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## Microsoft Office 2000 to launch in Dubai

Key new desktop productivity package brings the world to user's desktops

1 June 1999

Dubai, United Arab of Emirates

Microsoft Gulf and Eastern Mediterranean (GEM) is to hold the Middle East launch of the Office 2000 package in Dubai with a public showing of the new desktop productivity suite at the Al Mutaqa Ballroom at the Dubai World Trade Center complex. "As a recognized entrepot with people from all over the world living and working together here, Dubai is the perfect place to show a program with true multinational and multilingual features," said Murad Lakhdir, product-marketing manager at Microsoft GEM.



Office 2000 is built on the Unicode platform, which gives the package the ability to support world languages 'out of the box', from French to Japanese. Uniquely, features such as the Office 2000 spell checker operate across languages, recognizing different language mixes within a sentence and checking spelling and grammar appropriately.

The multilingual nature of Office 2000 means that users will be able to access and edit Arabic documents 'out of the box', while a fully localized Arabic version, which will also have menus, Arabic help, Arabic language spellchecker and grammar tools, is expected within two months of the international package launch. "Today, a user in the Middle East can access and edit Arabic language documents, whether they are spreadsheets or word-processed documents, in Arabic using Office 2000. Full support for spell checking and other features is available where the package is loaded onto a machine with an Arabic Windows operating system," said Lakhdir.

Office 2000 includes the Microsoft Word word-processing application, Excel spreadsheet application, Outlook™ personal information manager, PowerPoint® presentation software and Access database application. The upcoming version allows users to create documents and then save them directly to a Web server as easily as if they were saving them to their hard drive. Users will also be able to open Office documents from a Web server and edit them with an Office application. "Microsoft designed this process so that people will be able to publish and share Web documents without learning new skills or using unfamiliar tools," said Lakhdir. "This version of Office is about collaboration, allowing people to share information and documents over networks, Intranets and the Internet interactively, while the files are open."

The Office 2000 user interface adapts to personal usage patterns. Office 2000 will detect and repair essential files and will install features when people need to use them for the first time. The suite represents the first implementation of the Windows 2000 installer, which enables Office applications to self-repair: if a user deletes or corrupts a file needed to run Office, the program automatically

detects the problem and will repair itself from the CD-ROM or from a network location. In addition, advanced help features help to cut the amount of support calls to a customers' help desk. "With easy installation, powerful ease-of-use and Internet features and the advanced deployment and self-repair features, enterprises have a great opportunity to cut the time they spend on maintenance and support: and that lowers the total cost of ownership," said Lakhdhir.

**About Microsoft Corporation:**

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (NASDAQ "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software for personal computers. The company offers a wide range of products and services for business and personal use, each designed with the mission of making it easier and more enjoyable for people to take advantage of the full power of personal computing every day.

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Microsoft opened its Dubai-based Middle East headquarters office in 1991. This was followed by the opening of country offices in Saudi Arabia and in Egypt in 1995.

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**Further Information:**

Press and analysts contact the Microsoft Gulf and Eastern Mediterranean Press Center:

**Helena Gilman,  
Microsoft Corporation**

**Tel:** 971 4 3973888  
**Fax:** 971 4 3972244  
**E-mail:** [helenag@microsoft.com](mailto:helenag@microsoft.com)

Non-press contact Spot On Public Relations:

**Alexander McNabb,  
Spot On Public Relations**

**Tel:** 971 4 349 1686  
**Fax:** 971 4 349 3245  
**E-mail:** [alexm@spotonpr.com](mailto:alexm@spotonpr.com)

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