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 **<u>and</u>** community
events, knowledge sharing, mentoring
- built on the community's **values** and **ideals**
through statutes that enforce openness and transparency
- **independent** from one **<u>single</u>** 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**"

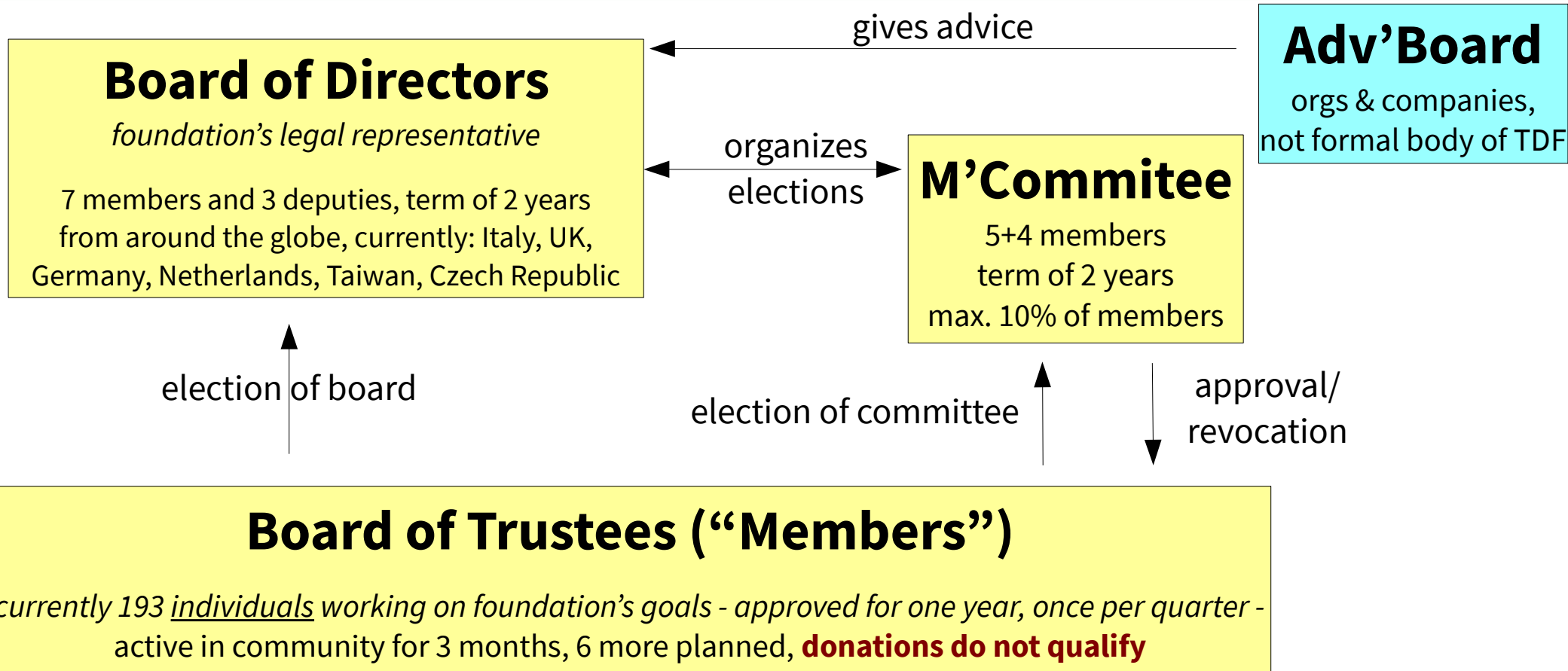LibreOffice

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 <u>all</u> participants

How we are structured

Adv'Board
orgs & companies,
not formal body of TDF

gives advice →

Board of Directors
foundation's legal representative

7 members and 3 deputies, term of 2 years
from around the globe, currently: Italy, UK,
Germany, Netherlands, Taiwan, Czech Republic

← organizes elections →

M'Commitee
5+4 members
term of 2 years
max. 10% of members

election of board

election of committee

approval/
revocation

Board of Trustees ("Members")

*currently 193 <u>individuals</u> working on foundation's goals - approved for one year, once per quarter -
active in community for 3 months, 6 more planned,* **donations do not qualify**

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
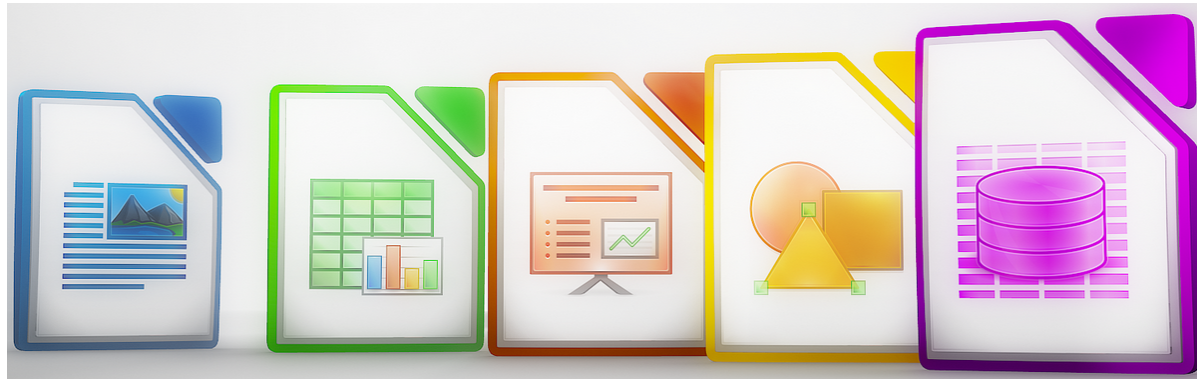- non-confidential **slides shared with our trustees** afterwards

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

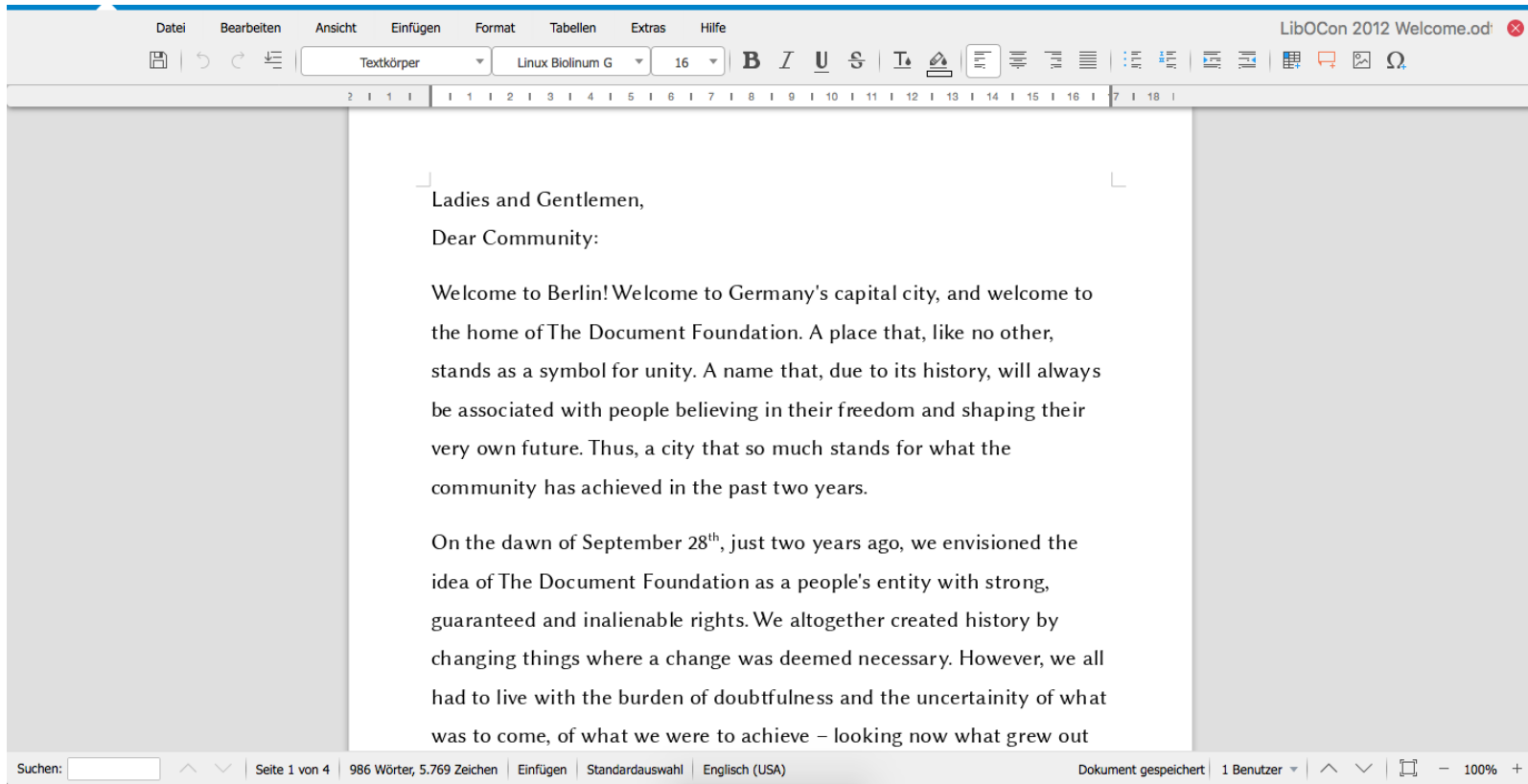# LibreOffice

Source: https://wiki.documentfoundation.org/File:Wallpaper-LibreOffice-2-1920px.png   Author: Paulojose

- **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

Document
Liberation
Own your content

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 layouted

The Document Foundation

2016 Annual Report

Document Liberation
Own your content

LibreOffice
The Document Foundation

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

Thank you very much!

Getting in touch

- e-mail: floeff@documentfoundation.org
- Twitter: @floeff
- private blog: https://blog.effenberger.org