

Small Business News & Notes

Small Business Programs Available Online

(NAPSA)—Things are looking up for productivity suites.

Small businesses in particular are finding they can increase productivity and reduce costs by downloading various applications from the Internet.

Sun Microsystems has introduced a full-featured, office productivity suite that makes it easy and cost effective for small businesses to create documents, spreadsheets and presentations.

The product, called StarOffice 5.2, is available as a free download from Sun Microsystems. It can be downloaded in 11 different languages and works with the Solaris Operating Environment as well as Linux and Microsoft Windows systems.

In addition, StarOffice is compatible with other office productivity suites (including Microsoft Office) so you can easily exchange documents with your friends or colleagues.

According to Susan Grabau, Product Line Manager, StarOffice, the suite offers small businesses the opportunity to download a full-featured office software package created to increase productivity in a cost effective way. It is also another expression of the company's vision that "the network is the computer."

The components of the processing suite include:

- A word processing program that can be used to create documents, reports, newsletters and brochures as well as create and publish Web content,

- A spreadsheet application with decision-making analysis



A growing number of small businesses are increasing productivity by downloading computer software from the Internet.

tools. It also has the capacity to generate three dimensional charts,

- A presentation software for creating multimedia presentations, including clipart special effects and animation,

- A database management tool that can store names and addresses and merge them into a document and print out mailing labels, and

- An e-mail application designed to enhance staff communication.

Sun Microsystems continues to improve the software programs in the suite and is expected to announce the next version of the software by the end of 2001.

For those users who don't want to go through the download process, you can purchase the product at the value price of \$39.95 in retail stores or online at e-tailers such as Amazon.com.

To learn more, visit the Web site at www.sun.com/staroffice.