Collabora & LibreOffice
Working together to make Open Source rock
By Michael Meeks

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COLLABORA

– ~150 staff, Cambridge & Montreal
– our parent company – 16 years old
– Leading Open Source Consultancy
– Parent company of:
  – Spun out of SUSE in 2013
  – 35 staff
  – 9 years old
  – Focused fully on Office
Collabora’s mission:

Make Open Source ROCK

Shared mission / raison d’être:
● Make Open Source rock
● This is the goal of our shareholders

What does that mean?
● We re-invest your support into FLOSS software, including LibreOffice, and into our partners
● All our code is open
We do have to make money to re-invest

We are not for sale
Automotive  
Digital Signage  
OEM  

Examples:
eg. Open Source / AI compression

90% bandwidth redux.
Brings a picture of you to life.

Standard H.264  AI Video Compression  AI Video Compression & Super Resolution
Collabora’s Productivity subsidiary ...
Our bit ...
What we sell:

**Collabora Online**

- Your Digital Sovereignty  
  *“Your own private Office in the cloud”*
- Develop, support, maintain, sustain  
  - Built on LibreOffice Technology  
  - Highly scalable, interoperable, collaborative editing, in your browser  
  - Service Level Agreement, L3 support  
  - Product Management interaction  
  - Go-to market via partners

**Collabora**

- Branded version of LibreOffice  
  - Foundation for Online  
  - Annual release eg. CO 2021.06  
  - PC / Mac / Linux  
  - Trustees have sales graph ...

- Consultancy & Support services  
  - Bespoke consultancy or  
  - Pre-paid, fixed-price L3 bug-packs
Partners, OEMs, hosters – to market

- **FLOSS**
  - Anyone can install a Docker image & claim to be an expert
  - It’s cheap to do this badly, many save by not contributing

- **Collabora Partners**
  - Committed to integrating COOL
  - Committed to ensuring that users pay to support both the partner & up-stream development
  - We work hard to enable smart people to integrate Document freedom into their products & offerings

And many more 230 partners to choose from
Support in your language, near you

Integration and commercial support in 58 countries

- Contact me to become a partner
- Or checkout our Partner List if you’re interested
Improving the awesome LibreOffice Technology that we all build on - a few examples

We are pleased to contribute to core as part of the LibreOffice developer community
Jumbo Spreadsheets

We now support up to 16384 columns in spreadsheets

Possibly the most annoying error dialog in the world now gone:

Warning loading document foo.xlsx:
The data could not be loaded completely because the maximum number of columns per sheet was exceeded.

OK
AI / Grammar Checking vs. a server

Online Dev.

CODE is an acronym for Code Development Edition. CODE contains the latest developments and supports many people as they want to start to run their own online office suite. We want to try it out and get back control of their own online documents.

CODE is not recommended for business or professional environments; due to its vibrant release schedule, which can lead to changes and also scalability.

Starting with the latest version, we support for external grammar checkers. You can now integrate a grammar checker by LanguageTool. By enabling this feature, you have to enable it in your browser. Depending on whether you are using a free or a paid version, the functionality of the suggestions may vary.
Thanks to Adfinis for accelerating this work!

Daniel Naber’s company:

• Focused on B2C & the web browser:
  • LanguageTooler GmbH
    • Potsdam.

• Taking on Grammarly
• More info here
Sparklines Now Available for Calc

This feature was made possible by funding from NGI and the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 871498.
WebP

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

WebP is an image file format developed by Google intended as a replacement for JPEG, PNG, and GIF file formats. WebP yields files that are smaller for the same quality, or of higher quality for the same size. It supports both lossy and lossless compression, as well as animation and alpha transparency. Google announced the WebP format in September 2010, and released the first version of its supporting library in April 2018.

History

WebP was first announced by Google on 30 September in 2010 as a new open format for lossy compressed true-color graphics on the web, producing files that were smaller than JPEG files for comparable image quality. It was based on technology that Google acquired with the purchase of On2 Technologies. As a derivative of the VP8 video format, it is a sister project to the WebM multimedia container format. WebP-related software is released under a BSD free software license.
Content Controls in Writer: Forms ...

- Rich Text
- Checkbox
- Dropdown
- Picture
- Date

List of Content Control Features in Collabora Online
- Content Controls in Collabora Online Writer
- Rich Text
- Checkbox

This feature was made possible by funding from NGI and the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 871498.
PDF form creation ...

Class beating PDF form export:  Improved form / a11y support

Merged for LibreOffice 7.5
# Impress color theme

## A key interoperability win

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colors</th>
<th>Active</th>
<th>New</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palette: Theme colors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R: 68</td>
<td>R: 68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>G: 114</td>
<td>G: 114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B: 196</td>
<td>B: 196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hex: 4472c4</td>
<td>Hex: 4472c4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chart – data tables...

This feature was made possible by funding from NGI and the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 871498.
Collabora Online: the enterprise-ready LibreOffice-based Online Office Suite that allows you to stay in full control of your office files.

LibreOffice is the world’s most popular Open Source Office suite with over 120 million users. Collabora, a leading contributor to the project, and developer of the enterprise-ready, Term Supported edition of LibreOffice, Collabora Office, has now brought LibreOffice to the Cloud with Collabora Online. Apple are great

With Collabora Online you now have access to a powerful, enterprise-ready and 100% Open Source Online Office suite functionality, with excellent support for all popular office file formats and collaborative editing features.

Collabora Online comes with Long Term Support, and can be integrated in any web-based solution, such as File Share and Sync solutions, Document Management Systems, Groupware or custom build software.

All Long Term Support releases are supported for 3 years, with...
Why show contributions?

*clearly many contribute to LibreOffice, volunteers do amazing things*

Some differentiate from competitors with proprietary value adds

- We want to encourage customers to select a supplier based on competence proven by contribution

As TDF wrestles to work out who pays & for what..

- helpful to remember how paying customers drive our mission
Collabora loves LibreOffice …

“They are trying to destroy TDF !”
- Collabora helps TDF in many many ways → see later.
- Largest code contributor
- Reviewing & mentoring support.

“They contribute too much!”
- They might stop !
- No plans – please don’t drive us away.

“They don’t want in-house developers!”
- We do: as peers in the community
- Want them to be tasked by the board, managed by the ED / team, and helping to grow the community.
- And to be hired soon [!]

Beware of polarizing narratives
- Even after disagreements on detail:
- A shared goal of making TDF rock.
TDF has lots of freedom:

$2$ Goals of the Foundation

(2) - training of ... government agencies, private organizations and the general public about .. use... of the software, in particular through seminar events, workshops ... also by introducing the software to children and adolescents ... e.g. vacation camps for the study of software

- One of the goals we leave to our ecosystem of excellent, certified trainers.
- LibreLogo – but kids camps skipped.

Unfair: “TDF has to do XYZ!”

Fair “I think it is important TDF does XYZ”

- we are not required to pursue any one particular goal as of now: where is the “Have to”?

$2.4$ The foundation does not have to pursue all goals simultaneously or to the same extent. The Board of Directors decides which goals have priority at any given time.

$3$. (1) The foundation pursues exclusively non-profit goals as specified in the paragraph “Tax-deductible purposes” of the tax code.
Community of Contributors curated by MC

“we encourage corporate participation, e.g. by sponsoring individuals to work as equals alongside other contributors in the community”

LibreOffice is created here ...

The Document Foundation
The Document Foundation

LibreOffice is created here ...

Community of Contributors curated by MC

“we encourage corporate participation, e.g. by sponsoring individuals to work as equals alongside other contributors in the community”

Excluding individuals who contribute hugely from their role in the community is horrible.

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Collabora Productivity
Balancing Interests – alternatives:

Perhaps: Everything must serve TDF’s goals?
- The community serves TDF
- TDF should direct them top-down.

Or: TDF serves the community?
- A privilege to be paid to work on achieve its FLOSS goals.
- Direction should be an average of all contributors’ bigger goals.

Better - TDF should serve its mission
- Wisely collaborate with others
- “Cooperation ... and coordination with other organizations that pursue, at least partially, the same non-profit goals;”

All Participants have interests
- eg. AMD’s interests & goals overlapped with TDF’s for a time.
Transparency ...

Last board:

- Substantial steps in transparency
- Policy discussions are not obvious
- Require lots of background
- Sometimes acrimonious
- Require compromise.

“Laws are like sausages, it is better not to see them being made”

- Otto von Bismarck

We elect the board to do this job for us.

- Selectively publishing misleading accounts of what is going on sucks.

Executive transparency:

- Private / closed staff meetings & lists
- No board presence / oversight.
- Avoid micro-mgmt, protect from BoD
Meritocracy ... doers-decide ...

Membership criteria != Meritocracy

- Non-profits have membership criteria.

Comes easily to developers

- Many opinions on a code-change.
- A decade of experience in this code area should be weighed very heavily.
- To not hear that fairly would be disrespectful.

Basic common sense:

- Discuss things with the right interested.

ESC:

Perhaps the most peaceful place
Focused on: JDI ...
Realize people don’t have to be there:
Be useful & fun – not trying to force people to do things.
Collabora Online
LibreOffice Technology applied to in-browser collaboration

Some of last year’s improvements
Crediting LibreOffice Technology

- Help → About
- CSP work for TDF...

Nextcloud Office

COOLWSD version:
22.05.6.3 (git hash: abd9205)

LOKit version:
Collabora Office 22.05.6.3 (git hash: 4fad249)
Served by: Ubuntu 18.04.6 LTS 42645f11

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Collabora

COOLWSD version:
22.05.0.1 (git hash: b1f3c4)

LOKit version:
built on a great technology
Collabora Office 22.05.4.1 ( )
Served by: openSUSE Leap
JSDialogs:View widgets

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Community Credits

Collabora Online & LibreOffice Technology

Collabora Online is built on the amazing LibreOffice Technology stack, and many of our community are active contributors to LibreOffice – having created the LibreOfficeKit APIs to enable people to easily re-use the core document editing and rendering technology. Please do read more about LibreOffice Technology.

LibreOffice Technology

you can also get a list of credits and contributors to LibreOffice here:

LibreOffice Developers

The people behind the scenes

LibreOffice is created by a very large group of amazing contributors:

Localization: Contributors

Many thanks to all those who have worked on translating Collabora Online, you rock!

See all the contributors

Many thanks to all those who have worked on translating LibreOffice!

See all the contributors
UX: JS sidebar ... Javascript widgets rendering in the browser

- Much easier to theme
- Crisp text, editing
- Quicker to update
- Now used for lots of dialogs ...
Precisely anchor & reflow your boat (and other) images
New HTML Formula Input Bar
Accessibility Check

Accessibility Check Helps to create documents according to the PDF/UA Standard
Richer dialog functionality left & right

eg. SparkLine properties

or File Properties
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Performance & bandwidth wins

Bandwidth wins and improved performance with tile deltas

- Like a video codec → time based optimization
- up to a 75% bandwidth saving
- Saves CPU Time ~10%

More CPU: (5x over zlib)

- zstd compression library coming soon.
- An indirect FaceBook contribution to Online.
Other pieces in the last year

Hugely improved UX / LAF

- Vital polish everywhere:
  - CSS styles, mobile fixes
  - Improved look of widgets
  - Icon updates, Tabbed View
  - Dark mode pieces
  - Dialogs – to JSDialogs

- Thanks to - Andreas Kainz, Rizal Muttaqin, Christopher Gladman, hanswang123456 & others.
  Nextcloud: Julius Härtl, Raul Fuentes, Jan C. Borchardt, Nimisha Vijay, Luka Trovic

2700 commits: hard to summarize

Stress testing

Kubernetes / improved Helm charts

More prometheus metrics

- Doc cleanup bits (Gabriel 1&1)
- All document dumping

SDK improvements & extension
Non-Collaboran commits – thank you!

COOL days ... Partner & community event: Berlin

3rd October: team building.

4th October: Business day + Hackfest at Nextcloud conf.

5th October: COOL Technical talks & conference.
Open First

Nine years of
Collabora Productivity

Open Source,
Commits by Affiliation – last year

We need to continue to improve our ecosystem diversity-wise,

Let's ensure that people can build businesses around it

Also celebrate, encourage & credit all contributors

TDF contracted Collabora for

<2% of our revenue so far this year
Other ways we serve you & contribute ...

- **Governance**
  - 2x Board members
  - ~1 Membership Committee
  - Serve on the ESC

- **funding time**
  - 100% of mentored GSOC projects
    - 2 mentees this year for 2 projects.
    - newbie mentoring & review
  - Patch review of gerrit commits
  - conference content

- **Funding with cash**
  - Conference Sponsorship
  - cash from Apple App-store sales ~Eur thousands in last year

- **Paying for things TDF cannot**
  - eg. buying community meals at conferences (in normal years)

- **Every day we tell people about LibreOffice Technology**
Thanks to our team(s) who have worked so hard:

**Code Committers** - last 12 months (35)
- Noel Grandin, **Miklos Vajna**, Luboš Luňák, Mike Kaganski, Ashod Nakashian, Pedro Pinto Silva, Szymon Kłos, **Andras Timar**, Henry Castro, Tomaž Vajngerl, Michael Meeks, Dennis Francis, Rashesh Padia, Mert Tümer, Tor Lillqvist, Pranam Lashkari, Aron Budea, Gökay Şatır, **Jan Holesovsky**, Yunusemre Şentürk, Sarper Akdemir, Gülşah Köse, Nick Wingate, Marco Cecchetti, Marc Rodrigues, Justin Luth, **Eloy Crespo**, Ezinne Nnamani, William Gathoye, Skyler Grey, Rashesh Padia, Elisa de Castro Guerra, Christopher Gladman, Abigail Lowrey, George Wood

**Management / Marketing / Support**
- Eloy Crespo, Cor Nouws → **Sales**
- Naomi Obbard, Simon Lofthouse, Marc Rodriguez, Elisa de Castro Guerra → **Marketing**
- Tracie Fabb, Julie Wilder, Hannah++... → **Biz support**
- Philippe Kalaf → **applied experience**

- In bold (left)
  - managed to manage a team as well (!)
- Please do encourage them.
We are hiring ...

- Productivity:
  - Sysadmin / devops
  - Project Management
  - Development / engineering.
  - Inside Sales / support

- Collabora many more:

https://www.collabora.com/careers.html

Open Source all day, every day

Talk to me if you’re interested

Work from anywhere roles
(some of) the awesome team serving you.

Sorry we can’t be with you this year
Conclusions

- **Collabora loves LibreOffice**
  - Our FOSS mission applied:
  - Making LibreOffice Technology rock.
  - Liberating people’s Documents

- **Paid for by our Customers & Partners**
  - can’t do anything without them,
  - They get to tell us what to do

- **Done by our staff**
  - Alongside the community
  - Thank you! for your work.

- **Branding** is one of our only assets:
  - Real world: leads → sales → code
  - Leads (& credit) funds the fun.

- **A pleasure** to be able to sponsor the LibreOffice conference.

Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock for ever! I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And though this body has been destroyed yet in my flesh I will see God, I myself will see him, with my own eyes - I and not another. How my heart yearns within me. - Job 19: 23-27