# Visi-Uh-Oh!

What to do when you inherit Visio files

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# The Background

- Your "shop" has been around a while and has a number of people who do things their own way.

- Your network person has spent years making beautiful network diagrams and the management loves them and him.

- He owns his own copy of Visio and his own laptop (I said management loves him).

This can be gender neutral, I was in a hurry.

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# The Situation

- Your "darling of the diagram" just gave notice that he has been offered a fantastic job cleaning up diagrams for some bigger company.

- In his defiance, he's making sure you have PDF and VSD copies of all the diagrams.

- He is also available for "off-hours" diagram work.

# The Reality

- Management likes their diagrams – a lot!
- Lots of time was invested in the existing diagrams.
- He was the last person running Windows[1] (legacy employee).
- Nobody has the time to rebuild the diagrams.

[1] One can always hope that this will be true some day

# What do you do?

- Nothing?
  - Not realistic.

- Buy Windows and Visio?
  - Possible, but that is a machine you won't use for anything else.
  - You could virtualize it, worse things have happened.
  - You are still locked in.

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# Alternatives exist

- Gliffy – an online HTML5 diagramming tool
- Lucid Chart – also HTML5
- yED – java based
- Creately – runs on most platforms
- Draw.io – Online, cloud based

# Alternatives exist

- OmniGraffle – OSX, iOS only
- Google Drawings – basic stuff only
- Open/Libre/Whatever Office – All platforms
- Concept Draw – Windows, OSX
- Calligra Flow – Most platforms
- Inkscape – Most platforms
  
  There are many other options

# What do you pick?

- This is not an easy answer.

- It depends…
  - Do you need to build on the old drawings?
  - Do you have a commitment to use FLOSS software whenever possible?
  - Are there security concerns about the drawings?
  - The list goes on…

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# Personal Experience

- Many pieces of software claim to import Visio

- Most of them actually do, just specific versions (or limited imports)

- The import is not always a quality process and a lot of time could be spent cleaning up

- Very few export Visio, so you will have to accept a format change
  - Of course, this is what you actually want

# Privacy Concerns

- I'm not a fan of cloud storage offerings for many things - in particular things that have importance, value or both associated with them.

  - Maybe I'm a bit of a Luddite in this area as there are actually good solutions, however most people will not take the time to do it right.

  - There have been too many data breaches of cloud systems.

# My picks?

- I'd probably go with LibreOffice or Inkscape if I needed to use FLOSS

  - They can both import a relatively broad range of Visio files.

  - Neither save in Visio, but we already established we don't consider that an issue.

  - Both save in an open format

    - Xml for LibreOffice

    - SVG for Inkscape (not a complete implementation)

# You may be better off using the PDF

- M$ always manages to find a way to make their storage formats difficult to work with
- In general, the PDF is easier to work with, as the demo will show

I'm going to use the Mac versions for this

# DEMO

# Where do I get sample Visio files?

- Oddly enough, Microsoft makes some samples available

- They are free to download. I just grabbed a couple to test with

- O'Reilly also has some from the Microsoft Press books they distribute

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# Resources

- http://beebom.com/2015/04/visio-alternatives
- http://www.microsoft.com/en-ca/download/details.aspx?id=24023
- http://examples.oreilly.com/9780735669468-files/