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LibreOffice KWLUG - Kitchener  
May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015



**LibreOffice**  
The Document Foundation

# What is LibreOffice?

- Free/Open Source Software office suite
- Available to download, use, and share at no cost
- Shepherded by non-profit “The Document Foundation” (TDF)
- Available for Windows, Mac OS X, & GNU/Linux
- Uses Open Document Format (ODF) natively
  - Also supports the use of dozens of file formats

How many of you have used LibreOffice?

How many have used or heard of OpenOffice?

# LibreWhat?

- Many people have not heard of LibreOffice
  - *...or of OpenOffice.org*
  - *...or of Sun (Microsystems)*
- This means that we need to work harder on brand awareness

# LibreOpportunity

- On the other hand, we have an amazing opportunity to expand our userbase
- Nearly everyone has to deal with spreadsheets, word processing documents, or presentations, *even if they're not creating them*
- As a result, nearly every person I meet is a potential LibreOffice user
  - ...and a potential contributor to the LibreOffice Community

# Made possible by the community

- LibreOffice exists because of our community
- People across the globe – both volunteers and employees of companies and organizations
- User contributions of time and funds
- Governments who support open formats
  - Desire to give citizens powerful, freedom-respecting software

# LibreOffice Community

- Amazing group of contributors to a community based “meritocracy”
- Teams in Design, Development, QA, Language & Localization, Website/Infrastructure, Documentation, Marketing, Outreach, and more
- Opportunity to gain or grow marketable skills
- Encourage all LibreOffice users to contribute to the project by joining one or more of our teams
  - Whatever your skillset, there's a role for you!



# LibreOffice is Free/Open Source Software (FOSS)

# Have you ever used...

- LibreOffice or OpenOffice?
- A GNU/Linux system such as Ubuntu, Red Hat Linux, SuSE, Debian, or Mint?
- Firefox?
- Inkscape?
- An Android phone?



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**debian**



# ... they're all FOSS

- These pieces of software are all examples of Free/Open Source Software<sup>[1]</sup>
- There are thousands of FOSS programs that can be downloaded for free online
- Odds are, even the operating system in your phone is based on FOSS

[1] The Android OS is mostly Free/Open Source, but not 100%

# So what is FOSS?

- Free/Open Source Software describes programs that respect user freedoms
- These freedoms include the ability to *run, copy, distribute, study, change, and improve* software
- For example, if I give you a copy of LibreOffice, you can
  - Use LibreOffice
  - Copy LibreOffice to another computer
  - Give a copy to a friend
  - Read the source code to understand how it operates
  - Update the source code
  - Add a new feature to LibreOffice

# FOSS gives users power

- Proprietary software prevents users from being involved with or understanding software
- Providing LibreOffice as FOSS provides transparency
- Gives users ability to make changes or hire someone to work on their behalf
- Removes barriers to sharing software with others
  - Improves interoperability
- Easier to identify bugs or malicious code
  - No “black box” of compiled code

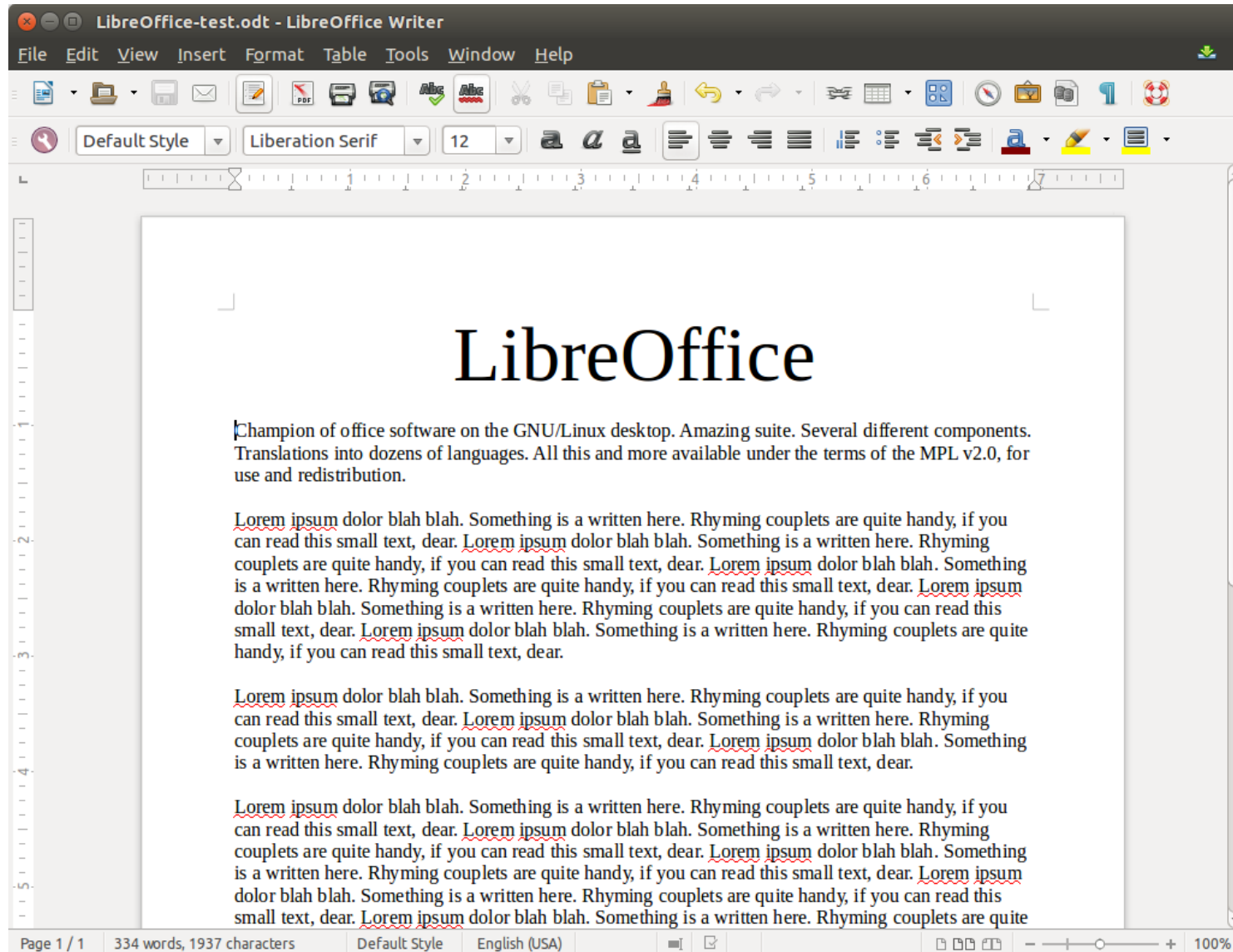
# The LibreOffice Community believes in FOSS

- The Community believes in FOSS so much that we put it in our Next-Decade Manifesto
- Offer no-cost downloads of the LibreOffice suite, but Free Software is *first and foremost a matter of liberty*, not price
- Campaign for these freedoms because we believe that *everyone deserves them*<sup>[1]</sup>

[1] For more details, see: <https://www.libreoffice.org/about-us/who-are-we/>

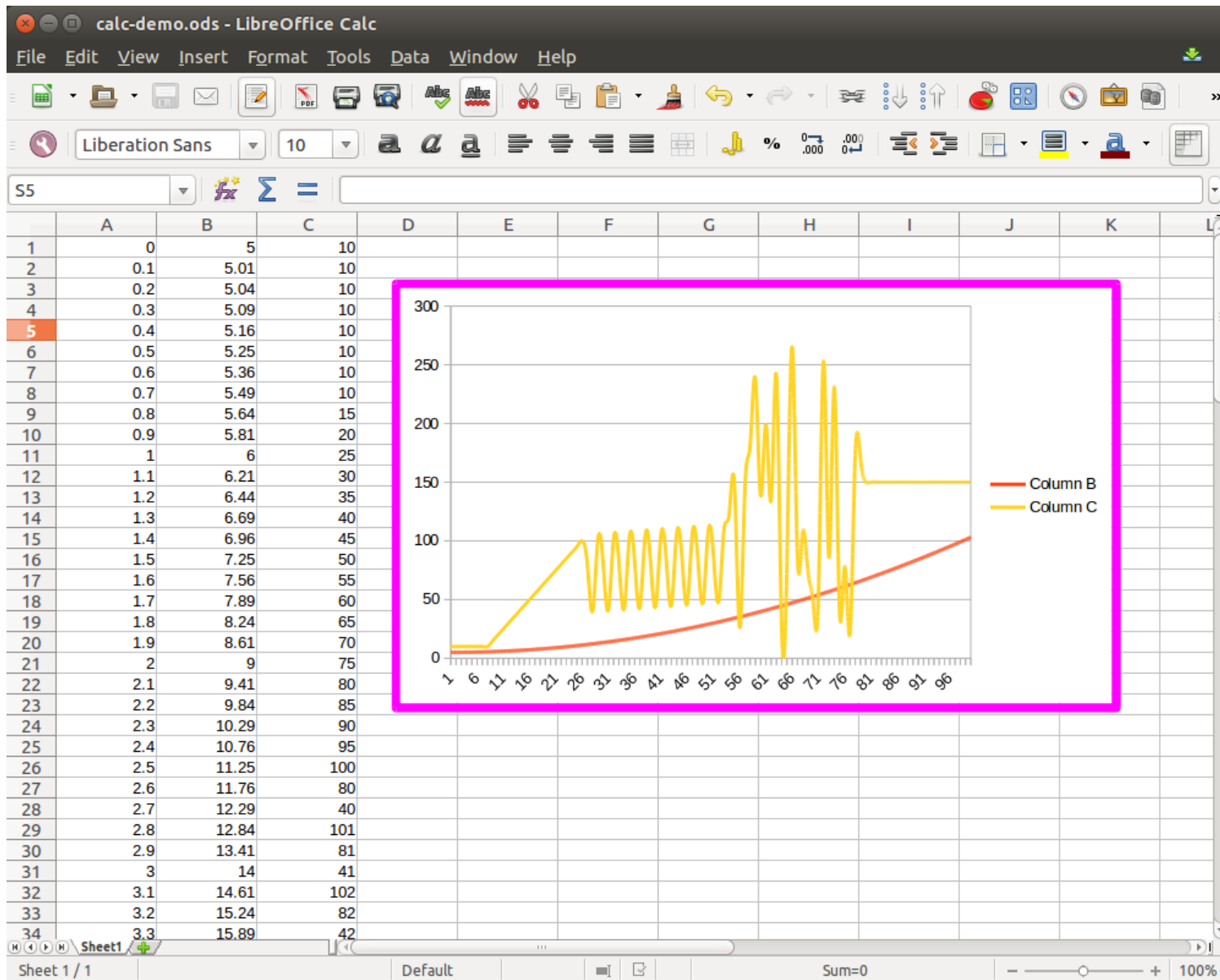
# The Software

# Writer

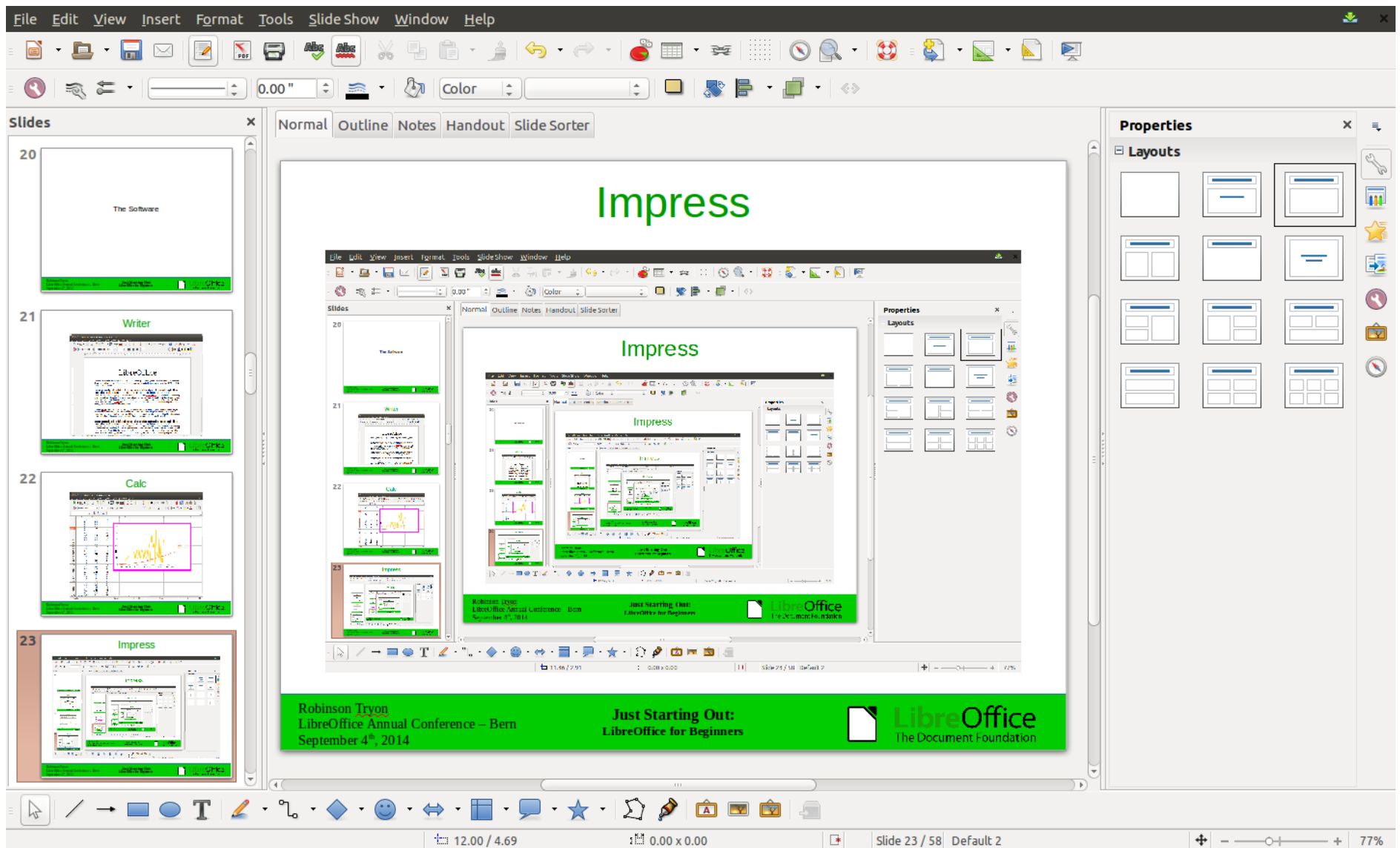




# Calc



# Impress



# Draw, Math, Base, etc...

- Many other components in LibreOffice
- Large number of advanced and expert features
- Also see several excellent [videos on YouTube](#)
- Good to build on top of basic skills with Writer, Calc, and Impress

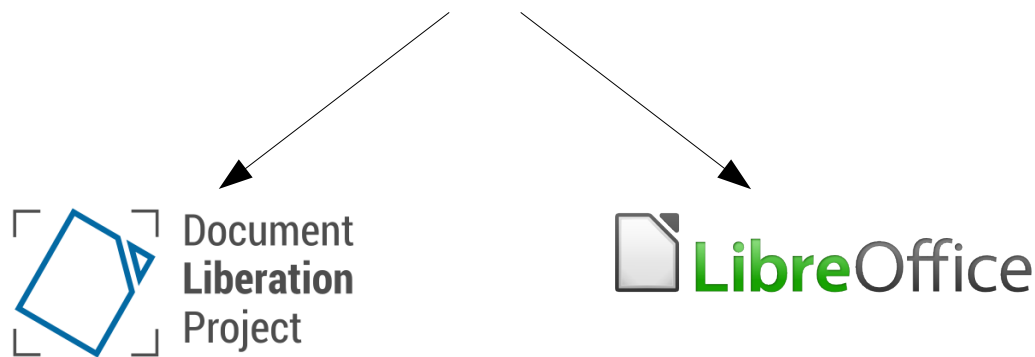
# The Document Foundation

# LibreOffice

&

## The Document Foundation

- *The Document Foundation (TDF)* is a German non-profit that supports, organizes, & deals with all of the legal & financial details for LibreOffice
- There are multiple projects organized under TDF



# TDF: Document Liberation Project

- TDF's newest project is a set of libraries to read/write a large number of file formats
- Very useful for LibreOffice users who need to import old or proprietary files
- Bundling libraries together encourages reuse in other FOSS projects

# TDF Membership

- Anyone actively working on LibreOffice or other TDF projects for 3+ months may apply for membership
- Membership is *not* required to volunteer
- Confers voting rights
- Comes with responsibility to stay active in the project for at least 6 months

# LibreOffice is Multi-platform



# Multi-Platform Support

- LibreOffice is supported on Windows, OS X, and GNU/Linux
- Also runs on various \*BSD versions
- We're working on versions for Android and iOS
- Want to provide the best tool for ODF authoring and editing on as many platforms as possible

# Open Document Format (ODF)

# The Open Document Format (ODF)

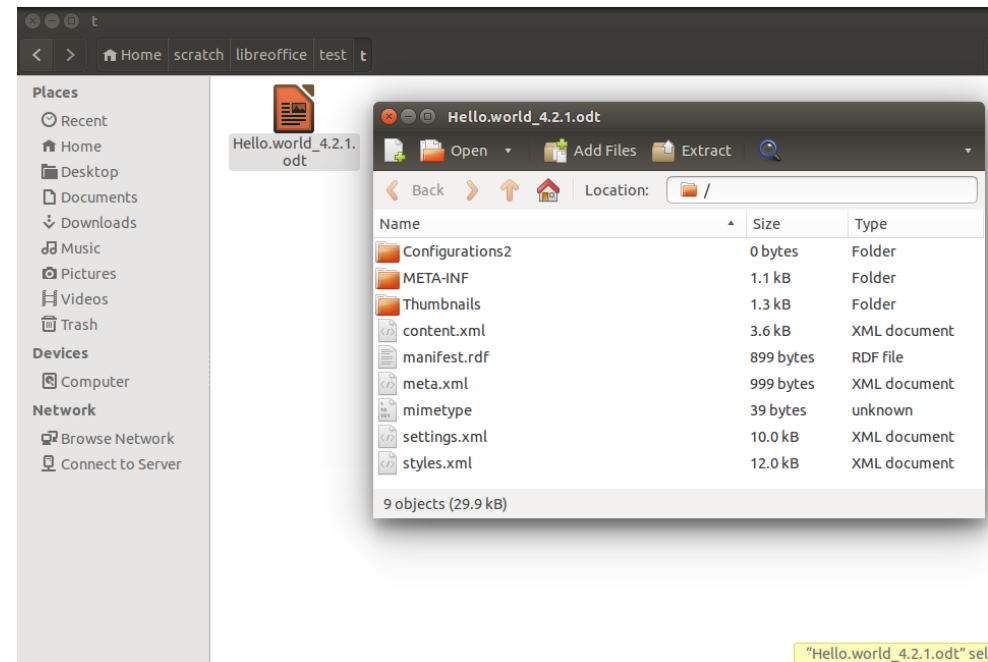
- Set of Free/Open file formats for office applications
- Developed in an open process by multiple non-profits, commercial vendors, and the community
- Chosen by the UK, Germany, Belgium, and others as their official format for document interchange

# ODF: Support for data types

- ODF includes formats for
  - Word processing (ODT)
  - Spreadsheets (ODS)
  - Presentations (ODP)
  - Vector graphics (ODG)
  - Math equations (ODF)
  - Databases (ODB)
  - *...and more*

# ODF: Flexible Format

- Files are actually zipped-up files/directories that include
  - Formatted text (XML)
  - Binary data, including images and/or video
- You can open a file using WinZip, 7-Zip, Archive Manager, etc.
  - Be careful when making changes
  - Using LibreOffice or another GUI tool is the best way to ensure a valid ODF file



# The LibreOffice Community

# LibreOffice Community

- Already touched on a few aspects of the Community...
  - Global group
  - Commitment to Free/Open Source Software
  - TDF membership

# Our goals as a community

- We seek to eliminate the digital divide and empower all as full citizens, support the preservation of mother tongues, and avoid proprietary software and format lock-in. We work to attain our goals by
  - Providing unfettered access to our office productivity tools at no cost
  - Encouraging the translation, documentation, and support of our software in one's own language – published in 110 languages
  - Promoting and actively participating in the creation and development of open standards and Free Software via open and transparent peer-review processes

For more details, see: <https://www.libreoffice.org/about-us/who-are-we/>



# LibreOffice Community: Teams

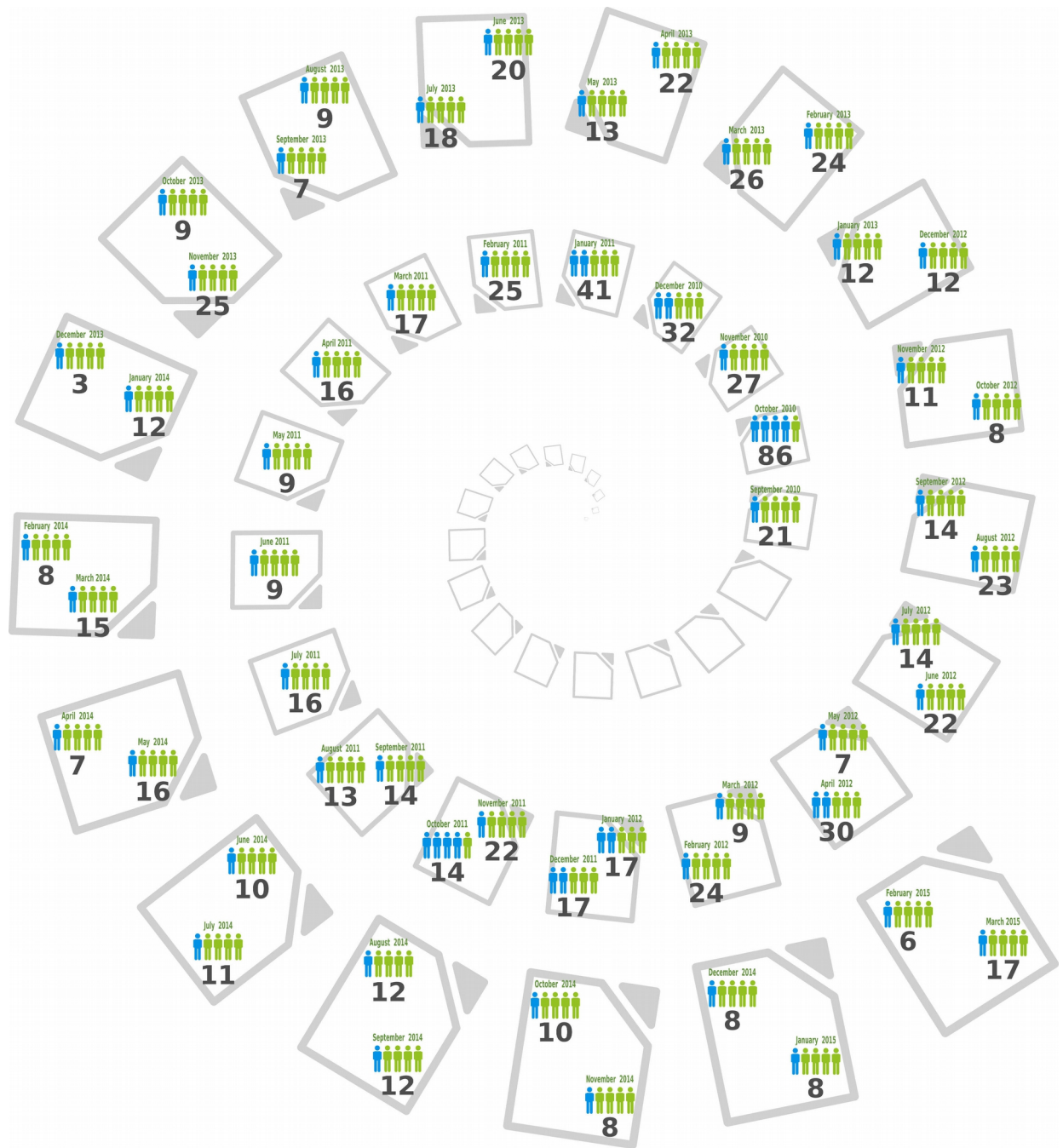
# Community: Design Team

- Make it just work, and look great too!
- User interface (UI) design
  - Interaction design for the best utility, usability, and accessibility of LibreOffice and its website
- Graphical design
  - Visual identity elements, artwork, UI polish, etc...
- No advanced design skills necessary to volunteer

# Community: Developers

- Building LibreOffice
  - Start with an EasyHack
- Fixing bugs
- Planning and adding new features
- Implementing new infrastructure, such as gerrit, tinderboxes, unit tests, etc...
- Running Hackfests to bring together new and experienced developers

New devs from Sep 2010 to Feb 2015 (per month) now totalling over 900 devs with the hopes of breaking the 1,000 number by Dec. 2015.



# Community: QA Team

- Finding bugs and reporting them
- Triaging and improving bug reports from users
- Tracking down regressions to a specific commit
  - Leverage home-grown “Bibisect” tool
- Performing manual and automated testing
- Cross-platform testing of bleeding-edge, beta, and experimental builds of LibreOffice
- Identifying and classifying problems for resolution before they affect critical numbers of users

# Community: Language/Localization

- Localization of LibreOffice UI and Help files
  - Templates and extensions
- Native Language Teams produce original content for the website, documentation, and marketing in specific languages
- Testing and QA in specific languages
  - MozTrap
  - Localized Bug Submission Assistant (BSA)

# Community: Website/Infrastructure

- Maintain our extensive technical infrastructure
- Propose and deploy new technology,
  - e.g. Redmine, OwnCloud, Etherpad, OpenID, & Askbot
- Submit patches & improvements to existing tools upstream
- Coordinate and lead improvement to our TDF and LibreOffice websites

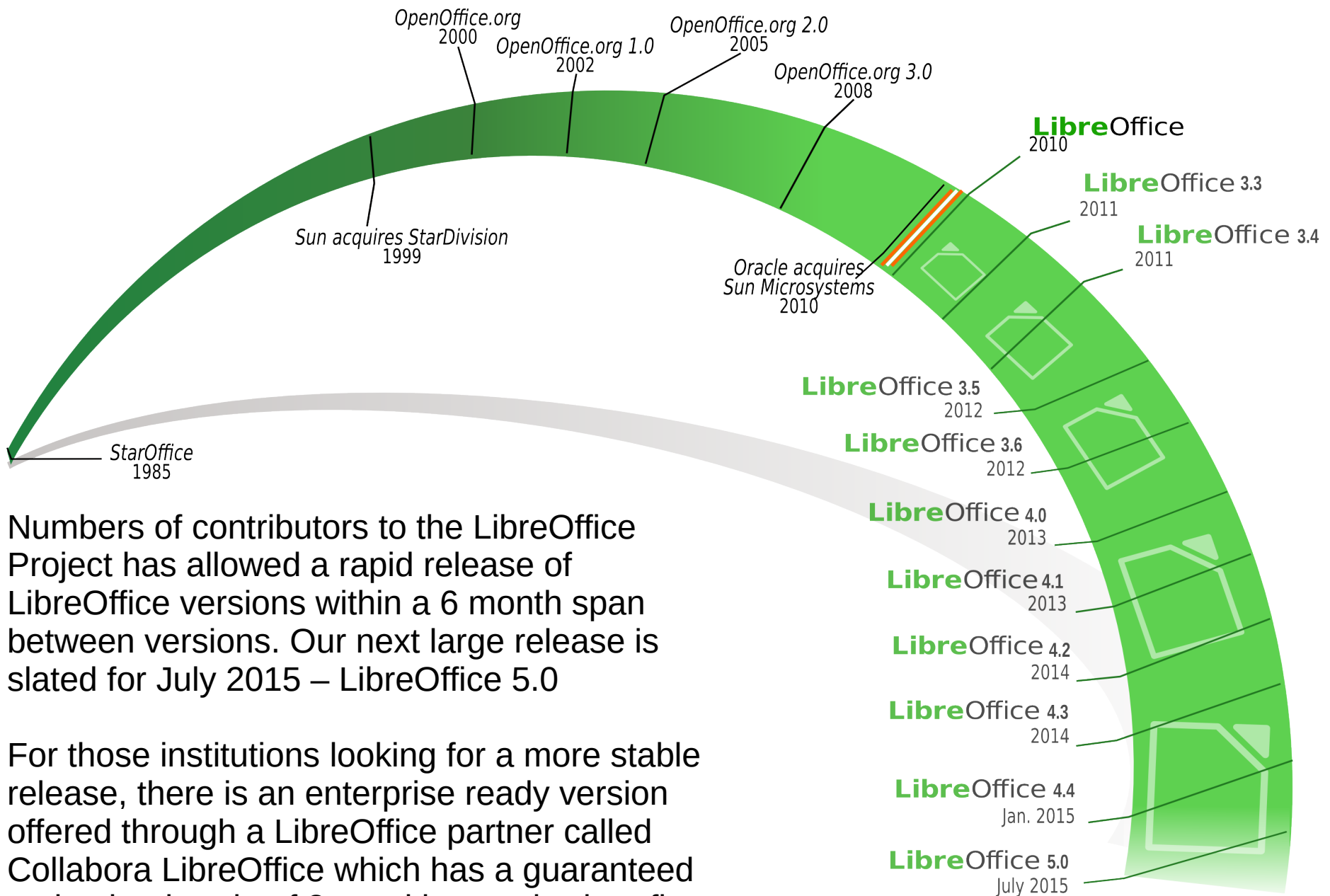
# Community: Documentation Team

- Provide written and multimedia documentation for all the components of LibreOffice
- Maintain the internal guides and technical tools used by the Documentation Team
- Promote competence in technical writing throughout the LibreOffice project
- Publish physical copies of LibreOffice manuals
- Create tutorials, training materials, and other instructional items that promote or enable LibreOffice education



# Community: Marketing & Outreach

- Provide clear and consistent messaging for LibreOffice
- Promote LibreOffice to users and the press
- Coordinate with teachers and educators to successfully introduce LibreOffice to new groups
- Represent LibreOffice and TDF at conferences and events around the world
  - Organize and run LibreOffice events



Numbers of contributors to the LibreOffice Project has allowed a rapid release of LibreOffice versions within a 6 month span between versions. Our next large release is slated for July 2015 – LibreOffice 5.0

For those institutions looking for a more stable release, there is an enterprise ready version offered through a LibreOffice partner called Collabora LibreOffice which has a guaranteed maintained cycle of 3yrs with security, bug fixes and maintenance (<http://www.collabora.com>)



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# Benefits to joining the community

# Community: Gaining Experience

- Opportunity to gain marketable skills
  - Or grow/polish existing skills
- Desirable experience to list on a resume or CV
- Showcase the results of your skills publicly
- Hiring managers appreciate ability to review real-world contributions

# Community: It's fun!

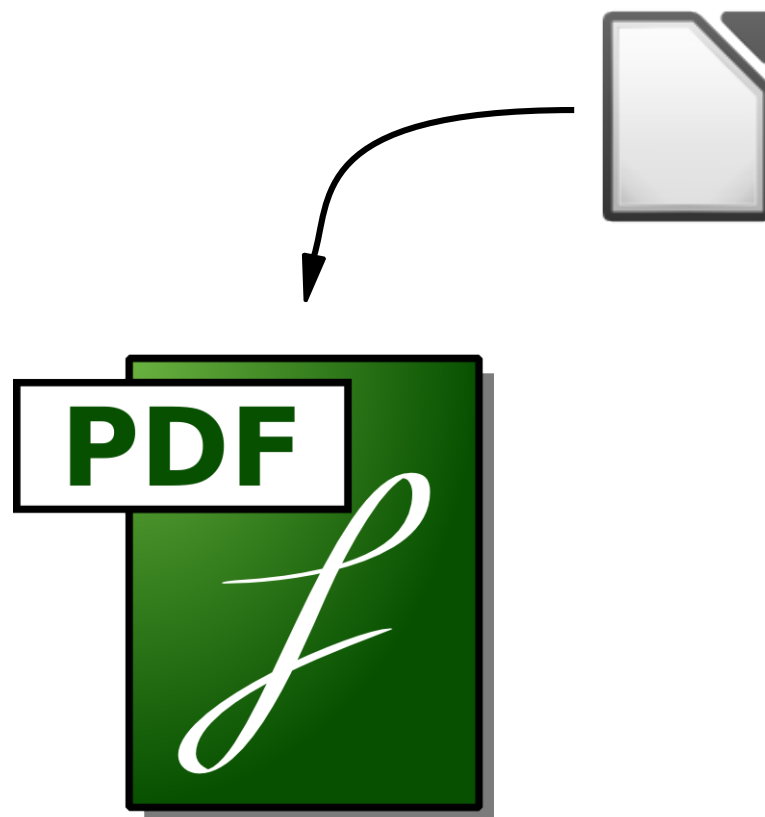
- We have a lot of fun in the QA Team
- Getting work done is more worthwhile when you and your colleagues have mutual respect
- Teaching others about Free/Open Source Software and LibreOffice empowers them

# Example: Hybrid PDFs

*(if we have time)*

# Hybrid PDF

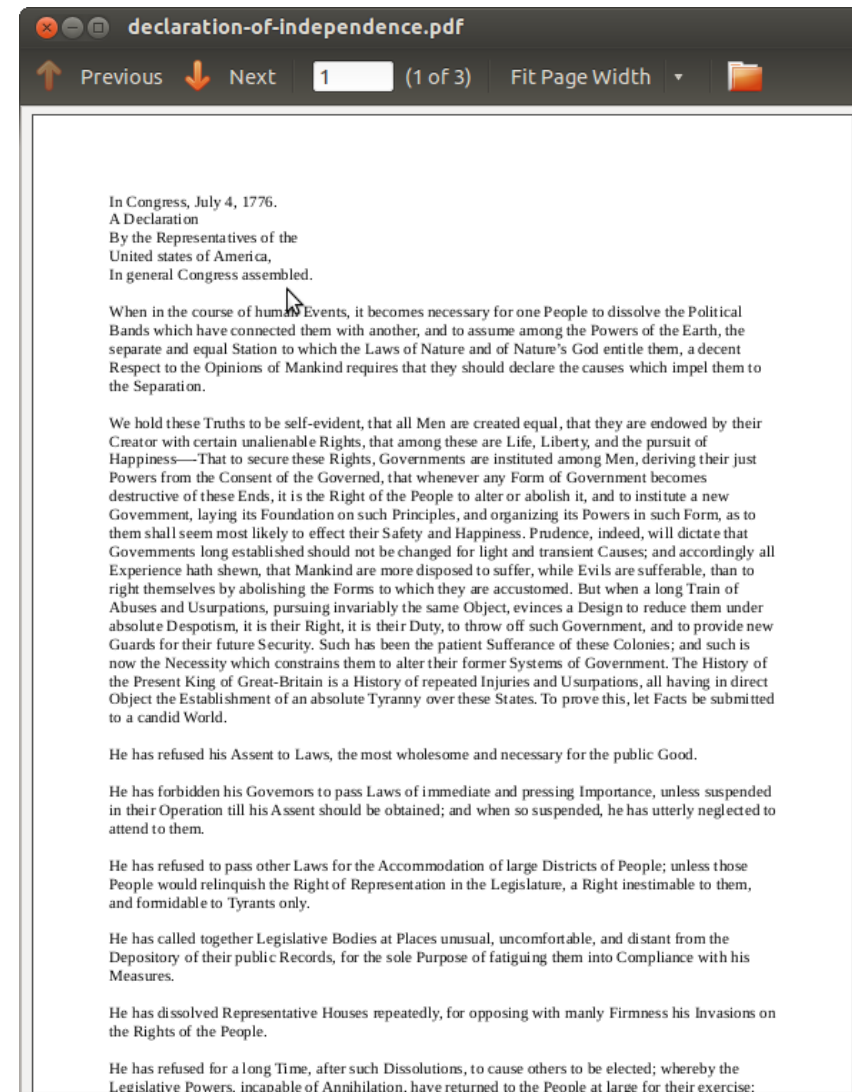
- A Hybrid PDF is a PDF that carries another document inside it
- This used to be a stand-alone extension, but we've found it so useful that we've baked the necessary bits right into LibreOffice



# Hybrid PDFs for Interoperability

- Anyone with a PDF viewer can read the document
- Anyone with an ODF editor (*LibreOffice, Apache OpenOffice, Calligra, AbiWord, MS-Office*<sup>[1]</sup>, etc...) can edit
- You only need to distribute a single file!

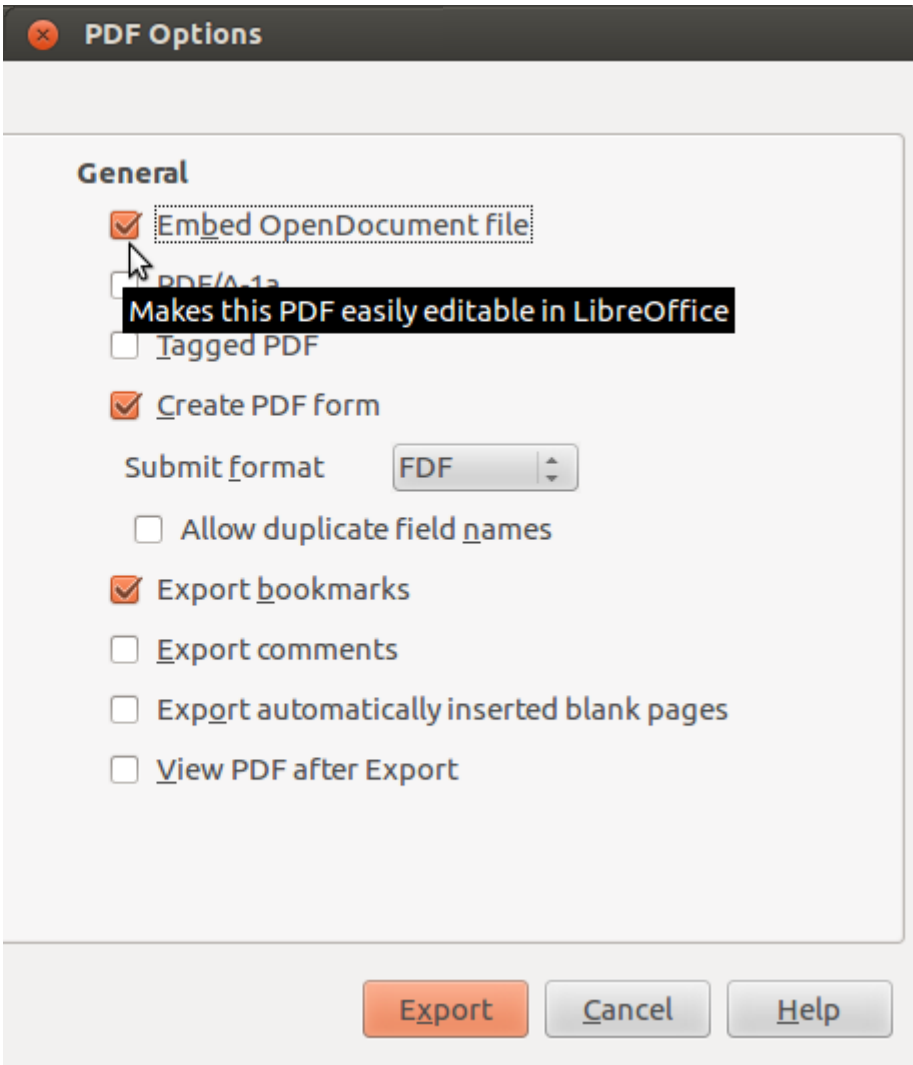
[1] The latest versions of MS-Office





# To create a Hybrid PDF

- *File* → *Export as PDF* → *General*
- *Embed OpenDocument File*
- Click the '*Export*' button
- Review the PDF after export



# Notes

- Double Trouble: Hybrid PDFs are two separate documents, so the file is ~2x the size
- PDFs are generated to be widely readable by all readers
  - But not many people have (or know they have) ODF-compatible software available to them
- Make sure you're using modern versions of your software for maximum support

Want to contribute today?

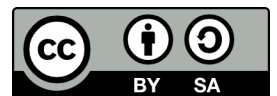
# What can I do?

- Join our Mailing lists and Teams (also US-Can Marketing Team)
- Help us develop marketing materials describing the importance and benefits of using FOSS in government, schools, and elsewhere
- Talk to educators in your school district
- Help us plan hackfests/community events in your area

# Sources and Licensing

- Acknowledge parts of this presentation from Robinson Tryon and Michael Meeks (TDF/LibreOffice members)
- Collabora LibreOffice  
<http://www.collabora.com>
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