

What is Calc?

Calc is the spreadsheet component of LibreOffice. You can enter data (usually numerical) in a spreadsheet and then manipulate this data to produce certain results.

Alternatively, you can enter data and then use Calc in a 'What if...' manner by changing some of the data and observing the results without having to retype the entire spreadsheet or sheet.

Other features provided by Calc include:

- Functions, which can be used to create formulas to perform complex calculations on data.
- Database functions to arrange, store, and filter data.
- Data statistics tools, to perform complex data analysis.
- Dynamic charts, including a wide range of 2D and 3D charts.
- Macros for recording and executing repetitive tasks; scripting languages supported include LibreOffice Basic, Python, BeanShell, and JavaScript.
- Ability to open, edit, and save Microsoft Excel spreadsheets.
- Import and export of spreadsheets in multiple formats, including HTML, CSV, PDF, and Data Interchange Format.

Note

If you want to use macros written in Microsoft Excel using the VBA macro code in LibreOffice, you must first edit the code in the LibreOffice Basic IDE editor. For more information, see Chapter 12, *Macros*, in this guide or Chapter 13, *Getting Started with Macros*, in the *Getting Started Guide*.

Spreadsheets, sheets, and cells

Calc works with documents called spreadsheets. Spreadsheets consist of a number of individual sheets, each sheet containing cells arranged in rows and columns. A particular cell is identified by its row number and column letter.

Cells hold the individual elements – text, numbers, formulas, and so on – that make up the data to display and manipulate.

Each spreadsheet can have up to 10,000 sheets and each sheet can have a maximum of 1,048,576 rows and 1,024 columns.

Calc main window

When Calc is started, the main window opens (Figure 3). The various parts of this display are explained below.

Note

If any part of the Calc window in Figure 3 is not shown, you can display it using the **View** menu. For example, **View > Status Bar** on the Menu bar will toggle (show or hide) the Status Bar. It is not always necessary to display all of the parts shown; you can show or hide any of them as desired.