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Microsoft Office 2000 Arabic Edition hits the stores in record time

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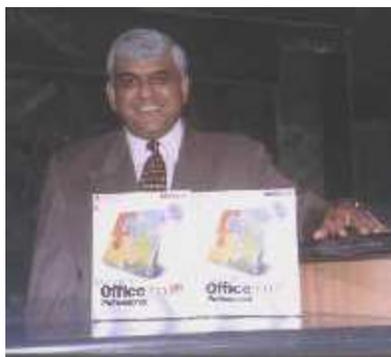
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Middle East users will now enjoy new powerful web collaboration and document sharing features of Office 2000 in Arabic; Microsoft releases Arabic Edition in record time

28 July 1999

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Microsoft Gulf & Eastern Mediterranean (GEM) today announced the immediate regional availability of its latest suite of office productivity tools, Microsoft Office 2000 Arabic Edition. The availability of the product reinforces Microsoft's commitment to providing regional users with Arabic products fast, enabling them to utilize the powerful new features of Office 2000 in Arabic.



"Office 2000 Arabic Edition is being released less than 55 days after the release of the international edition, a new record for Microsoft and highlighting its commitment to timely delivery of Arabic products to the region," said Murad Lakhdhir, product marketing and business solutions manager, Microsoft GEM.

Office 2000 Arabic Edition will incorporate the same new features as the international edition, empowering users to share and exchange information across multiple language platforms and enabling users to collaborate online regardless of their location. The added advantage of Arabic language support allows regional users to accomplish this in their own language.

"Office 2000 Arabic Edition has been designed for use as an enterprise-level desktop product that empowers users to create and share information across great distances, in the Arabic language, while allowing individuals to increase their personal productivity as well. Because of Office 2000's unique incorporation of the Unicode platform, Arabic users will be able to share and exchange documents in various languages even though their version was designed for the Arabic language," Lakhdhir explained.

Microsoft Office 2000 has been created to integrate seamlessly with the Internet, providing individuals and organizations with the capability to incorporate and share their work through the World Wide Web. Organizations that are interested in growing their online presence can now create professional looking web pages with support for Arabic.

"As businesses in the region now realize the importance of the Internet for their financial growth and expansion, business decision makers are now making crucial choices regarding the deployment of new software products that will see their organization gaining

the full benefits of doing business online. Office 2000 provides this and other key features in multiple languages to help organizations improve productivity, increase internal efficiency and lower the total cost of ownership of their IT infrastructure," said Mazen Shehadeh, product manager, desktop applications division, Microsoft GEM.

Microsoft Office 2000 Arabic Edition includes the following new features as with the international edition:

Streamlined Information Sharing and Collaboration

Collaboration and the ability to share information quickly are vital to business success. Office 2000 delivers great new tools for the Web that enhance individual productivity and the productivity of a workgroup.

Universal Document Viewing

Users can save Office documents in HTML file format and retain the fidelity of the native Office file format. By saving as HTML, users ensure that anyone with a Web browser can view the documents as well as edit them without losing the functionality of the Office file format.

Save to the Web

Office 2000 also simplifies publishing Office documents to intranets or to an Internet site with new File Open and File Save dialog boxes make saving documents to a Web server as easy as saving them to your hard disk or to a file server.

Web Themes

To make it easier for business users to create Web pages to serve many different purposes, Office 2000 includes over 30 new design themes with graphical backgrounds, bullets, and other design elements that make creating Web pages in Office as straightforward as creating documents.

Web Discussions

With Office 2000, workgroup members can collaborate on projects across Intranets and the Web in threaded discussions that you can insert in any part of a document and view in a Web browser.

Ends

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, since then subsidiaries have opened in Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Microsoft GEM (Gulf and Eastern Mediterranean) is responsible for the company's business in Pakistan, Oman, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Jordan, Cyprus and Malta. In 1999, Microsoft opened offices in Lebanon and Kuwait and announced it would soon open new offices in Pakistan.

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