

LibreOffice

The Document Foundation

Introducing LibreOffice, and the community behind it

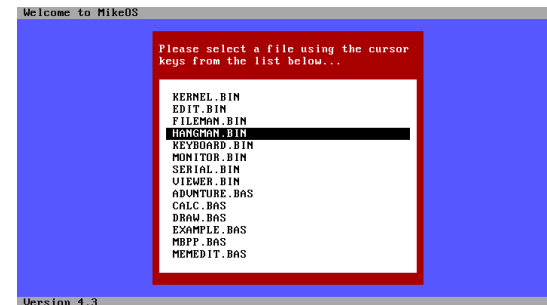
- ▼ **Mike Saunders, The Document Foundation**
- ▼ SFCamp 2021



A bit about me

A bit about me

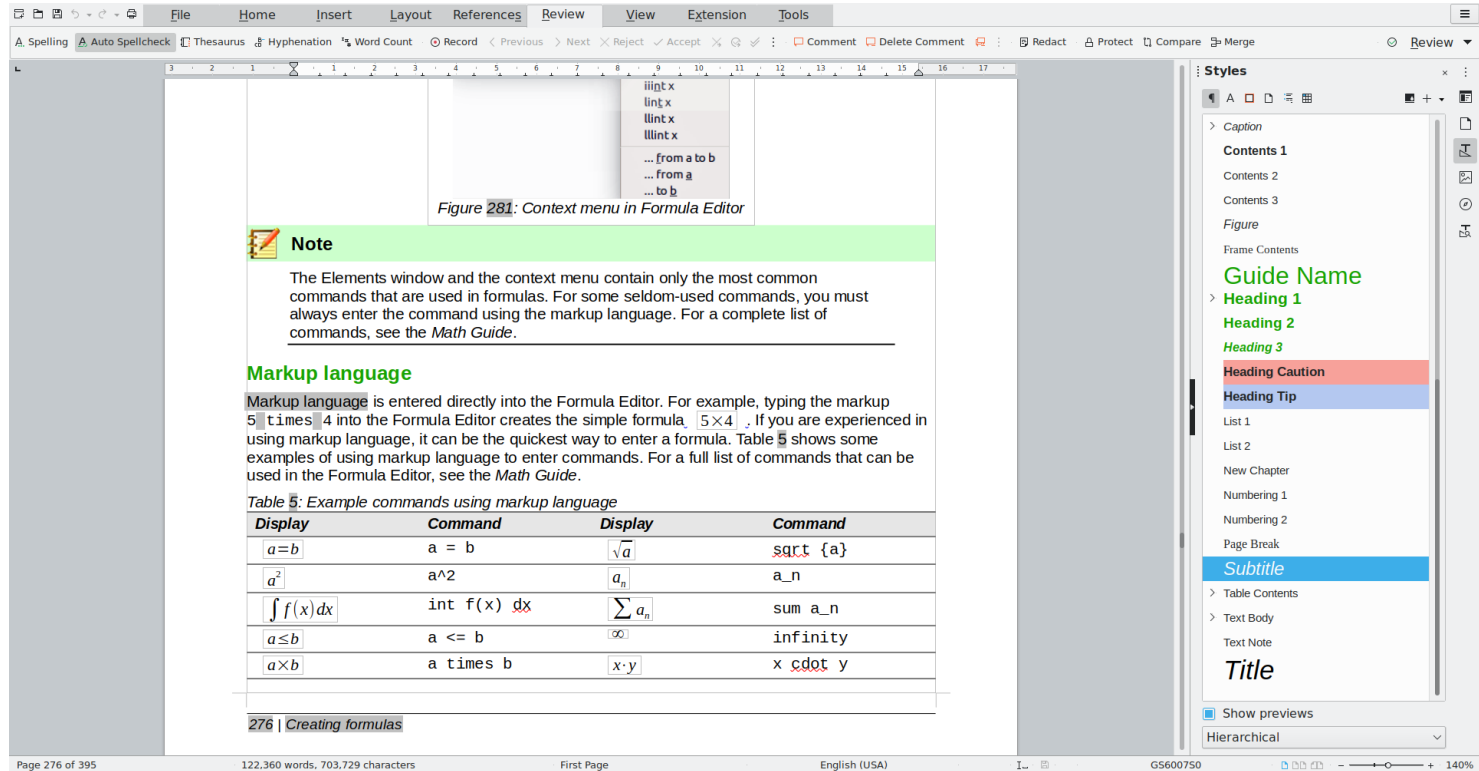
- ▶ GNU/Linux user since 1998 (Red Hat 5.1!)
- ▶ Supporter of FOSS and open standards
- ▶ Worked as journalist for GNU/Linux magazines for 20+ years
- ▶ Wrote my own operating system (MikeOS)
- ▶ Work today for The Document Foundation, the non-profit behind LibreOffice)





What is LibreOffice?

A picture says a thousand words



The screenshot shows the LibreOffice Writer interface. A context menu is open over a formula editor, listing options like `iiint x`, `lint x`, `llint x`, `lllint x`, and range options like `... from a to b`. Below the menu, a green 'Note' box contains text about the Elements window and context menu. The main text discusses 'Markup language' and includes a table of example commands.

Note

The Elements window and the context menu contain only the most common commands that are used in formulas. For some seldom-used commands, you must always enter the command using the markup language. For a complete list of commands, see the *Math Guide*.

Markup language

Markup language is entered directly into the Formula Editor. For example, typing the markup `5 times 4` into the Formula Editor creates the simple formula 5×4 . If you are experienced in using markup language, it can be the quickest way to enter a formula. Table 5 shows some examples of using markup language to enter commands. For a full list of commands that can be used in the Formula Editor, see the *Math Guide*.

Table 5: Example commands using markup language

Display	Command	Display	Command
$a = b$	<code>a = b</code>	\sqrt{a}	<code>sqrt {a}</code>
a^2	<code>a^2</code>	a_n	<code>a_n</code>
$\int f(x) dx$	<code>int f(x) dx</code>	$\sum a_n$	<code>sum a_n</code>
$a \leq b$	<code>a <= b</code>	∞	<code>infinity</code>
$a \times b$	<code>a times b</code>	$x \cdot y$	<code>x ccdot y</code>

276 | Creating formulas

Double meaning

- **LibreOffice** is
 - 1. the leading free and open source **office productivity suite** (*successor to OpenOffice*) installed by millions of users worldwide
 - 2. a wonderful worldwide **community** (“project”) *with ecosystem and volunteer contributors from around the globe*
- **The Document Foundation (TDF)** as legal entity is
 - a nonprofit **”Stiftung”** (foundation) based in Germany
*”The objective of the foundation is the **promotion** and **development** of **office software** available for use by **anyone**”*
 - does **not contain a product name** on purpose

Our philosophy

- ▶ supporting the **development** of both the software **and** the community
events, knowledge sharing, mentoring, infrastructure
- ▶ built on the community's **values** and **ideals**
through statutes that vouch for openness and transparency
- ▶ **independent** from one **single** sponsor
thanks to the support of many
- ▶ **ecosystem** for contributors and commercial stakeholders
certification, joint development efforts
- ▶ lower **entry barriers**: *Easy Hacks, Hackfests, mentoring, workshops*
- ▶ **cooperation** with other entities: e.g. *OASIS, OSI, KDE, GNOME, FSFE, FSF*

Impress – for presentations

The screenshot displays the LibreOffice Impress interface. The main slide area shows a slide titled "Agenda" with a list of topics:

- Why use free/libre and open source software?
 - The four freedoms
- How do I write documents, with styles and bibliography management?
 - LibreOffice Writer
- How do I create spreadsheets, with Python support?
 - LibreOffice Calc
- How do I make presentations with transitions, sounds and animations?
 - LibreOffice Impress
- How do I draw figures, diagrams and flowcharts?
 - LibreOffice Draw
- How do I make formulas, including extremely complex ones?
 - LibreOffice Math

The right-hand side of the interface features the "Slide Transition" panel, which includes a grid of transition effects (None, Wipe, Wheel, Uncover, Bars, Checkers, Shape, Box, Wedge, Venetian, Fade, Cut, Cover, Dissolve, Random, Comb, Push, Split, Diagonal, Tiles, Cube, Circles, Helix, Fall) and options to "Modify Transition" (Variant, Duration: 2.00 sec, Sound: No sound, Loop until next sound) and "Advance Slide" (On mouse click, Automatically after: 1.00 sec). A "Play" button is visible at the bottom right of the panel.

The status bar at the bottom indicates "Slide 2 of 5", "TextEdit: Paragraph 4, Row 4, Column 1", "Predefinito", "4.30 / 1.12", "6.17 x 3.92", "English (USA)", and "120%" zoom.

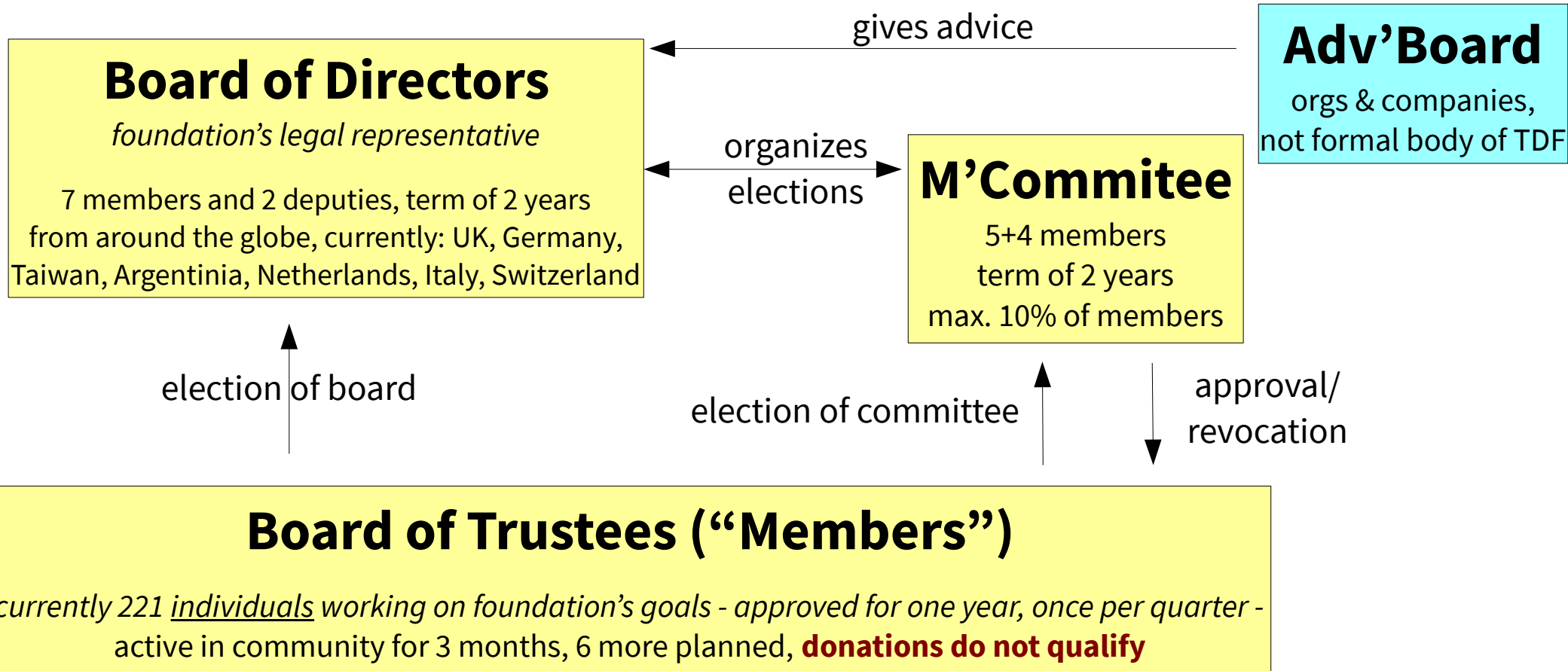
Working as a community

- ▶ we enjoy **working together**
- ▶ we are a **community** with **shared interests**
- ▶ we have adventurous **interest and excitement**
- ▶ we **learn** from our mistakes and **share knowledge**
- ▶ everyone contributes **what they're best at**
- ▶ we **motivate** others to contribute
- ▶ **coordination is key...** but a bit chaotic :-)
- ▶ **everyone benefits** from the result
- ▶ like in any human interaction, tensions are normal and solvable











The background features a repeating pattern of light gray rounded triangles pointing downwards. A horizontal purple gradient bar spans the width of the image, with a darker purple border on its top and bottom edges. The text 'The Foundation' is centered within this bar. The corners of the purple bar are decorated with a grid of small, overlapping squares in various shades of purple.

The Foundation

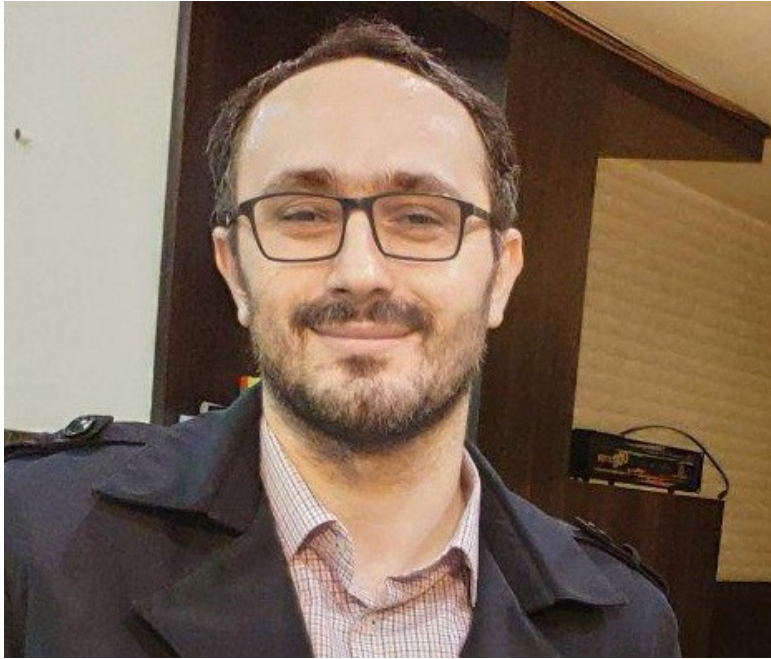
How we are structured



TDF Team

				
Xisco Fauli QA Engineer	Guilhem Moulin Infrastructure Engineer	Sophie Gautier Foundation Coordinator	Heiko Tietze UX-Designer and UX-Mentor	Ilmari Laukahangas Dev Marketing
				
Christian "Cloph" Lohmaier Release Engineer	Olivier Hallot Documentation Coordinator	Italo Vignoli Marketing & PR	Mike Saunders Marketing & Community	Florian Effenberger Executive Director

TDF Team



New
Developer
Community
Architect



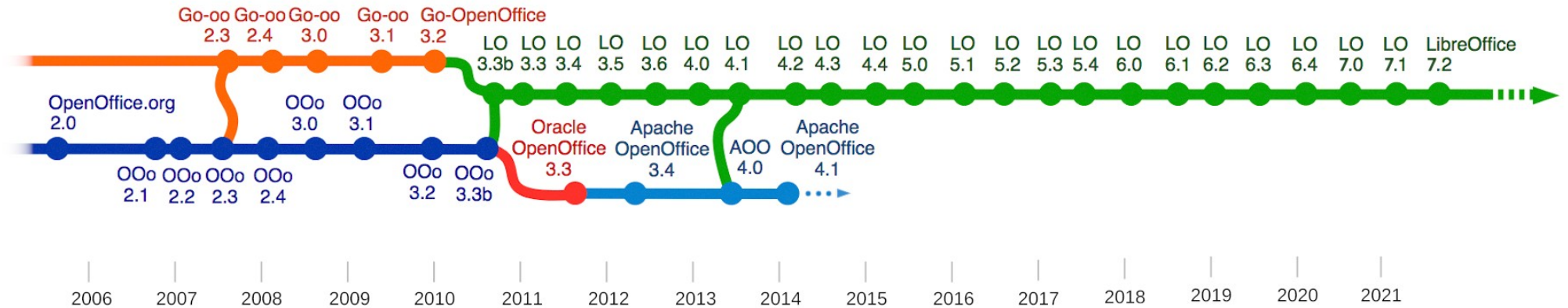
A short history of time

Good things take time

- **LibreOffice project** founded September 2010
- **The Document Foundation** established February 2012 → *statutes and approval*
- evaluated **several countries** (UK, France, Italy, Germany etc.)
- → ***stability and guarantees, plus people working on the setup as rationale for Germany***

The most active successor to OpenOffice

Timeline of major releases





What are we working on?

LibreOffice 7.2

Latest release – focus on performance, compatibility, usability

- Next release: 7.3, due in early February 2022
- We maintain two stable branches: currently 7.1 and 7.2

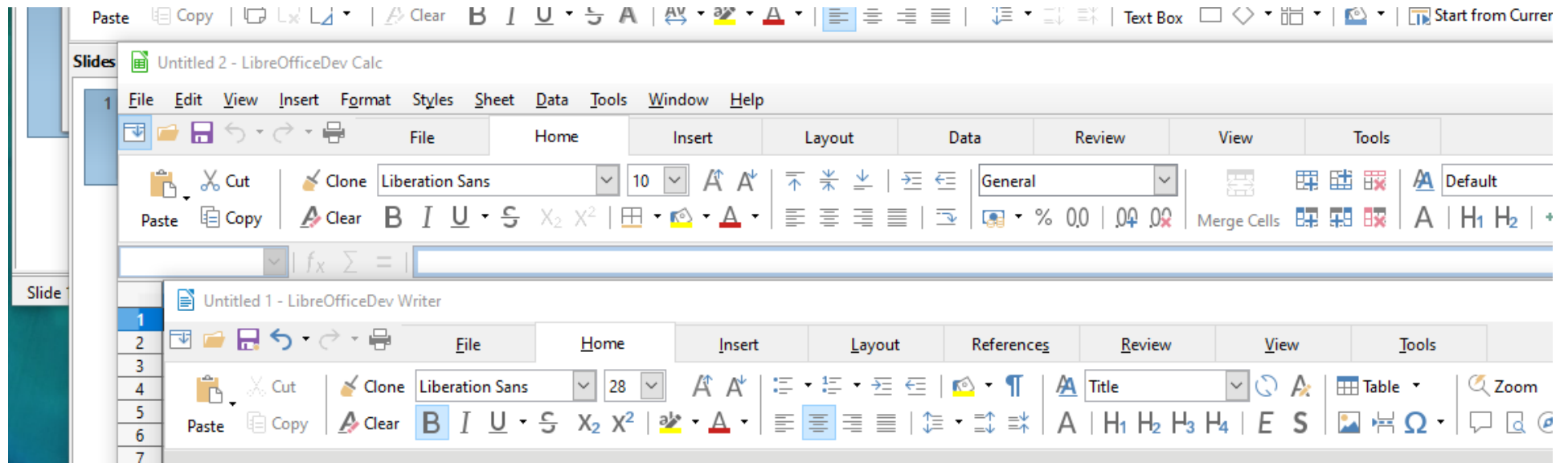


LibreOffice
The Document Foundation

7.2



User interface updates – NotebookBar



LibreOffice Online

The screenshot displays the LibreOffice Online web interface. At the top, there is a blue header bar with the LibreOffice logo and navigation icons. Below this is a menu bar with options: File, Edit, View, Insert, Format, Tables, Tools, and Help. A secondary toolbar contains various editing tools like undo, redo, and text formatting options (bold, italic, underline, strikethrough, text color, background color). The document title is 'LibreOffice Conference.od'. The main content area shows a document with the following text:

LibreOffice Conference

The LibreOffice Conference is the annual gathering of the community, our end-users, and everyone interested in free office software. Every year, it takes place in a different country

For 2016, the conference was held from 7th – 9th of September in Brno, the second largest city in the Czech Republic. Most of the event took place at the attractive Faculty of Information Technology building, a former Cartesian monastery, in **Brno University of Technology**. Over 100 people from across the globe attended the conference, including LibreOffice developers, community volunteers and **Google Summer of Code** students. For many attendees, it was their first LibreOffice Conference – and therefore the first time they had met other community members [in person face-to-face](#).

At the bottom of the document, there is a small image showing a presentation slide titled 'State of the Project'.

On the right side of the interface, a comment thread is visible:

- Mike Saunders** (Wed Apr 18 2018): Should we say "free and open source office software" here?
- Simon Phipps** (Wed Apr 18 2018): Yes, I think it should. Or "FLOSS" if you prefer.
- Simon Phipps** (Wed Apr 18 2018): (with a checkmark icon)

The bottom status bar shows: Search: [input], Page 1 of 2, 438 words, 2,834 characters, Standard selection, English (UK), Document saved, 1 user, and a zoom level of 100%.

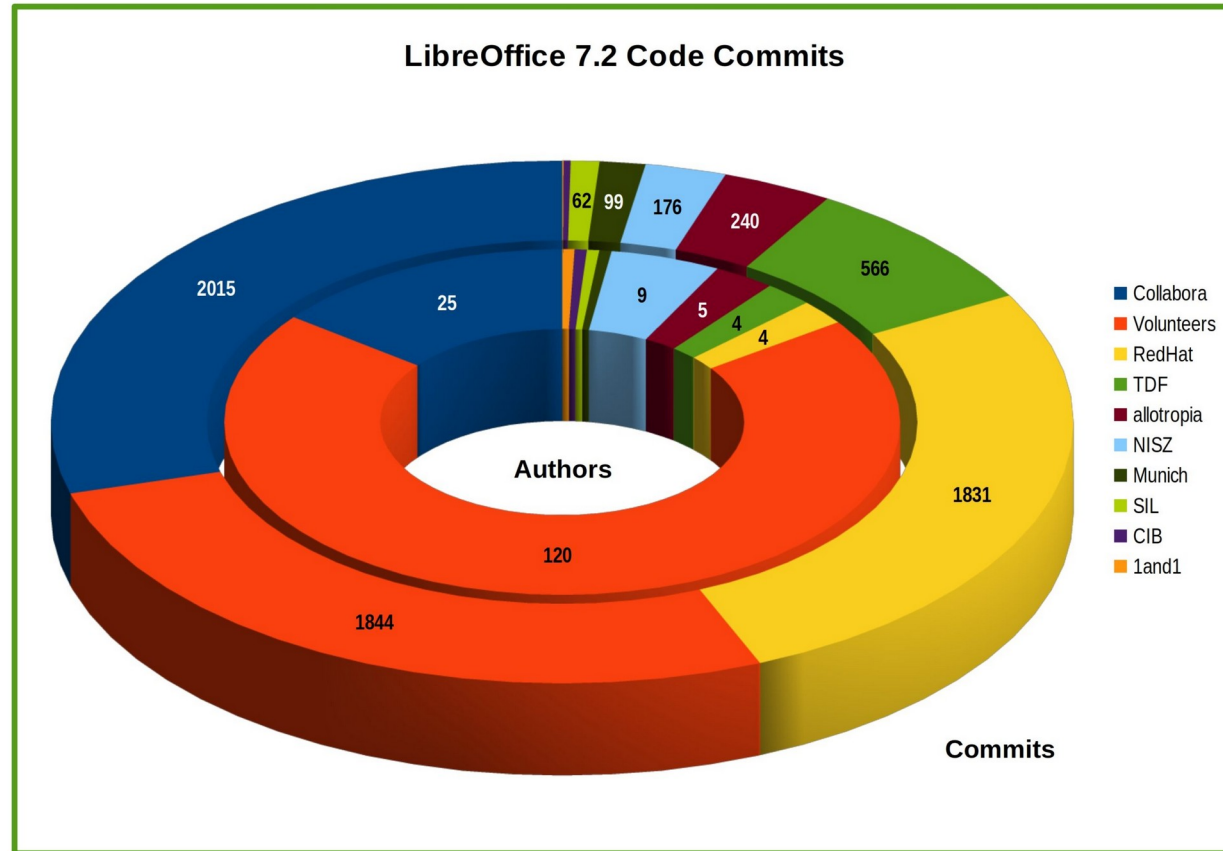
Ecosystem and Professional Support

Services from partner companies in our ecosystem

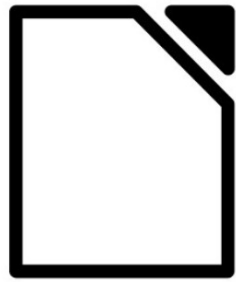
- ▶ 70% of the code commits are from the ecosystem
- ▶ Certification programme for developers and migrators



Giving credit to the ecosystem



Make it clear, what we do and offer



LibreOffice
Community



What can you do for LibreOffice?

What can you do for LibreOffice?

The image shows a survey interface for LibreOffice. At the top left is the LibreOffice logo and 'The Document Foundation'. At the top right is a language dropdown menu set to 'English'. The main text asks 'What area interests you?' and 'User experience design'. Below this are three buttons: 'Tell me more' (green), 'Boring' (blue), and 'I was wrong, take me back' (orange). At the bottom, there is a credit line: 'Generated by asknot-ng, written by Josh Matthews and others, inspired by whatcanidoformozilla.org and remixed by Collective68.tech' with links for 'Impressum (Legal Info)' and 'Privacy policy'.

LibreOffice
The Document Foundation

LANGUAGE: English

What area interests you?
User experience design

Tell me more
Boring
I was wrong, take me back

Generated by [asknot-ng](#), written by Josh Matthews and others, inspired by [whatcanidoformozilla.org](#) and remixed by [Collective68.tech](#)
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There's so much to do!

- ▶ publish and update **wiki articles**
- ▶ help users via internet relay chat (**IRC**)
- ▶ **develop** and work on the code
- ▶ support our **social media** channels
- ▶ organize **events, conferences** and trade shows
- ▶ **share knowledge** on Hackfests
- ▶ participate in **Bug Hunting Sessions**
- ▶ publish **templates and extensions**
- ▶ help the **security team**
- ▶ run a **mirror server**
- ▶ get engage on the **mailing lists**
- ▶ write **documentation** for both developers and users
- ▶ update and edit the **online help**
- ▶ contribute on **Ask LibreOffice**
- ▶ support the **infrastructure team**
- ▶ organize **community meetings**
- ▶ publish entries on our **blog**
- ▶ organize a **LibreOffice Conference**
- ▶ moderate **forums and mailing lists**
- ▶ **interview** community members
- ▶ engage in **standard's bodies**
- ▶ participate in the **Engineering Steering Committee**
- ▶ help to improve **QA**
- ▶ ...and much more!

What are the benefits?

- ▶ It's good to contribute back and help FOSS projects, but...
- ▶ It can also benefit **you!**
- ▶ Gain **experience** in a well-known and mature project
- ▶ Build up **skills** for a future career in technical writing, QA, user experience, marketing and more...

Where can you find us?

- ▶ **Communication channels** – mailing lists, IRC, Matrix, Telegram etc. on our main website: www.libreoffice.org
- ▶ Many **native-language projects**: www.libreoffice.org/community/nlc/
- ▶ **Project calls**: QA, documentation, design, marketing...
- ▶ Meet us at **events** – in “real life” and online!
- ▶ Get in touch – we’d love to hear from you...





A wonderful community of friends

Join us, it's fun!



▀ *LibOCon 2016 in Brno (picture by Jiří Eischmann)*

Join us, it's fun!



Join us, it's fun!



Join us, it's fun!



Join us, it's fun!



Join us, it's fun!



Thank you very much!

Any questions/feedback/thoughts?

Getting in touch

- mike.saunders@documentfoundation.org
- blog.documentfoundation.org



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