

LibreOffice

The Document Foundation

The Document Foundation:


**The open, transparent and meritocratic future
of free office software**

- **Florian Effenberger @floeff**
- **FOSS Backstage, June 14, 2018**

Who's waking me up?!

- **free software enthusiast**
for over fourteen years
- founding member and executive director
of **The Document Foundation**
- also active in infrastructure and marketing





Terminology

Double meaning

- **LibreOffice** is
 - 1. the leading free **office productivity suite**
installed by millions of users worldwide
 - 2. a wonderful worldwide **community** (“project”)
with hundreds of friends and contributors 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 free** of charge”*
 - does **not contain a product name** on purpose

Our philosophy

- ▶ supporting the **development** of both product **and** community
events, knowledge sharing, mentoring
- ▶ built on the community's **values** and **ideals**
through statutes that enforce openness and transparency
- ▶ **independent** from one **single** sponsor
70,000+ individual donations per year
- ▶ **ecosystem** for contributors and commercial stakeholders
certification, joint development efforts
- ▶ lower **entry barriers**: *Easy Hacks, Hackfests, GSoC mentoring, workshops*
- ▶ **cooperations** with other entities: e.g. *OASIS, OSI, KDE, GNOME, FSFE, FSF*
- ▶ → "by the community, **for the community**"

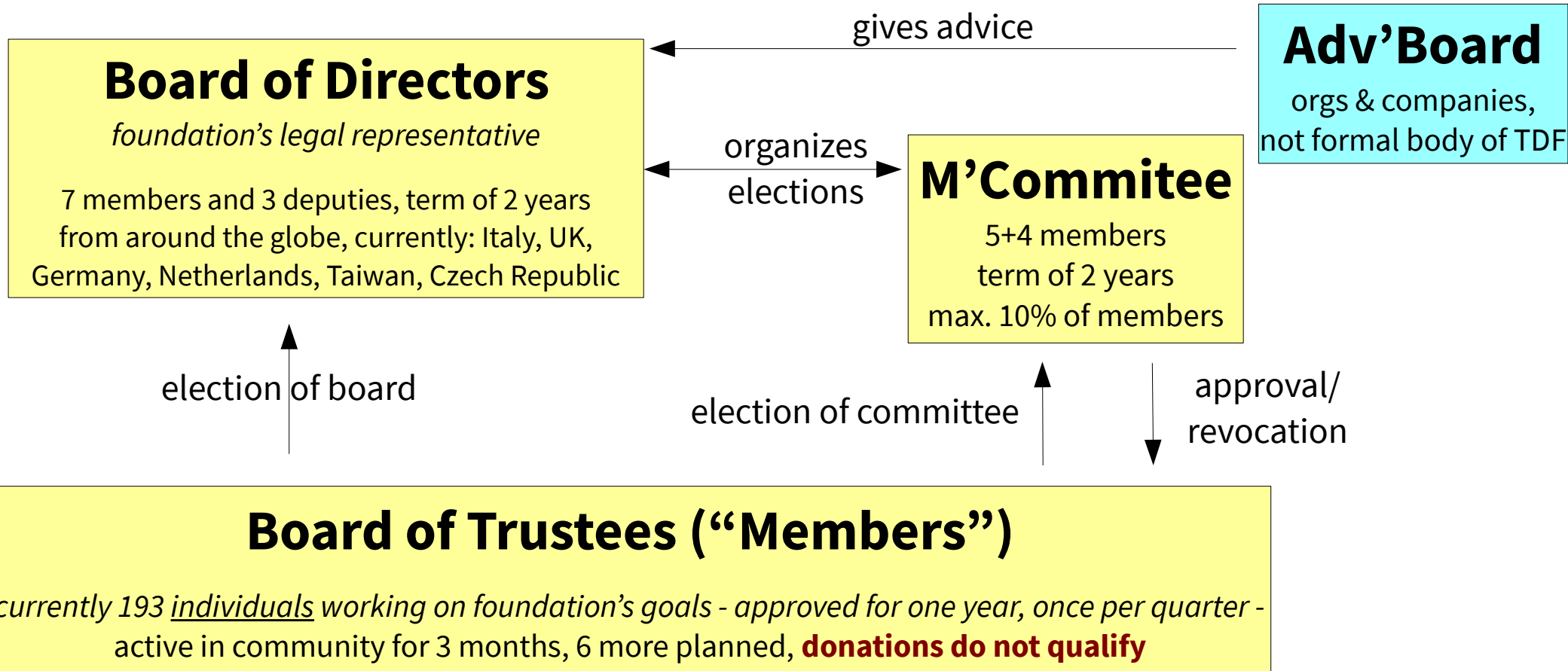
The background features a repeating pattern of light gray rounded triangles pointing downwards. A horizontal purple gradient bar spans the width of the page, with a darker purple border on its top and bottom edges. The text 'The Foundation' is centered within this bar. The corners of the page are decorated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

The Foundation

Why all this fuss?

- ▶ **enduring** and **stable**
(*“foundations are for eternity“*)
- ▶ **foundation’s objective** can **not be changed**
- ▶ **safety** for community, end-users and the ecosystem
- ▶ acts as **”trustee“** for trademarks and domains
- ▶ handles **donations** and manages budgets
- ▶ is not part of the commercial ecosystem itself
- ▶ **guarantees rights** for all participants

How we are structured



The Advisory Board

- ▶ Advisory Board **supports** and **advises** Board of Directors
- ▶ companies and organizations (**no individuals**) with
 - ▶ either **direct connection** to LibreOffice
 - ▶ or **long experience** with FLOSS
- ▶ based on **sponsorship**
- ▶ currently **16 members**
- ▶ one meeting with the board per quarter
- ▶ non-confidential **slides shared with our trustees** afterwards



Public by default

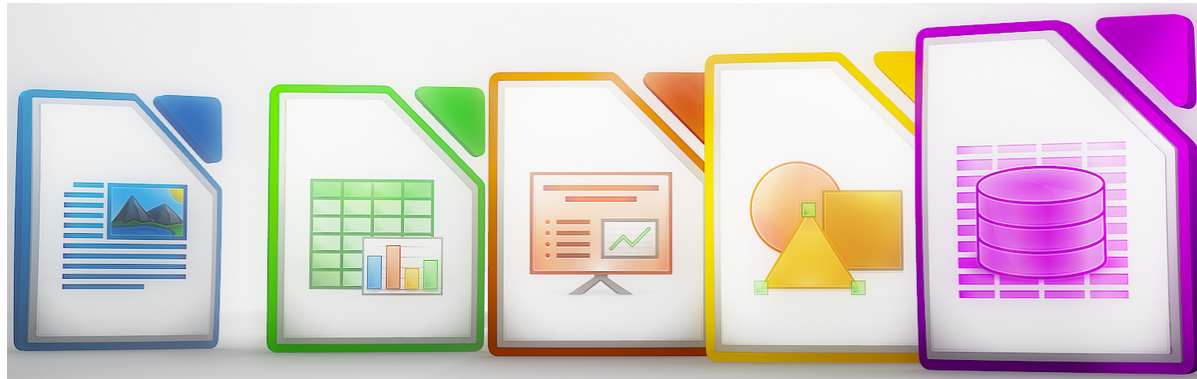
In the statutes

- ▼ “**one-third rule**” to prevent conflict of interest
- ▼ **openness** and **transparency**
 - ▼ all **board meetings** are public
https://wiki.documentfoundation.org/TDF/BoD_Meetings
 - ▼ all **decisions** of the bodies are public
https://wiki.documentfoundation.org/TDF/BoD_Decisions
 - ▼ the **accounting** is public
<https://wiki.documentfoundation.org/TDF/Ledgers>
 - ▼ the **board’s mailing list** is public
*private decisions are made public as soon
as the confidentiality is resolved*



The present

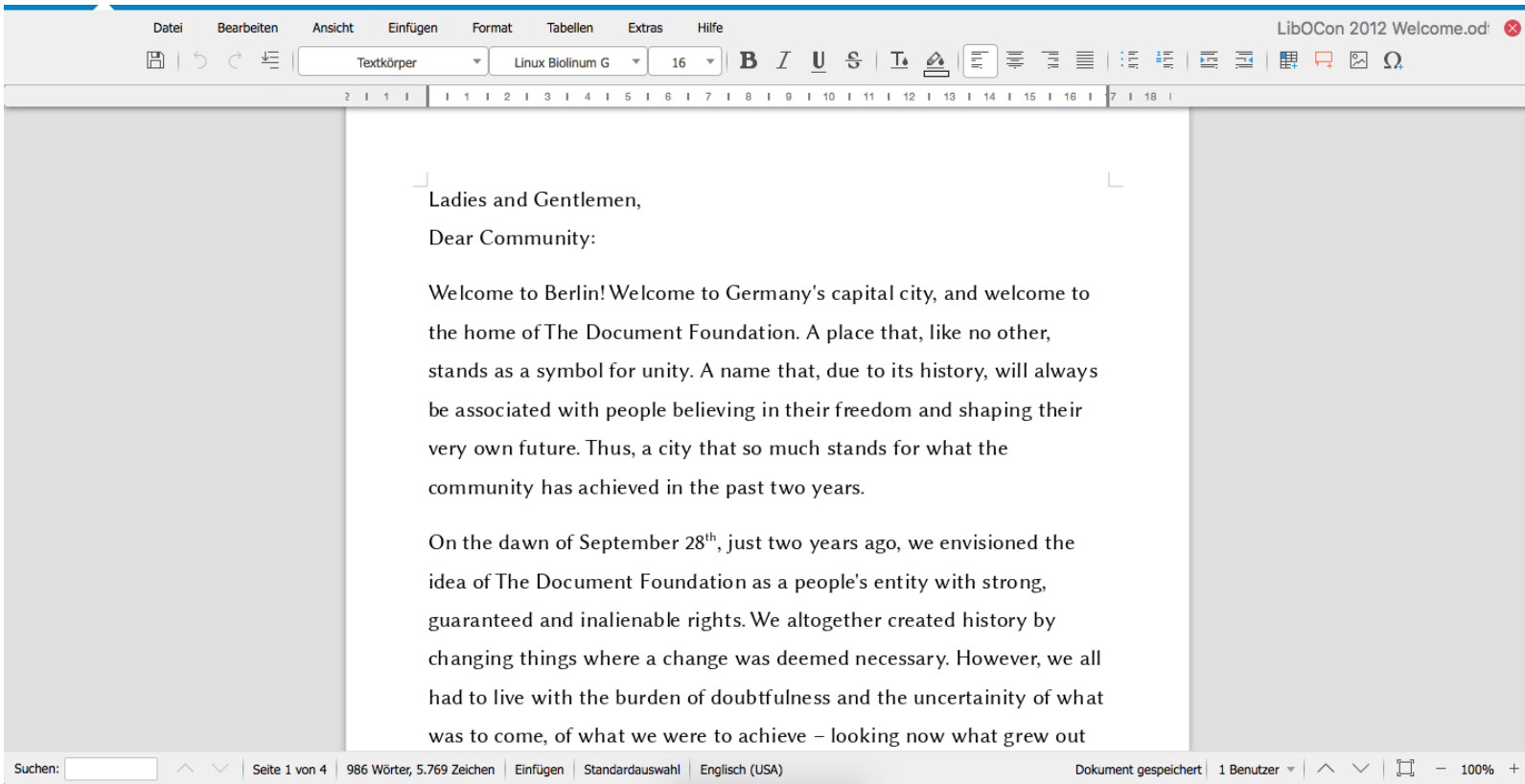
LibreOffice



Source: <https://wiki.documentfoundation.org/File:Wallpaper-LibreOffice-2-1920px.png> Author: Paulo Jose

- ▶ **leading free office suite** for Windows, Linux and macOS
- ▶ available in **more than 100 languages** (“digital participation”)
- ▶ time-based releases: **two major releases per year**, bugfixes ~6 weeks
- ▶ **two versions** (as of now 6.0 and 5.4) maintained, plus **Android Viewer**
- ▶ **LibreOffice 6.1** ~Jul: usability features, online improvements, icon sets

LibreOffice Online



- ▶ runs natively in the **browser**
- ▶ integrates with **storage & auth**
- ▶ **collaborative** editing
- ▶ **same rendering** of documents as desktop version
- ▶ **Docker** container available

<https://hub.docker.com/r/libreoffice/online/>

Document Liberation Project

- ▶ filter for **legacy and proprietary** formats
- ▶ removes **vendor lock-in**
- ▶ gives users access again to **their** data
- ▶ provides a path towards the **Open Document Format**
- ▶ **made by volunteers** during LibreOffice development
- ▶ library now used in many other open source projects
- ▶ in line with **TDF's mission** and FLOSS ideals



Our annual report

- ▶ **jointly** written with the community in EN+DE
- ▶ turned our legal obligation into a benefit
- ▶ **overview** on foundation, community, project, software, events, budget
- ▶ English version:
<https://tdf.io/ar2016low>
- ▶ German version:
<https://tdf.io/bericht2016>
- ▶ 2017 report available around late Q2
written and approved, currently being laid out





The future

YOU DECIDE!

What's going on?

- ▼ **new Membership Committee** - *election during summer* -
- ▼ **accessibility improvements** - *just published* -
<https://blog.documentfoundation.org/blog/2018/05/07/welcome-gla11y-the-user-interface-accessibility-checker/>
- ▼ **a new help system** - *since LibreOffice 6.0* -
<https://help.libreoffice.org>
- ▼ **LibreOffice Conference in Tirana** - *in September* -
<https://conference.libreoffice.org>
- ▼ Have a proposal? **Let us know!**
<https://www.documentfoundation.org/foundation/grant-request/>
or: board-discuss@documentfoundation.org



A wonderful community of friends

Join us, it's fun!



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

Thank you very much!

Getting in touch

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- ▼ private blog: <https://blog.effenberger.org>