

Office 365 Online vs. Office Online vs. Word App for students and instructors

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lnlKWGCwKlk>

I'll quickly cover the main differences between Office 365, Office online, and Microsoft apps (MS Word, PowerPoint, and Excel).

Office online is a free version of Office 365. It is linked to your Outlook/Microsoft account (if you don't have it, you can create it by going to Outlook.com). Because it's a web application that runs in your browser, Office Online will run on everything, from PCs and Chromebooks to iPads and Android tablets. It doesn't require any special plug-in and works in any popular browser, including Firefox, Chrome, and Safari — not just Internet Explorer.

Office 365 is a subscription service that MCC students receive for free and can use while they are MCC students. Office 365 is linked to student accounts - there is a separate video on how students can access Office 365/OneDrive.

Office 365 Online and Office Online let you view and edit Office documents for free in your web browser (like [Google Docs](#), but from Microsoft). Here's an example of how Word Online looks like (I logged in using my personal Microsoft account and opened it in Safari). All the same apps—Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote—are available for Office 365 and Office Online.

The Office 365 Mobile Apps include versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, and Outlook for the iOS and Android platforms. To use these Office 365 mobile apps, you'll need to have a paid Office 365 subscription. MCC subscription gives you access to both the desktop and mobile apps—you don't need a separate subscription.

However, you can use Microsoft Word, Power Point, and Excel apps that are free and not linked to your Office 365 subscription. You do not need a subscription to use the online apps, although you will need to sign in with a free Microsoft account. Here's how Word app looks like.

The mobile apps offer a more limited feature set than their full desktop counterparts, but the look and feel is largely the same. However, the mobile apps offer offline access (in my opinion, it's one of the most important features), meaning you can view and edit documents even when you're not connected to the Internet. Office 365 Online and Office Online do not offer offline access.