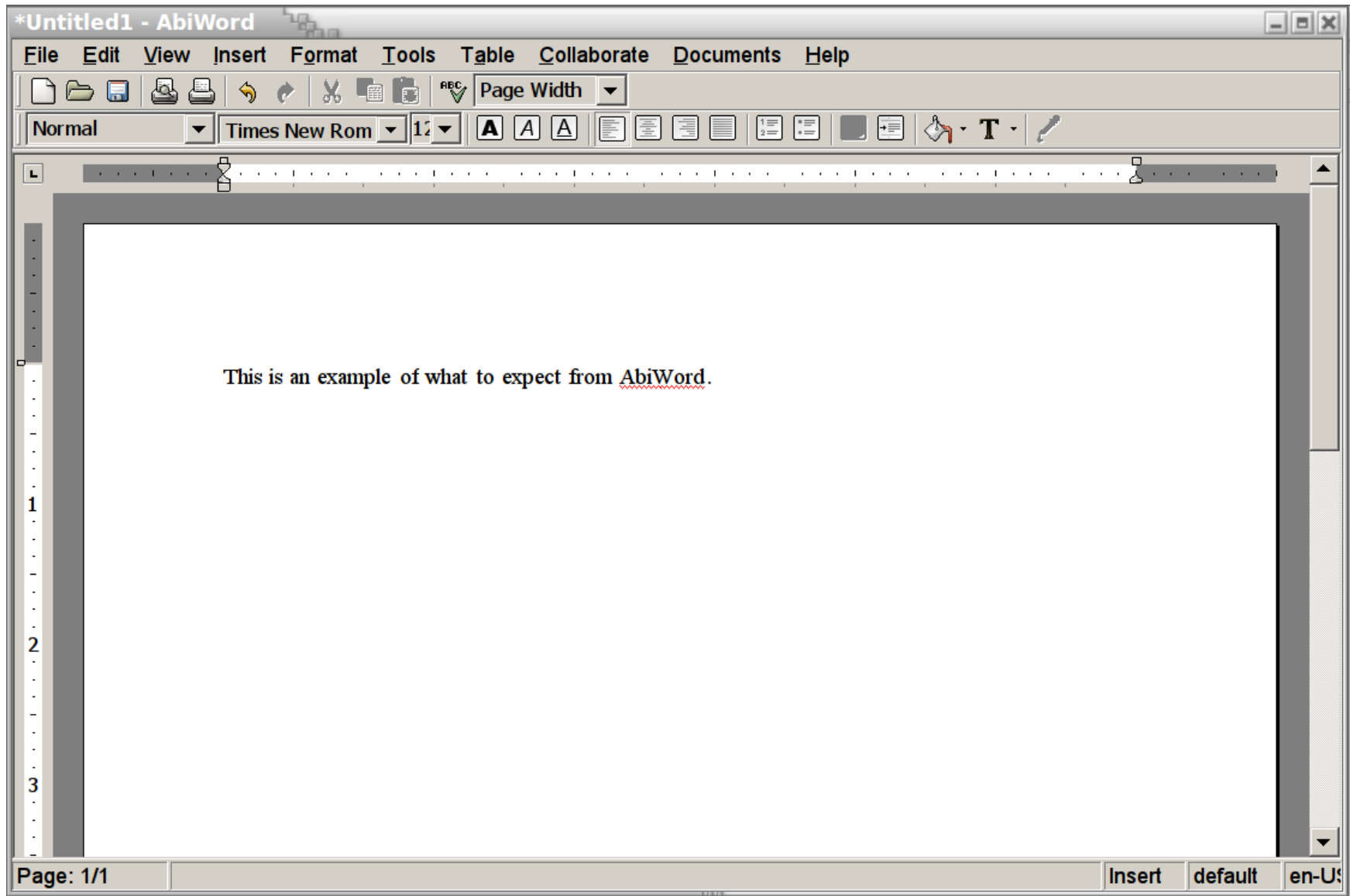
- XP support ends in April
- Win 7 unavailable after October
- Win 8 – the *only* choice in November

- I've moved to LINUX MINT (open source)
 - But it's not for “everyone”

AbiWord

- **Been around for years**
 - Now fully open source
- **Supports many file formats**
 - .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt
- **Dictionaries, Collaboration**
- **Limited customization**
- **“Light”, swift choice**

AbiWord Interface



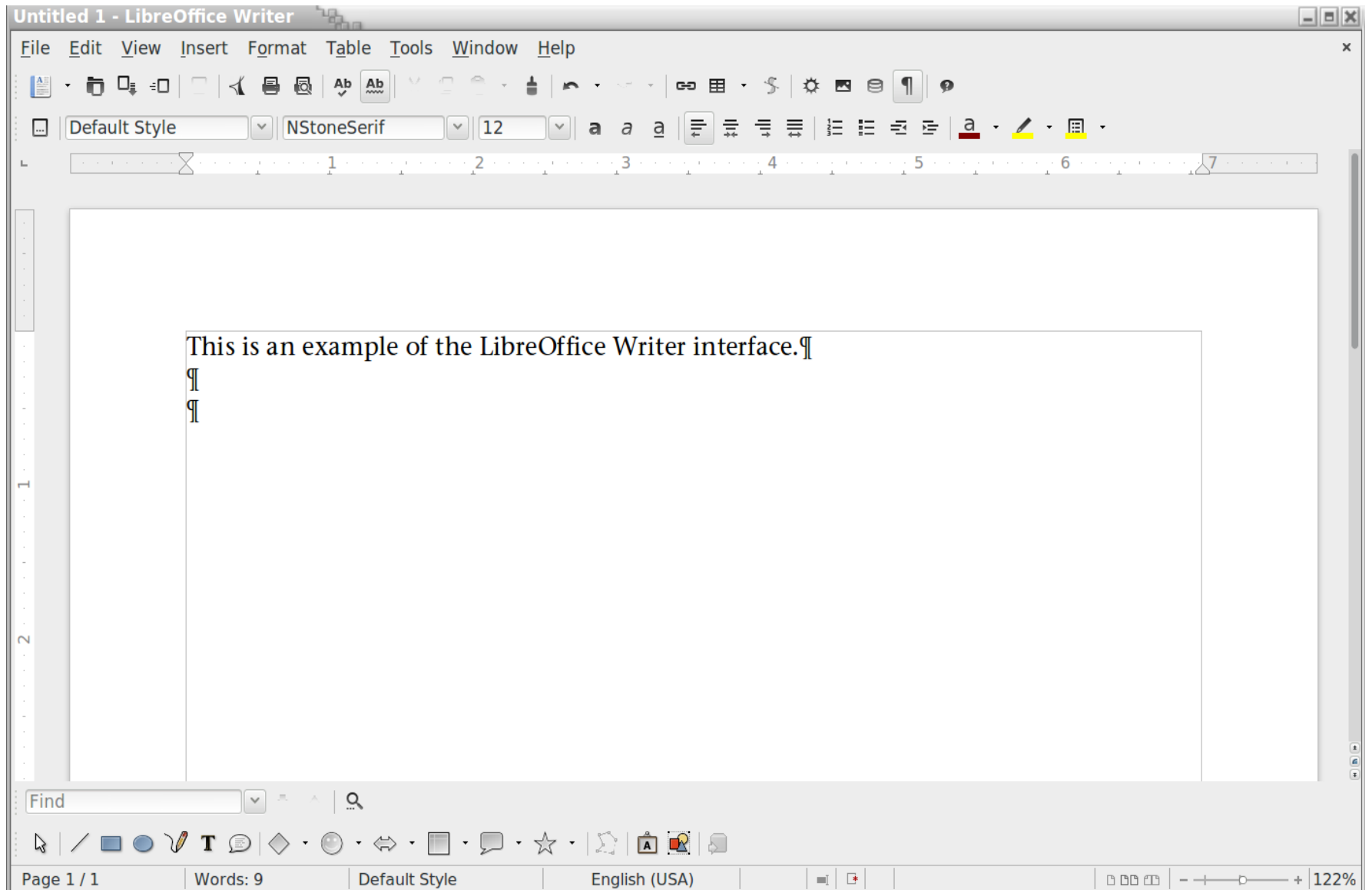
LibreOffice

- **Started as StarOffice, from Germany**
- **Became OpenOffice, from SUN Computers**
- **Oracle bought SUN, OpenOffice became less open**
- **LibreOffice “forked” into true open source**
- **Full office suite, all platforms**

LibreOffice Features

- **Writer, Calc, Impress, Base, Draw**
- **High degree of customization**
- **Writer supports most file formats**
 - Will read pdf files
- **Does almost everything Word 2007 did**
- **But it is a *big, slow(er)* program**

LibreOffice Interface



What questions do you have?

What would you like to see?

What conclusions have you reached?

== End Note ==

How could the session be improved?