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THE HUMBLE ENTREPRENEUR

Lester Zehr is quick to share credit for an inspirational success story

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- **Challenger is Business of the Year**
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OFFICE 2010 AND HOW IT AFFECTS YOU

Now that Microsoft Office 2010 is becoming more common in the market place, you may be wondering what benefits there are to switching versus sticking with the status quo, what new problems you can expect to encounter, and what alternatives are out there.

Now familiar to everyone who runs Office 2007, the infamous "ribbon" interface was introduced with that version. The ribbon came with a steep learning curve, but promised increased productivity to users when (or if) they became accustomed to it.

The new 2010 version brings with it a number changes, but most obvious will be that Outlook now gets the same treatment as rest of the office suite, gaining its own ribbon.

If you were holding on to Office 2003 in hopes that the ribbon would be written off and phased out as a mistake, you should know it's now a lost cause. The ribbon is here to stay.

For those of you who already have Office 2007, the move to Office 2010 is smooth sailing – you're already familiar with the ribbon and should adapt quickly to using it in Outlook as well. Microsoft has made a significant improvement to the 2010 ribbon, re-introducing the "File" menu which in 2007 had been rather cryptically replaced with an unnamed "orb" that looked more like a logo or window decoration, confounding everyone looking to save, open or even exit the program. Bringing back a

clear "File" menu will make life much easier for users of the older office suites who upgrade to Office 2010.

Another notable improvement is that all applications in the suite share a common print screen, incorporating Print Preview into the same screen you use to change printers, number of copies and other printer options. If you're like me and habitually check to see what your final print will look like, this improvement will end up saving you the extra time to pull up a separate print preview window.

The new suite isn't perfect either. One particular glitch in Outlook frustrated me for weeks before I stumbled across a work-around: When creating a calendar event, the Category drop-down would not work if the cursor was currently in the event's title box. Of course, the simple solution was to click somewhere else first. Bugs like these will be worked out soon as updates are released.

Another controversial feature that carries over from Office 2007 is the new file formats, most commonly recognized by their file extensions: .docx, .xlsx, .pptx, etc. While often dismissed as a mere ploy to coerce users into upgrading to the newest version, the new file formats offer smaller file sizes which helps significantly in the world of email. Where an email containing a Word document in the old .doc format might have taken 30 seconds to a minute to download, the new formats create much more com-

pact files, meaning the same file in the new format might only take 10 to 20 seconds to download.

The new files should also work more easily with competing products because the format itself is open and royalty-free.

While Microsoft has provided a way for users of Office 2003 to open the new files, there is still no way for the same users to save in the new format. The same is true for users of the OpenOffice suite. Acknowledging the need for open file formats, Office 2010 does open and save to the OpenDocument format. This means you will be able work with others using the OpenOffice suite in their native format.

Interoperability issues between suites can cause unexpected problems relating to layout or styles, and Macros won't be carried over at all. If you want to send a document to someone and it must look identical to what you're seeing (e.g., a resume), but you don't know which office suite they are using, you should save it to a PDF file.

If you're only a light user of word

processing and spreadsheet applications or are set against the ribbon but don't want to stick with an office suite that's no longer supported and may become vulnerable to security exploits, the OpenOffice suite might be a suitable option for your needs. OpenOffice is an open-source application begun in 1999, which has been collectively worked on by the community and in collaboration with Sun/Oracle. At a glance, the look and feel is most similar to Microsoft Office 2000 or 2003, and offers much of the same functionality. You'll still have access to more advanced functions like Mail Merge and Macros and will find for the most part that the tools and options you want are where you expect them to be.

Most people (myself included) resist any change, so whether you're moving from an older version of Microsoft Office or abandoning the Microsoft suite completely, there are likely to be some hiccups and frustrations along the way. Microsoft offers free trials of the Office 2010 suite, and you can get OpenOffice at OpenOffice.org, so go ahead and give something new a try.

- Adam Smith

FAMILY BUSINESS HAS EXPANDED EAST AND SOUTH

Minotaur Guardian Service Ltd. is a family-owned Brantford company riding the wave of environmental awareness. The company, founded by the Shaver family in 2000, was featured at a Centre For Family Business presentation.

Minotaur provides a comprehensive inspection, monitoring and service program for Stormceptor units. Marilyn and Garnet Shaver launched the company; their son Carson is involved in the business. Daughter Rachel, now a teacher, worked for Minotaur during her school years.

Marilyn Shaver explained: "Stormceptor units became a mainstay of construction in Ontario in 1995 when the Ontario government introduced the Clean Water Act. The Act requires property owners to be responsible for the quality of runoff water."

She added, "With increased development, more of our surface land in Canada is paved over. In an environment of hard surfaces such as roadways and parking lots, storm water runs directly into storm sewers, and along the way it collects contaminants like gasoline, oil, brake dust, and tire wear... Storm sewers drain directly into our waterways, taking with it the pollutants it has gathered along the way. The more impermeable surface we create, the more we need a

point-source solution to protect storm water."



Aaron Shaver and Marilyn Shaver of Minotaur Guardian Services.

Thus, Stormceptors were mandated. The Shavers realized that while they were being installed, Stormceptors were not being efficiently maintained. Garnet developed a method and a service to maintain the installations which also built in cost savings.

The company has expanded into Quebec and the United States. For more info, visit www.minotaurltd.com

tions in western Canada and the United States, opening a new terminal in British Columbia – one double the size of their Cambridge facility."

Trakalo said, "They've managed this growth by consistently being on the forefront of operational and technological advancements that have significantly changed the nature of the transportation industry, particularly with regard to environmental responsibility. In 2008, they received an award for environmental excellence from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – the only Canadian-based winner."

As well, Challenger has a charity committee established in 1994 which is "dedicated to assisting local health-related organizations, children's groups and community registered charities."



BMO Harris Private Banking Business of the Year Award to Challenger Motor Freight.
From left to right: Brenda Halloran, Michael Rae, Christina Weylie, Eugene Moser, Ken Seiling, Margo Jones, Doug Craig.