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# Does OpenOffice have 11 million active U.S. users?

by [Matt Asay](#)

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While Microsoft Office is actively used by roughly 50 percent of U.S. Internet users, [according to a 2,400-strong survey administered by ClickStream Technologies](#), 5 percent of U.S. Web users also actively use the open-source productivity suite OpenOffice.org.

Importantly, ClickStream wasn't measuring installations. It was measuring use. The company actually installed client-side software that tracked which applications the users were running. To have OpenOffice in use across 5 percent of U.S. Internet users is pretty amazing.

How many people does this translate into? [According to recent data](#), there are 303 million people living in the United States, 72.5 percent of which have Internet access. This suggests that of a population of 219 million U.S. Internet users, nearly 11 million actively use OpenOffice.

In other words, OpenOffice is not a niche geek phenomenon. With [more than 46 million downloads of version 3.0](#) alone, OpenOffice could prove unpleasantly disruptive to Microsoft's desktop business.

True, 5 percent U.S. market share doesn't sound like much, but an estimated 11 million people interacting with OpenOffice on a daily

basis sounds like an incredible beachhead for much broader market penetration.



Matt Asay brings a decade of in-the-trenches open-source business and legal experience to The Open Road, with an emphasis on emerging open-source business strategies and opportunities. Matt is vice president of business development at Alfresco, a company that develops open-source software for content management. He is a member of the CNET Blog Network and is not an employee of CNET. [Disclosure](#).

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