

LibreOffice

The Document Foundation

LibreOffice 7.1: What's new, and how can you help with 7.2?

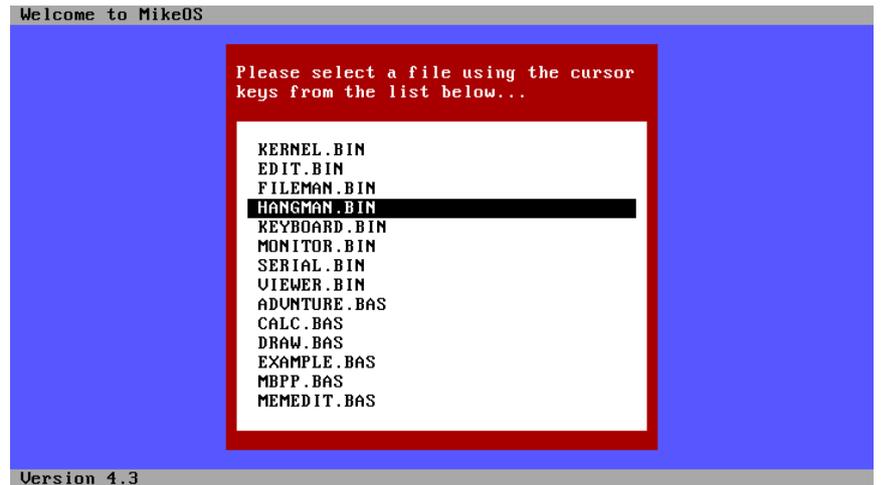
- ▼ **Mike Saunders, The Document Foundation**
- ▼ Grazer Linuxtage 2021

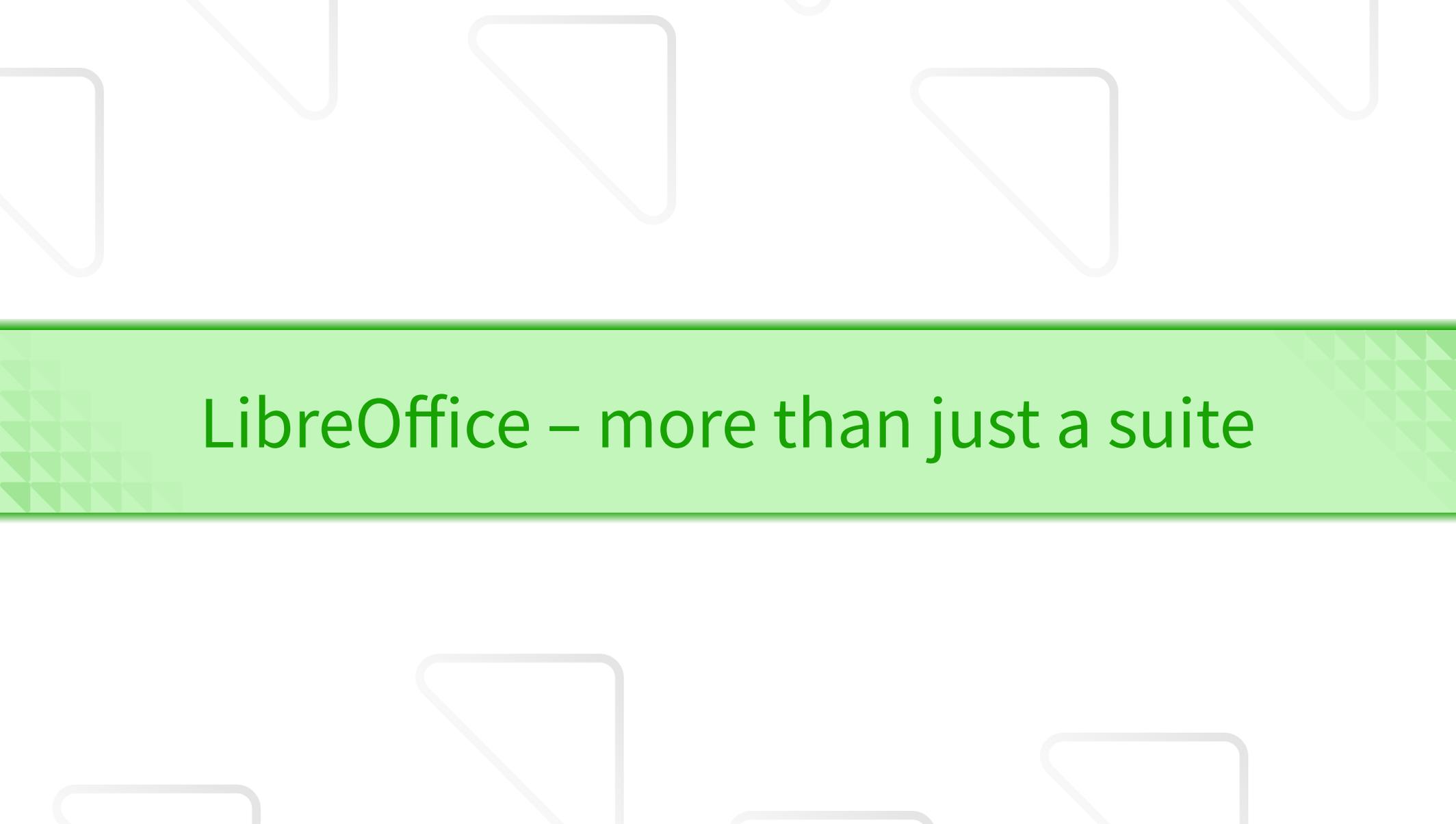


Who am I?

A bissl über mich

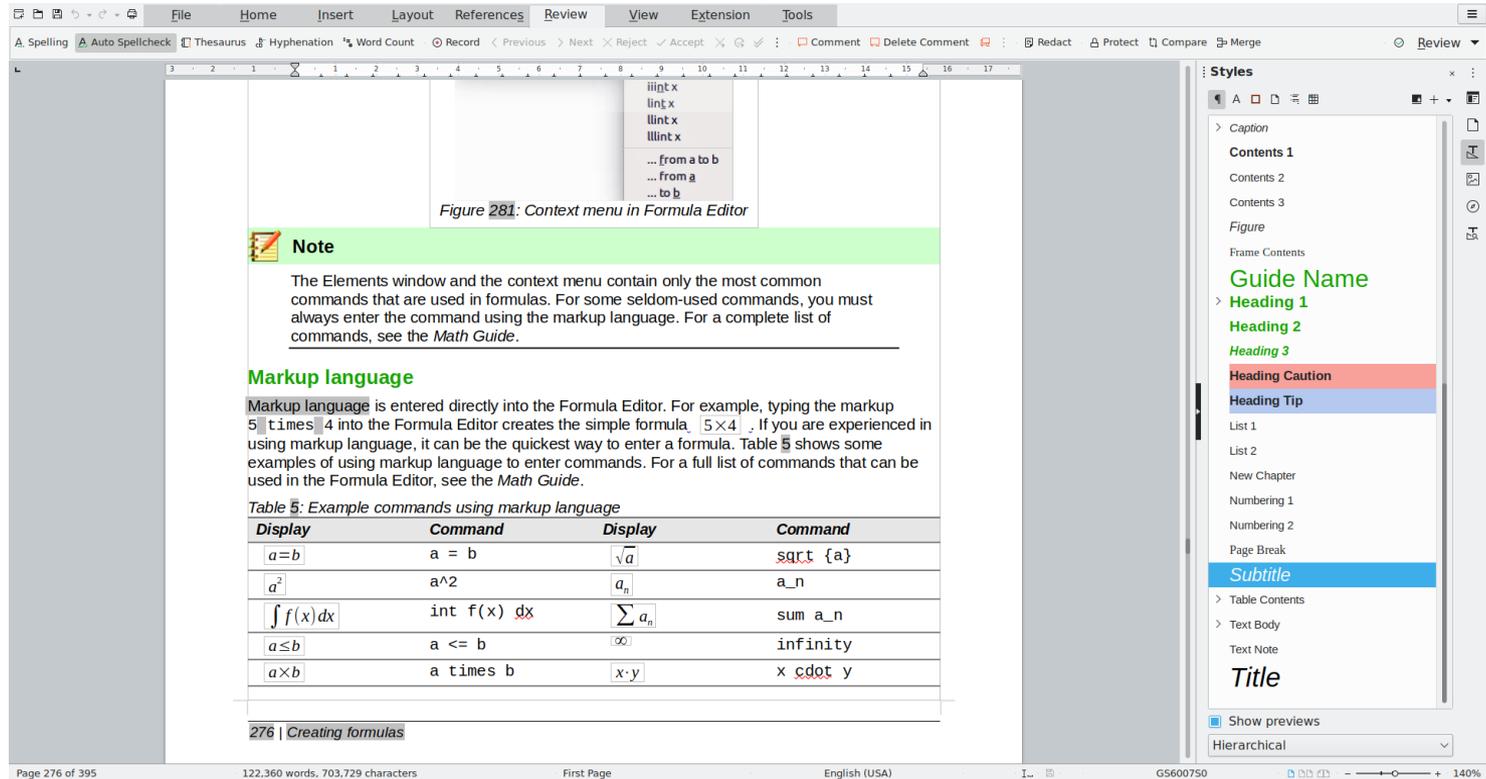
- ▶ Long-time GNU, Linux and FOSS supporter and advocate
- ▶ Worked many years as a Linux journalist
- ▶ Today, working for The Document Foundation





LibreOffice – more than just a suite

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. The right sidebar shows a 'Styles' panel with a list of styles like 'Caption', 'Contents 1', 'Heading 1', etc.

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 Berlin *”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

Calc – the spreadsheet

The screenshot displays the LibreOffice Calc interface with a financial analysis spreadsheet. The spreadsheet includes a table for cash flows, an NPV calculation, an investment allocation table, and three charts: a bar chart for cash flows, a line chart for stock price prediction, and a pie chart for investment allocation by area.

Year	Cash Flow (\$)
0	-10000
1	100
2	100
3	100
4	200
5	500
6	1500
7	3000
8	5000
9	3500
10	1000

Rate: 8.00%
NPV: -\$1,522.09

Area	Allocation
R&D	40
Finance	30
Marketing	20
General	5
Sales	3
Other	2

Invest?

Cash flows from investment (\$)
Years 0-10

Stock price prediction
3-year period

Investment allocation by area

Functions

- Statistical
- COVAR
- COVARIANCE.P
- COVARIANCE.S
- CRITBINOM
- DEVSQ
- ERF.PRECISE
- ERFC.PRECISE
- EXPON.DIST
- EXPONDIST
- F.DIST
- F.DIST.RT
- F.INV
- F.INV.RT
- F.TEST
- FDIST
- FINV
- FISHER
- FISHERINV
- FORECAST
- FORECAST.ETS.ADD
- FORECAST.ETS.MULT
- FORECAST.ETS.PI.ADD
- FORECAST.ETS.PI.MULT
- FORECAST.ETS.SEASONALITY
- FORECAST.ETS.STAT.ADD
- FORECAST.ETS.STAT.MULT
- FORECAST.LINEAR
- FTEST
- GAMMA
- GAMMA.DIST
- GAMMA.INV
- AVEDEV: Number 1, Number 2, ... Returns the average of the absolute deviations of a

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 panel is titled "Slide Transition" and contains various transition effects such as None, Wipe, Wheel, Uncover, Bars, Checkers, Shape, Box, Wedge, Venetian, Fade, Cut, Cover, Dissolve, Random, Comb, Push, Split, Diagonal, Tiles, Cube, Circles, Helix, and Fall. Below this panel, the "Modify Transition" section includes fields for Variant, Duration (set to 2.00 sec), and Sound (set to No sound). The "Advance Slide" section has radio buttons for "On mouse click" (selected) and "Automatically after: 1.00 sec". At the bottom of the panel, there are buttons for "Apply Transition to All Slides", "Automatic Preview", and "Play".

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

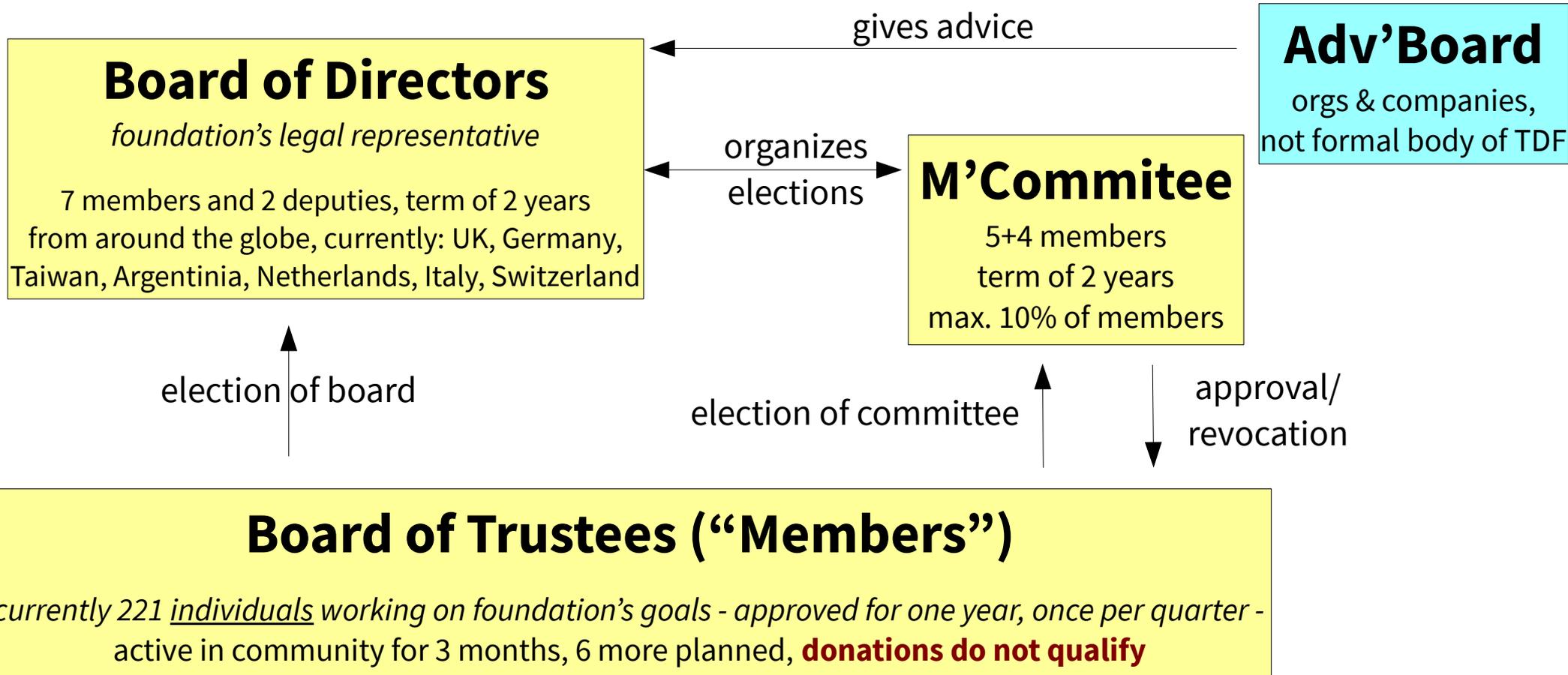
Working as a community

- ▶ 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



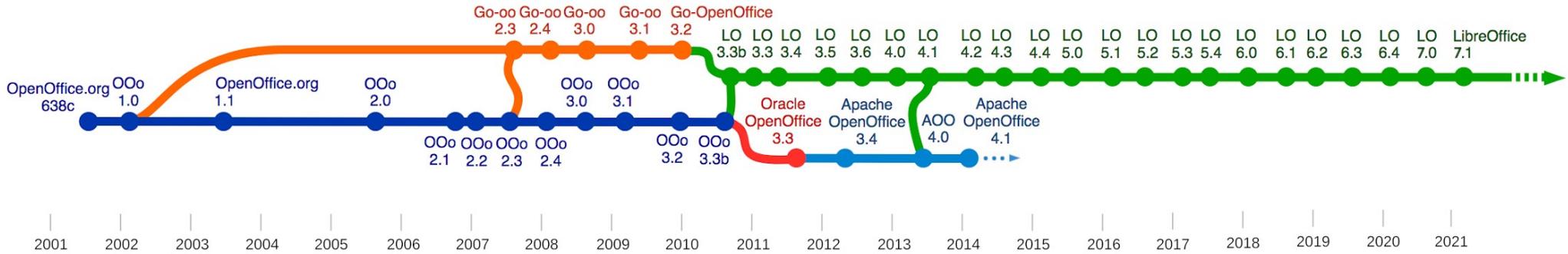
A short history of time

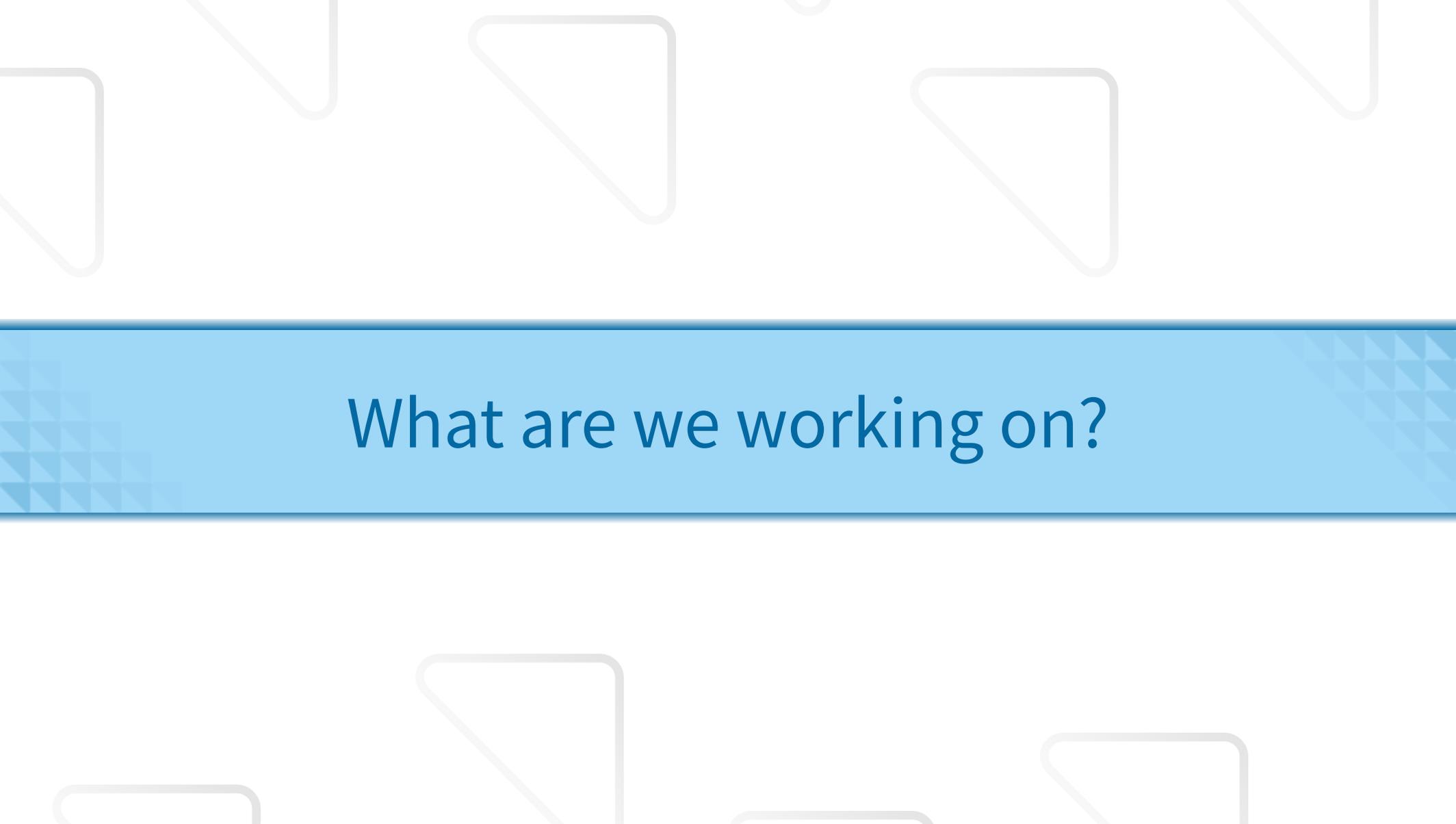
Good things take time

- **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 7.1

Latest release – focus on performance, compatibility, usability

- ▶ Next release: 7.2, due in early August 2021
- ▶ We maintain two stable branches: currently 7.0 and 7.1



LibreOffice
The Document Foundation

7.1



Style inspector

Proposal to conveniently highlight and inspect in LibreOffice Writer

Styles are the essence of a text processor. And while experts love to unleash LibreOffice Writer, it's at the same time a major source of nuisance. In particular, when you receive documents from other people, it can be quite difficult to understand the formatting and to fix issues around. This posting presents two ideas for improvement and feedback.

Issue and Requirements

The first bunch of issues arise around understanding the actual layout. More specifically, our community assistance platform <https://ask.libreoffice.org/en/questions> has a question about layout with, let's say font X, is active while the style has been defined with

A reason is that paragraph styles are hierarchically inherited and may override. On top of this we have the character style that changes the appearance to bold (with not only one but multiple applications, see ticket tdf#115311 with the implementation of nested character styles). And finally, the direct formatting overrides the paragraph style and changes the actual appearance.

The screenshot shows the 'Styles Inspector' window in LibreOffice Writer. The window is divided into two main sections: 'Paragraph Styles' and 'Character Styles'. The 'Paragraph Styles' section is expanded to show 'Heading 1', which is further expanded to show various properties and their values. The 'Character Styles' section is also expanded to show 'Direct Formatting' with a 'List Id' value of 'list23927844'. The window has a title bar with 'Styles Inspector' and a close button. On the right side, there is a vertical toolbar with icons for various style-related actions.

Properties	Values
Paragraph Styles	
Default Paragraph Style	
Heading	
Heading 1	
Char Difference Height	0
Char Height	18.2
Char Property Height	130
Char Weight	bold
Follow Style	Text body
Numbering Style Name	Outline
Outline Level	1
Para Bottom Margin	212
Para Bottom Margin Relative	100
Para Context Margin	false
Para Top Margin	423
Para Top Margin Relative	100
Character Styles	
Direct Formatting	
List Id	list23927844

Input field – toggle to show commands

The image displays four screenshots of LibreOffice Writer windows, arranged in a 2x2 grid, illustrating the 'Show Commands' toggle for an input field.

- Top-Left:** A window titled 'field.rtf [Kompatibilitätsmodus] - Word'. The input field contains the text: `IF REF radio1 * MERGEFORMAT = 1` followed by a paragraph break. The text is rendered in a standard font.
- Top-Right:** A window titled 'field - Copy.rtf - LibreOfficeDev Writer 7.2 [3f4d96767fb510f07577ba4f28e60f05a370a5b2]'. The same input field content is shown, but the text is rendered in a monospaced font, and the backslashes in the code are underlined in red. A 'Show Commands' toggle (a square with a blue bar) is visible on the right side of the window.
- Bottom-Left:** A window titled 'field - Copy.rtf [Kompatibilitätsmodus] - Word'. The input field contains the text: 'Unfortunately the field cannot be expanded yet.' followed by a paragraph break. The text is rendered in a standard font.
- Bottom-Right:** A window titled 'field.rtf - LibreOfficeDev Writer 7.2 [3f4d96767fb510f07577ba4f28e60f05a370a5b2]'. The same input field content is shown, but the text is rendered in a monospaced font. A 'Show Commands' toggle is visible on the right side of the window.

New soft blurred shadows



Old shadow



New shadow

Physics-based animations



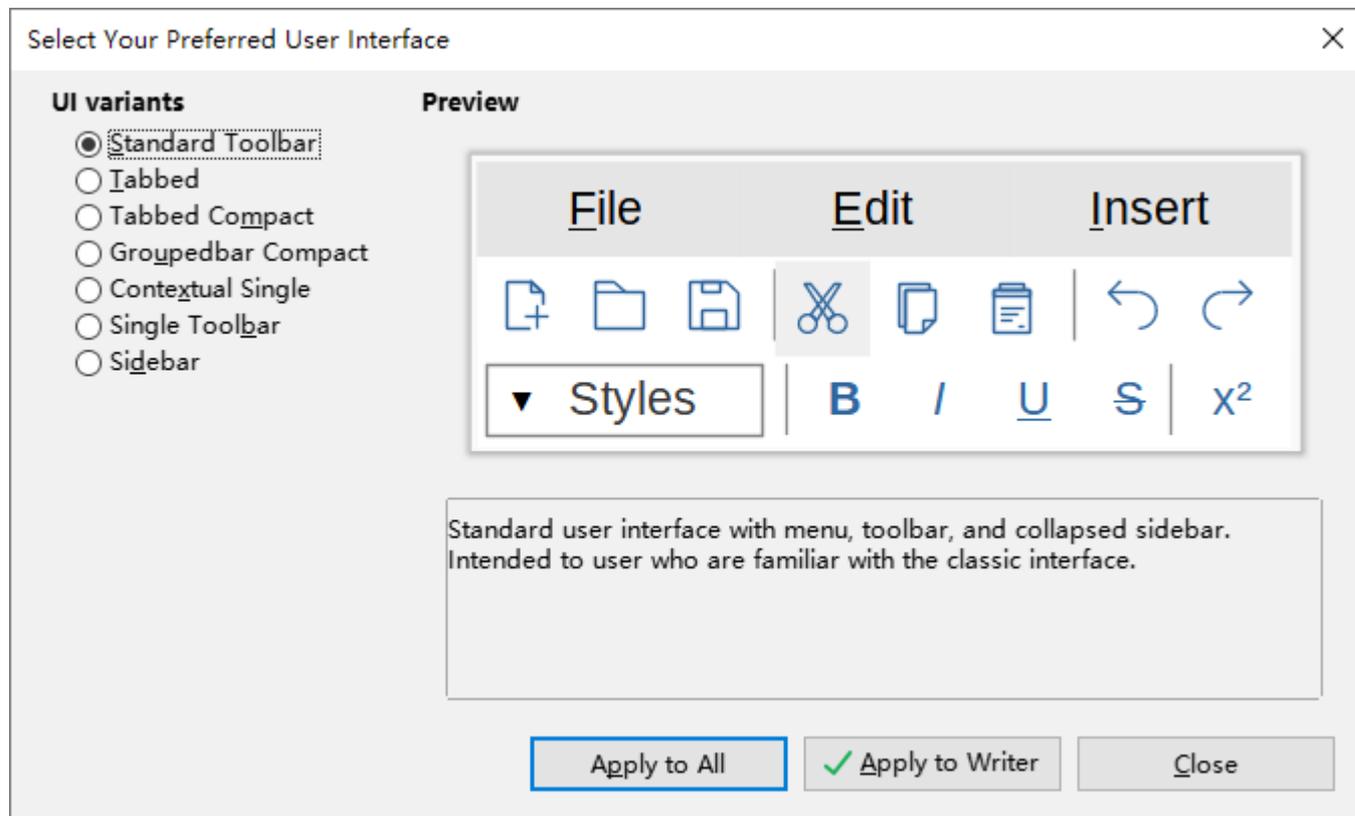
Extensions manager

The screenshot shows the 'Extensions' window in LibreOffice. It displays two extension cards. The first card is for 'GeOOo', which includes a preview image of a thematic map of the United States, an 'Install' button, and details such as 'License: LGPL', 'Required version: >=3.3', and 'Comments: 0'. The second card is for 'Aktien und Fondsverwaltung', featuring a table with columns for 'Depot', 'Wertpapiername', 'Symbol', 'ISIN', and 'Anzahl', along with buttons for 'aktualisieren', 'neue Aktie', 'Aktie bearbeiten', 'Aktie verkaufen', and 'Aktie löschen'. A context menu is open over the 'Sort by' option, listing 'Active version only', 'Detail view', 'Condensed list', 'Voting', 'Downloads', and 'Comments'. A 'Close' button is visible at the bottom right of the window.

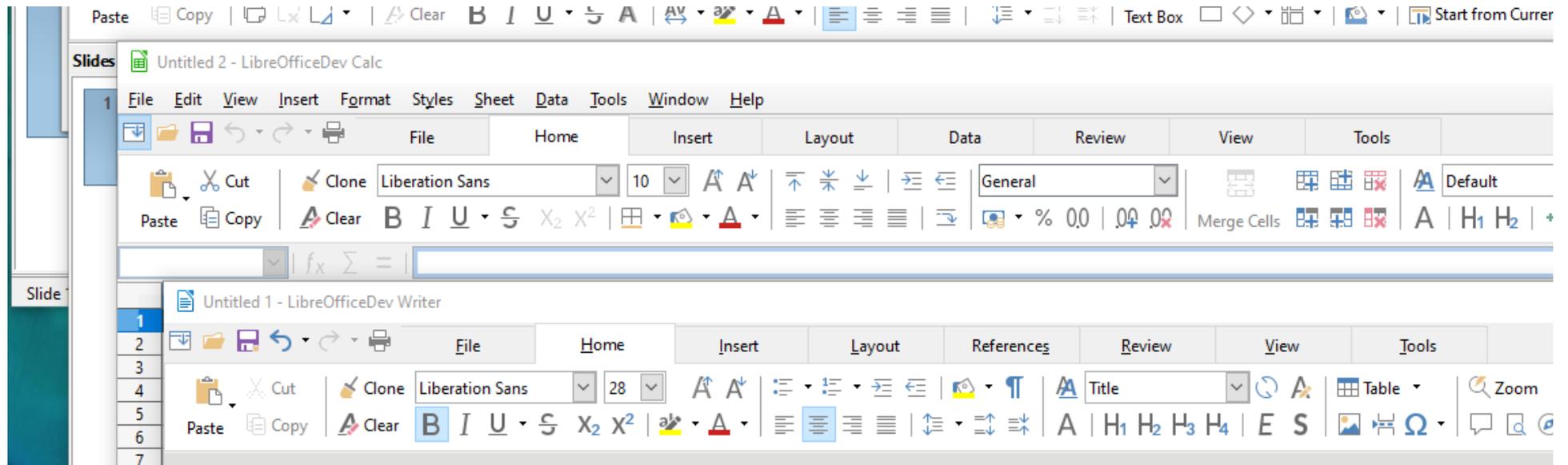
Depot	Wertpapiername	Symbol	ISIN	Anzahl

Depot	Wertpapiername	Symbol	ISIN	Anzahl

UI picker



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): (Response with checkmark and close icons)

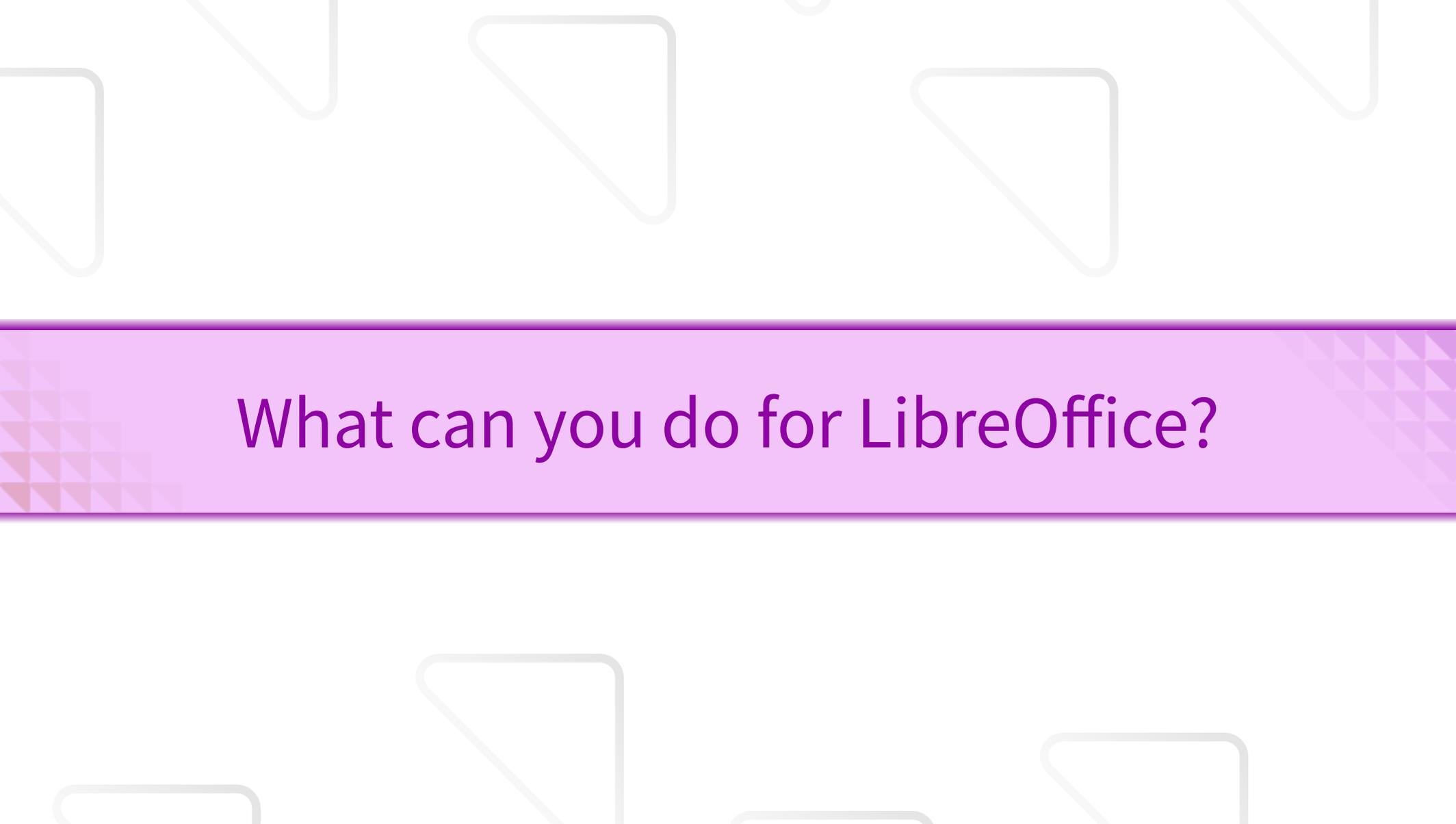
The bottom status bar shows: Search: [input], Page 1 of 2, 438 words, 2,834 characters, Standard selection, English (UK), Document saved, 1 user, and a zoom level of 100%.

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





What can you do for LibreOffice?

What can you do for LibreOffice?



The image shows a screenshot of a survey page 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 heading is 'What area interests you?' with 'User experience design' selected in large white text. Below this are three buttons: a green 'Tell me more' button, a blue 'Boring' button, and an orange 'I was wrong, take me back' button. The background is a large group of people at a conference, many wearing green LibreOffice t-shirts. At the bottom, there is a footer with attribution text.

LibreOffice
The Document Foundation

LANGUAGE: English

What area interests you?
User experience design

Tell me more

Boring

I was wrong, take me back

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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, 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

- e-mail: mike.saunders@documentfoundation.org
- Telegram: [@MikeSaunders](https://t.me/@MikeSaunders)



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