

# Three great ways to use variables in LibreOffice

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When I was looking for the seven great features of OpenOffice and LibreOffice that you probably ignore, one of those features turned out to be variables. This week I'm going to give you a bit more reason to know how variables work, including the real world example that granted them a place in that list.

## Three ways to use variables

Variables, or "user-defined fields", are pieces of dynamic content that our two free office suites (FOS) can generate and manage for you. Writer, the word processor of the suites, has a panel to add many variables, or create custom ones. The spreadsheet and presentation tools don't give access to the same panel because, I guess, there never was much demand for it. After all, spreadsheets have their own functions and a whole different approach to dynamic content anyway. Presentations, instead, are usually static stuff without much occasion to use variables. You may still generate whole slideshows automatically from templates, with this old trick of mine, if you really needed to, but let's look specifically at Writer.

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