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The best spreadsheet software makes it easy to work with spreadsheets, not just in terms of features but growing in terms of collaborating with colleagues. Spreadsheets are used by many businesses to manage, display, and manipulate data. The needs of each company are different, so finding the best spreadsheet software depends on which feature is most important for the task required. There are basics that need to be met, and not all available options are up to inhalation. The best spreadsheet software will be easy to use, flexible and feature-rich; supports attractive graphs and charts that are easy to create and personalize; and facilitate cooperation. Want your company or service to be considered for this buyer's guide? Please email your request desire.athow@futurenet.com contact the URL of the purchase guide in the subject line. Also check out the best online collaboration softwareThe best spreadsheet software:Microsoft ExcelGoogle SheetsLibreOfficeZoho SheetOnlyOffice(Image credit: Microsoft)Highly customizable charts and many templatesThe powerful collaboration features Formula collaboration features can be informableNo general collaboration chatsNot be slow with large data tablesMicrosoft Excel built to manipulate data and include more than 400 separate operations. Formula autofill makes it easy to find what you're looking for, while annoting the 2016 athletes tool is a useful memorizing aid. It doesn't offer definitions like Google Sheets, but Formula Builder serves this function well, with detailed descriptions. Graphs and charts are easy to insert and personalize, with almost any clickable and custom element. There's no shortage of styles or templates, and everything integrates well with the rest of the Microsoft Office suite. With Microsoft OneDrive, collaboration is simple and effective. Change automatic updating on all devices. While there's no general chat feature like with Google Docs, stream comments make it easy to discuss data. All these functions come at a price: the sheer volume of features makes this software a bit difficult for first time users, so expect a steep learning curve. That being said, clear error analysis and bug tracing help make it easier to see where things went wrong. Read our full Microsoft Excel review. (Image credit: Google) Excellent collaboration toolM function switching functions than ExcelM number of functions buried in the Graph menu and charts may be better, While recent updates to Excel have improved collaboration tools, Google Sheets remains a champion, with chat, comments, real-time co-editing and simple sharing. There is no software to download and everything is stored in the cloud, the collaboration experience is very smooth. Google Sheets is strong when it comes to crunching numbers. It may not have as many advanced features as Excel, such as but for most businesses that want to organize data and perform basic operations, Sheets will get the job done. Obviously the Google team has put a lot of thought into ease of use. Formula annots provide definitions and 2016 earlier, for example, which is a step forward from Excel. Filter View is also easy to use and the ability to share custom Filter views is quite realistic. There are not as many types of charts available as Excel, and it is not possible to edit charts outside of The Worksheet as in Microsoft Word, making visualization less flexible. That being said, the spartan interface is clean and pleasant to the eye. Read the full review on our Google Sheets. (Photo credit: LibreOffice) Easy step-by-step construction functions Free period and open sourceThe features accessible from the DateInterface toolbar and ClutterGraphs are not easily customizedLibreOffice's spreadsheet program called Calc, and while it has many good features, it is not a great tool for collaboration. There is also limited cloud support and unsused real-time co-authoring. However, if you are looking for a powerful, free tool for your own projects, LibreOffice is a good choice. The layout is a bit outdated and cluttered, but once you know where everything is, most features just one click away. You can also add a new toolbar to easily access what you need. Graphs are simple to create, although customizing them is time-consuming —clicking on an item displays dialog boxes, instead of side menus or pop-ups. A lot of thought has been put into helping beginner users. The DataPilot feature facilitates data replication from corporate databases, while the Function Guide makes it easy to create complex functions. Read our full LibreOffice review. (Photo credit: Zoho) Easy data entry, including enhanced feed functions hidden in TheExcel Import Compatibility menus can be improvedZoho Sheet is entirely web-based, so collaboration is smooth and intuitive, with co-authoring, chat, individual mobile versions, and real-time sharing permissions. In this case, it's similar to Google Sheets, but it's also an extremely powerful spreadsheet app, with over 350 different functions, even for Excel to run for money. The layout is similar to Google Sheets and quite spartan, so you'll have to dig through menus to find more advanced features. However, this app sports a basic formula builder with functional descriptions, which Google Sheets lacks. The ability to link external data, such as CSV files or RSS feeds, is a handy feature for businesses. Excel can manage this but it's much more complicated. Charts and graphs are easy to create and customize, although, like Google Sheets, there are few and overall, they are less powerful than Excel. That being said, the interface is intuitive, with many trend lines gather. (Photo credit: OnlyOffice) Great collaboration toolThe easy page setup and visualization appealThe autofill formula is not greatOnlyOffice is a powerful office software kit with software for computers, tablets and smartphones, as well as a powerful web application. Fully supported collaboration even gives you a choice between co-editing and saving formats for real-time syncing. There are also comments and chat functions. In terms of features, OnlyOffice competes with Excel, with over 400 advanced functions and features such as filtering, Text to Columns, and a rotating table. That said, autofill formulas can be improved: tool annots don't provide much information, and there's no functional er00 to talk about. The interface is familiar and easy to use, with all the main functions available in the ribbon. However, if you rely heavily on error analysis, OnlyOffice may disappoint you: clicking on an error doesn't provide more information and doesn't support bug tracing. On the other hand, charts and graphs are easy to create and customize, and while Excel still wins the absolute number of types of charts available, all the basics are here, with great templates for easy formatting. Adding shapes, images, tops, and footer is easy, so you can quickly create compelling visualizations. Read our full OnlyOffice review. You've got less than a week to turn that odd-sized pile of W-2, 1099, and paper receipts into an income tax return that won't break the bank or get you audited. This April there are many free, cheaper online tools that can help you digitalize your tax returns and financial records throughout the year. Your Tax Records in the Cloud You (or your accountant) have been filing tax returns electronically for years, but this year the options for making your tax return from start to finish electronically are better than ever. You used to go to Staples and buy the latest copies of TurboTax on disk in a box (ha, disk!) and use desktop copies of quicken or Microsoft money to track deductions and charitable donations throughout the year. Now you can do all those things in the browser. TurboTax boxes and disks are still being sold at your local office supply store, as well as copies of Quicken, but now you can just point your browser to TurboTax.com and get the software capable without leaving home. As of the end of September, when Intuit Mint.com, you don't need that copy of Quicken or Microsoft Money either. Mint.com your financial transactions for all your accounts in a single place and send you email notifications based on the criteria you set. You must provide Mint.com with your online banking information to use it, and that's enough to scare off security-minded. But the convenience of seeing your big financial picture in one place and getting third-party trading alerts is worth making the leap. The iPhone app is pretty convenient, too. Too. against the use Mint.com for a long time because I was uncomfortable trusting a small startup with my online banking password; in the end, I was so and Intuit bought them. For what it's worth, the Mint's security FAQ is comforting.) Some other online services can help you come up with or get your return done. Buy more time and files for an online extension for about $20 at File Later. Create forms 1099 and W-2 for contractors or employees at cheap FileTaxes.com. (Hats off to my book agent, which in 1099 I created FileTaxes.com, for that cursor.) If you've filed a tax return and are just waiting for a federal refund, check its status at a IRS.gov. Digitalized dead tree Cardboard shoe box of receipts from three years ago molded in the garage will not be able to track if you ever get audited. This year, invest in a document scanner that will turn your dead tree receipts into searchable pdf. Any good scanner would do, but I really like Fujitsu ScanSnap, a paper-to-PDF converter that's really fun to use. While keeping original paper copies is a good idea, according to IRS.gov, the IRS does not require you to keep your records in a specific way. Keep them in a way that allows you and the IRS to determine your exact taxes. A good pdf scanning your receipts will do just that, and they will be at your fingertips on your hard drive. Once you commit to electronic record storage, of course, make sure you've got a great backup system for your computer–both local, on an external disk, and over the Internet, using a service like Carbonite, Mozy, or Amazon S3. Two other services that can help you capture and scan receipts for online storage easily are Shoeboxed, and all around the great capture tool, Evernote. In fact, the two services work together to help you digitalize your receipts. Set for an easier Next YearFreelancers and sole owners who have the pleasure of paying estimated quarterly taxes can stop scrambling for an envelope and postage stamp every three months. EFTPS (Electronic Federal Tax Paying System) is not the most beautiful site you've ever used, but it does allow you to pay your estimated taxes without dealing with a single piece of paper. No doubt your state also has an estimated online payment system; here in California, I pay online at the Franchise Tax Council website. If you're using Mint to budget and track your money for the year, you can use cards outside of categories to mark deductions like donations or charitable expenses. For example, if you take a customer to lunch, the cost will be type is Restaurant, but you can also specify how many cards as you want, such as tax deduction. By next April, just pull up the tax deduction card list of transactions when you've got to itemize. What's do you use it at the time of taxation? What is your system for tracking papers? Let us know in the comments. [Photo: iowa_spirit_walker] iowa_spirit_walker]