

**DRAFT – NOT FOR RELEASE**    **CONTACT:**

John DeWitt  
(508) 430-7077 (Office)  
(646) 232-6620 (Mobile)  
[dewittjw@comcast.net](mailto:dewittjw@comcast.net)

Jon Lavietes  
(415) 572-4408  
[jlavietes@earthlink.net](mailto:jlavietes@earthlink.net)

## **Bacone College Uses Open Source Software to Cost-Effectively Augment Technology Resources and Extend Life of Old Computers**

*Hentzenwerke partners with Native American-focused institution to provide online Linux and OpenOffice.org reference resources, easing Microsoft® users' adoption of Open Source*

**MUSKOGEE, Okla., February XX, 2004** – Bacone College has teamed up with Hentzenwerke Publishing to provide online reference resources that support the college's deployment of Linux and the OpenOffice.org office suite for use by faculty, employees and students in campus facilities and on personal computers at home. Use of Linux and the OpenOffice.org (OOo) office suite has enabled Bacone to maximize its limited technology resources and extend the life of previously abandoned personal computer hardware.

“The flexibility that OpenOffice.org and Linux provide are tremendous,” said Robert Duncan Jr., president of Bacone College. “We can ship a CD out to students or faculty working off campus or even out of state, or they can download the tools for free themselves. They get compatibility with everyone else's documents on campus without having to stray from the tools they are familiar with, whether it be Macintosh, Office 2000, Adobe or Flash. Nobody's acquired IT knowledge goes to waste with OOo.”

The OOo suite has been deployed on existing older machines on Bacone's campus and a set of new computers just recently purchased by the institution. Open Source applications also are slated for use on many future purchases of computer equipment. Since OOo is a platform-independent Open Source office suite comparable to and fully compatible with Microsoft® Office, it functions on each of the computer platforms being utilized by Bacone's student body and faculty, including Windows, Linux, Solaris, and Macintosh, among others. With OOo, all users are able to work with the respective tools they are

familiar with without disruption, while the school's administration simply supports one software suite regardless of the hardware platform of the user.

Bacone began its conversion to open source with the deployment of OOo on a single IBM ThinkPad in the school's library. OOo enjoyed early success as students shared files from a variety of programs and platforms including Word 97, Office 2000 and Solaris. In early 2002, after joining Bacone as its new president, Duncan approved the funding of a plan to standardize OOo across most campus machines outside the computer lab, which relies primarily on Microsoft and other proprietary software applications. At the time, the Bacone campus offered mainly antiquated Pentium 133s. The school's budget allowed for a modest addition of new machines, but even with that expansion the school wanted a more robust offering of software applications to students, faculty, and staff. Moreover, all systems still needed to be manageable for a two-person IT staff and cost-effectively accommodate future changes in technology. Further complicating the problem was the fact that the school's computer labs were based on Microsoft '98, while faculty tended to deploy a variety of proprietary and non-proprietary platforms for their personal use.

OOo allowed Bacone to provide a standard office suite with support that could satisfy the needs of each individual student, faculty member, and campus facility at greatly reduced money and manpower costs. The Linux platform along with OOo was loaded onto CDs, replacing the hard drives of the Pentium 133s, while 45 new IBM ThinkPads were also standardized on the OpenOffice.org suite. Meanwhile, students and faculty now have the power to share documents across platforms and competing office suites if they chose to deploy the open source OOo to bridge the gaps.

During the implementation, which was finished at the end of 2003, Hentzenwerke Publishing was engaged as an active partner to Bacone's efforts, a relationship that Duncan says transcends a traditional vendor-client relationship. In August 2003, Hentzenwerke Publishing released its book *OOoSwitch: 501 Things You Wanted to Know About Switching to OpenOffice.org from Microsoft Office*, which aggregates tried-and-true methods of enabling Microsoft Office "power users" to transition easily to OOo. The book's conversational style yet thorough approach to

technology was crucial in gaining the acceptance of OOO among the school's Microsoft Office-versed faculty, staff, and students, especially since the Bacone campus sported a mix of Microsoft and non-Microsoft-based machines.

“In academics, it is easier to sell faculty with a published manual of proven ideas than to have an IT [information technology] salesman pitch a product cold,” said Duncan.

Bacone acquired a site license to store Hentzenwerke's books and OOO help materials on a single help server accessible to anyone via the Web, saving the school and its software user community the cost and hassle of purchasing printed copies of Linux and OpenOffice.org reference resources.

### **Open Source Proves Consistent with Bacone's Historical Community Mission**

Founded in 1880, Bacone College is grounded in the values of the American Baptist Church and serves a diverse student body including a substantial number of Native Americans. In addition to its economic and practical value, the deployment of OOO, and Linux's Open Source philosophy in general, has helped Bacone use technology to illustrate the community values the school tries to teach its students. OOO's ability to work the same way across several machines to connect a diverse range of backgrounds mirrors the school's ability to create a seamless productive academic and social environment among a student body made up of diverse backgrounds. Also, the school takes very seriously a concept it calls “stewardship” – the idea of getting the maximum benefit of all existing resources and deploying these resources for the greater good of the community. In this case, utilizing outdated Pentium 133 machines that typically would be thrown away fulfills both a practical purpose as well as an ethical obligation. Moreover, the fact that the non-proprietary OOO and Linux can be downloaded and shared with anyone will allow students and faculty to share this knowledge and experience with non-profits, churches and small businesses down the road.

“We want to break down the digital divide that exists in many parts of Oklahoma, and we want to embody that same spirit in our student body so that they help non-profits maximize their

minimal information technology resources while staying on the cutting edge of technology,” said Duncan.

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### **About Hentzenwerke Publishing**

**Hentzenwerke Publishing**, a division of Hentzenwerke Corp., is a Milwaukee, Wis.-based publisher of technical books for software developers and users. Founded in 1982 as a custom software developer, Hentzenwerke published its first book in 1997 and currently offers more than 25 titles. For more information, call (414) 332-9876, e-mail [books@hentzenwerke.com](mailto:books@hentzenwerke.com), or visit [www.hentzenwerke.com](http://www.hentzenwerke.com).

### **About Bacone College**

Bacone College in Muskogee, Okla., is a four-year liberal arts college affiliated with the American Baptist Church embracing a historic educational mission to American Indians. Since its doors opened in 1880, Bacone has served students from all regions, nations and walks of life. Bacone is the oldest college of continuous education in the State of Oklahoma. For more information, visit [www.bacone.edu](http://www.bacone.edu).