

THE *Open* GROUP



Boundaryless Information Flow
Open Source in the Enterprise

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Hilton London Paddington
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An Application Management Company

OpenOffice/StarOffice™ Macros Conversion from MSOffice™ Macros

8th September, 2003
London





What does Melstar do?

- Application management, application support, maintenance, development and technical support services.
- Support and services transition model that encompasses onsite, offsite and offshore in India.
- Within our technical support services we have a OpenOffice/StarOffice™ technology group supporting OpenOffice/StarOffice™ and associated technologies

What are the challenges moving to OpenOffice/StarOffice™

- Incumbent products such as Microsoft are very familiar, well understood and widely used by the user base
- Companies have invested in further developments and customisations of these applications and there is a proliferation of macros and templates throughout the user base
- Users are familiar with invoking these custom functions (macro's) to carry out repetitive tasks
- Integration with third party software
- The existing data sources including address books and databases



How are the challenges met?

How do companies justify moving to a new environment?

- By replicating not only the software but also custom development and Macro's & Templates in MSOffice™ and at a price that is acceptable
- By providing the end user with a familiar environment that replicates what they are used to
- Software, implementation and future costs should be acceptable and easy to justify

How are the challenges met...cont

- OpenOffice/StarOffice™ offers powerful, easy-to-use office applications with all the functionality required by the vast majority of users, yet reduces software licensing and upgrade costs, and postpones PC upgrade cycles
- OpenOffice/StarOffice can automatically read and import documents in a large number of formats such as:

MS OFFICE APPLICATIONS

Excel 95/97/2000/XP, csv, Lotus 1-2-3

AutoCAD, Photoshop, TIFF, BMP, JPEG and a lot more

- However, there is no easy mechanism to read and convert Macro's written in MS Office or other formats

*This is when we provide a migration service to
OpenOffice/StarOffice*



Conversion of Macros and other customisations

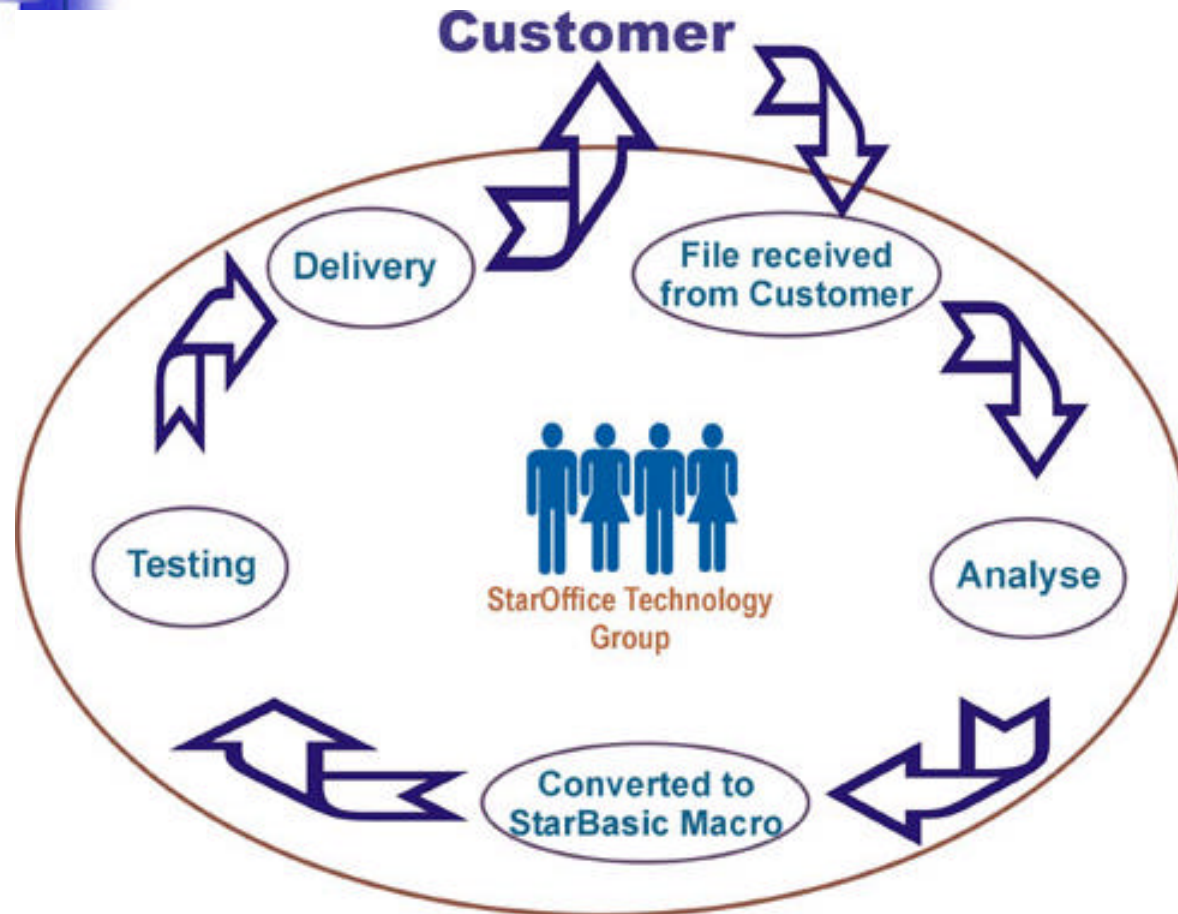
- **The service**

Melstar offers a complete end-to-end service for the conversion of Microsoft macros. Consists of consultancy services, web based collaboration and support systems, automated tools and help desk support

- **The benefits of the service**

Customers using this service benefit from a quicker migration process and lower cost of migration as the developing macro conversion tool increases capability and can be reused for different macro migration tasks

The Application Conversion Service





Conversion of Macros and other customisations..cont

Manual Approach

- Analyse individual MSOffice™ macros
- Direct one to one mapping of the Macro functionality
- Review and test
- Delivery and acceptance



Conversion of Macros and other customisations..cont

Semi Automatic Approach

(Shared Macro Library)

- Review a MSOffice™ macro set
- Analyse the set to ascertain the macro functionality common to most
- Use or develop generic shared libraries, usable by multiple macros
- Map macro functionality
- Review and test
- Delivery and acceptance



Conversion of Macros and other customisations..cont

Automated Approach

- Converter accepts MSOffice application as input
- Imports MSOffice™ documents in OpenOffice/StarOffice™ formats
- Converts OpenOffice/StarOffice™ Macros, avoiding “Commenting” of MSOffice™ macro code
- Displays messages for unconverted sections of macros for manual conversion
- Provides “optional code” prompts for unconverted sections
- Would be enriched over time to approach total conversion



Support for Application Conversion

- Combination of onsite and offshore operations depending on cost and scope
- Potential 24x7 support for application conversion
Service Level Agreements available for attendance onsite and for remote resolution
- A Knowledge Net for knowledge gained
- Web-based down-load for new macros/shared library developed
- Development of automated tools
- Quality assurance



Factors affecting costs

Factors affecting cost

- Each organisation has different complexity of macro's and templates
- Some are one hour conversions while others can take a day or two per macro
- Macro conversion costs can range from £300 to £1000
- Volume conversion will reduce costs considerably
- Site access for testing for more complex macros and 3rd party integrations may have an effect on time taken to complete migration



Conclusion

- Migrating macros used to be a bit like moving your bank account to a different bank – difficult, labour intensive and took a long time because the macros are specific to the desktop package used to create them
- Recoding by hand was a lengthy, and hence costly, process
- Now with Melstar's service, methodology and tools, the pain has been removed
- What was once thought of as an expensive, complicated IT process has become cost-effective and easy to do with migration costs significantly reduced using Melstar