

ApacheCon Europe  
Sinsheim, Germany, 6 November 2012



# OpenOffice at Apache

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# APACHE OPENOFFICE

*A Very Personal Perspective.*

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Episode VI

## *RETURN OF THE JEDI*

*Luke Skywalker has returned to his home planet of Tatooine in an attempt to rescue his friend Han Solo from the clutches of the vile gangster Jabba the Hutt.*

A long time ago... Volunteering in OpenOffice since 2004  
Aged 35. Male. Italian. Mathematician. Web developer. Unaffiliated.



Chairing the OpenOffice PMC is not about power  
The Apache Way rewards merit. No hierarchy. All votes are equal.



Chairing is about caring that the community stays healthy  
Mentoring new volunteers. Keeping existing volunteers motivated.

# The Phantom Menace

Issues with earlier OpenOffice incarnations we must avoid.



At OpenOffice.org we depended too much on Sun/Oracle  
Most of their staff is lost (and not working on any open source projects!)



Some of them still help (in their spare time) OpenOffice  
And fortunately they provide insight on issues requiring old knowledge.





We shouldn't give any volunteers reasons for leaving  
Be welcoming. Engage them. Lower barriers. Limit arguments.

# Attack of the Clones

OpenOffice and other projects. Improving relationships.



There is room for more than one sun in the sky  
We shouldn't believe there has to be only one free office suite.



**"I AM YOUR FATHER"**

Other projects shouldn't portray OpenOffice as an enemy  
OpenOffice is friendly, harmless, open to collaboration: license, events...



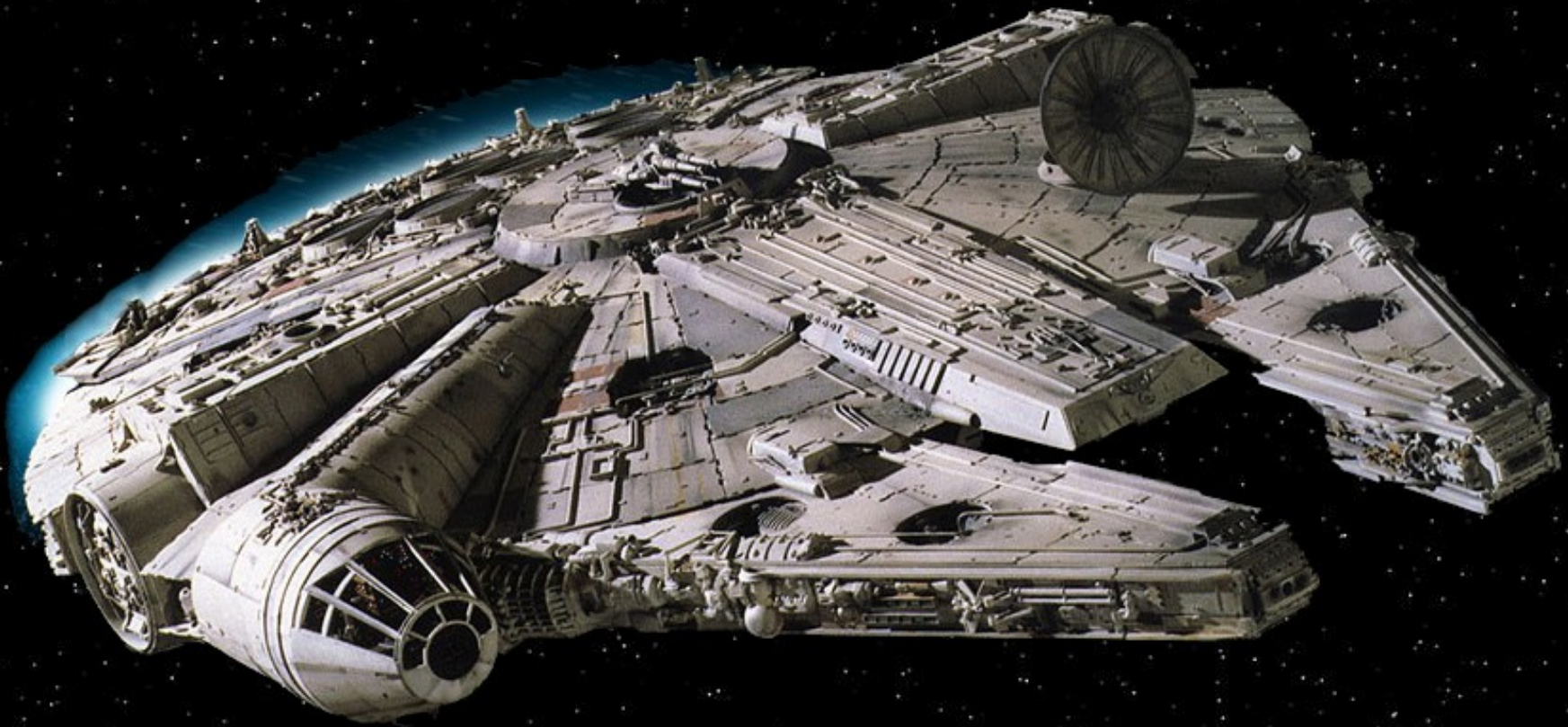
OpenOffice must not see other projects as inferior beings  
Criticizing them or pointing out oddnesses/problems is not our business.

# A New Hope

*A bright future after graduation.*

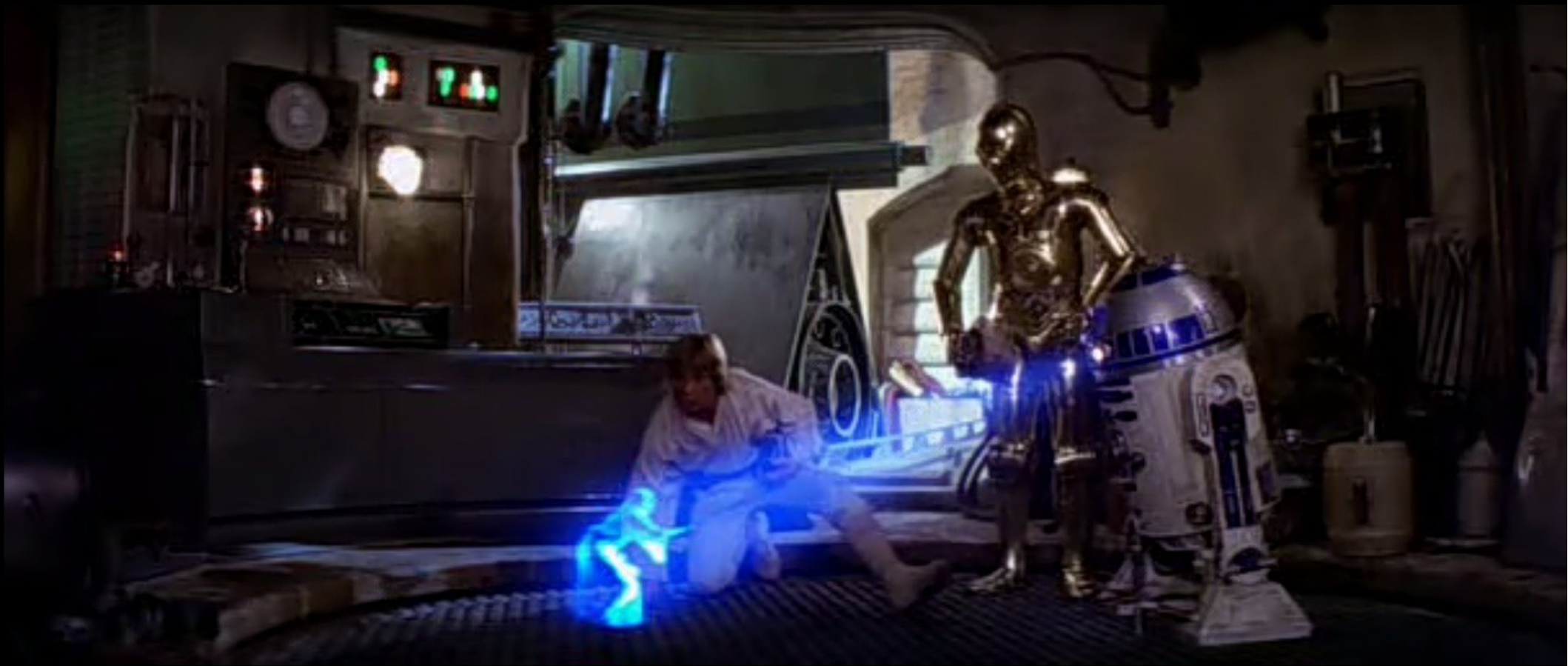


*A strong, respectful community*  
*Unity in diversity. Balance private/corporate interests and public good.*



Great outreach capabilities, local to global  
Word-of-mouth and events. Our users as ambassadors.





A trusted community and a trusted product  
OpenOffice must “just work”. And its community too.

Thanks... so far!

All pictures are copyright LucasFilm.

All section headings are movie titles by LucasFilm too.

Any double/offensive/metaphorical meanings  
are pure coincidence and, in case, my fault.

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# OpenOffice at Apache

Past, Present and Future.

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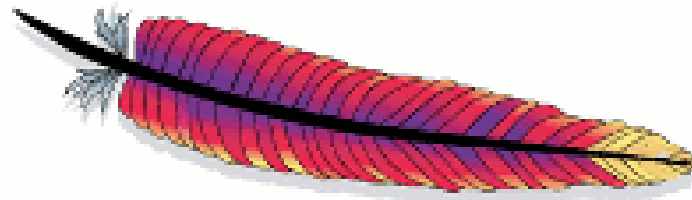
# The Past: A Heavy Feather

*Incubation at Apache. Discussions. Solutions.*



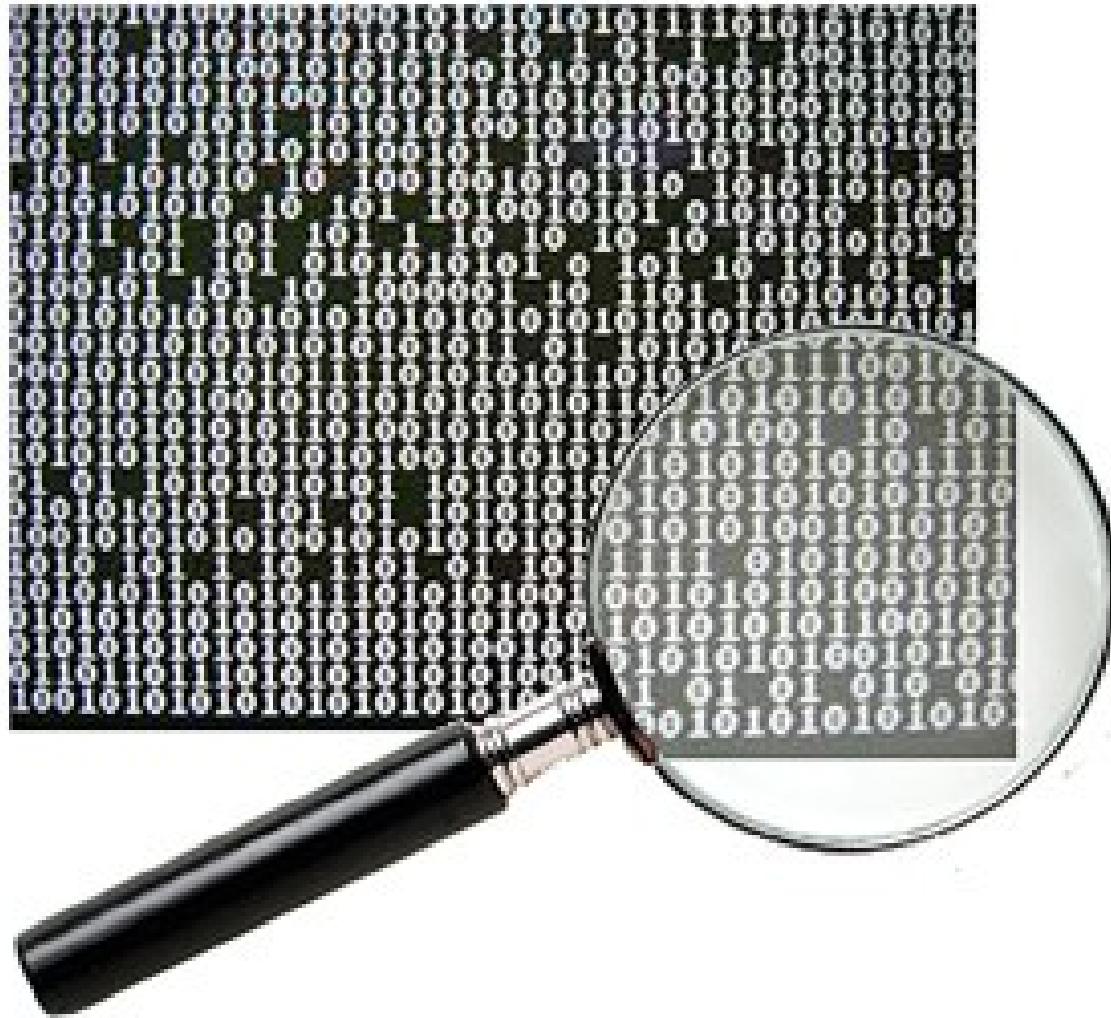
A 16-months incubation (June 2011 – October 2012)

A big undertaking for both OpenOffice and Apache.



# Apache

A new open source license: Apache License 2.0  
Free Software (GPL compatible). Ready for other projects to consume.



An accurate and tedious, but not that long, code inspection  
“Intellectual Property” clearance. Relocating/replacing components.



A huge infrastructure migration, from Oracle to Apache  
Bugzilla. Forum. Wiki. Release archive. Pootle. Website. Buildbots.



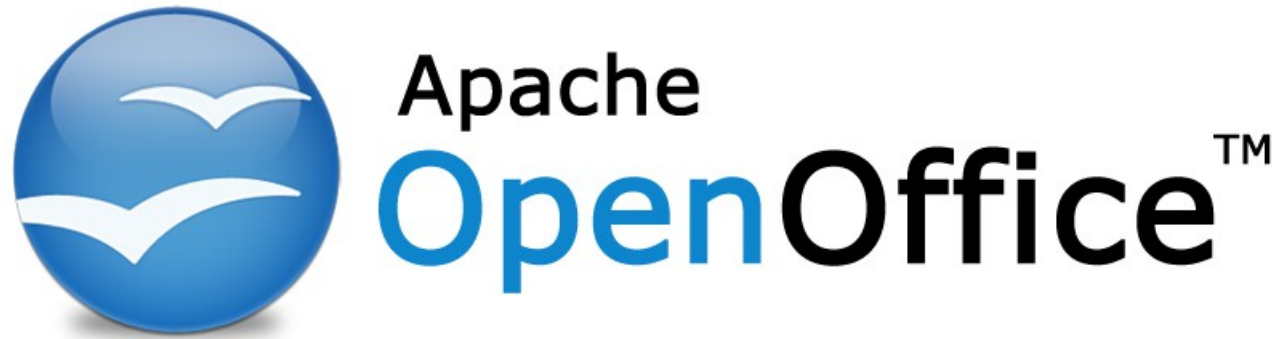


A new hierarchy to learn: no hierarchy

A flat community without predefined roles/leads. Everyone counts one.



A new, distributed, decisional process to learn  
Lazy consensus. Induction of new committers. No central authority.



A new name, and a slightly modified logo  
Reflecting our new life at Apache, in continuity with [OpenOffice.org](http://OpenOffice.org).



New for Apache: a huge end-user focus, with new needs  
Powerful support tools, friendly mailing lists, non-technical instructions.



New for Apache: countless trademark abuses  
Fake domains. Counterfeited versions. Need to provide binaries.



New for Apache: previously unseen download numbers  
Solved with external help (SourceForge). Seamlessly integrated.

# The Present: Just Graduated

*Able to self-govern. Diverse. Transparent.*



Graduation: OpenOffice is an Apache Top-Level Project  
This proves it's able to make releases, to self-govern, and that it's diverse.



## Download Apache OpenOffice 3.4.1

Click to start downloading the most recent version



**[Get all platforms, languages, language packs](#) | [Source Code tarballs and SDK](#) |**

Signatures and Hashes: [ASC](#) , [MD5](#) , [SHA256](#) | [Release Notes](#) | [Legacy Version](#)

New releases under Apache: OpenOffice 3.4.0 and 3.4.1  
May and August 2012. Massive changes since 3.3.x. Stable and reliable.



Apache OpenOffice is big...

Impressive download figures. More committers than Apache HTTPD.



...and it is now independent and diverse.

Our community has a great diversity in affiliation, language, geography.



A self-governing community

Full control. Consensus. Constructive attitude emerging. Meritocracy.



Transparency: all project decisions are taken in public.  
Everything happens on the public dev list. Private list virtually unused.



A growing, large ecosystem

Extensions. Templates. Consultants. Book authors. Distributors.

# Future: OpenOffice in 2013

Renewed product. Renewed project. Your help welcome.



The product: Apache OpenOffice 4.0 is coming in 2013  
Details still being discussed. March-April 2013 seems reasonable.



**1,263 people** have submitted **924 ideas** and cast **13,852 votes**  
**but what do you think?**

Please [sign in](#) to vote on ideas and suggest your own.

Submit an idea

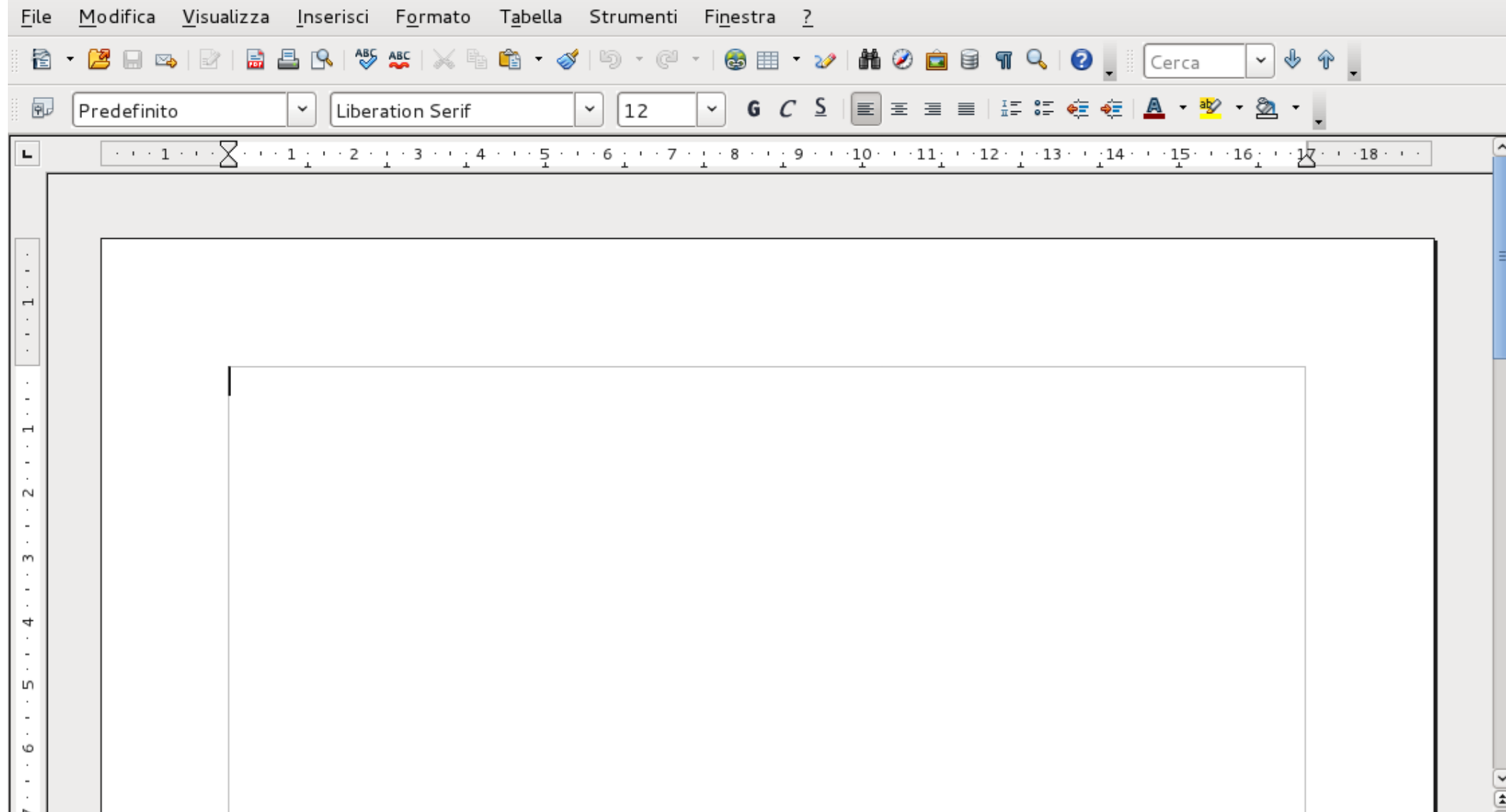
View Ideas

Share

Our priorities are community-defined  
A global survey with Google Moderator. Users drive development.



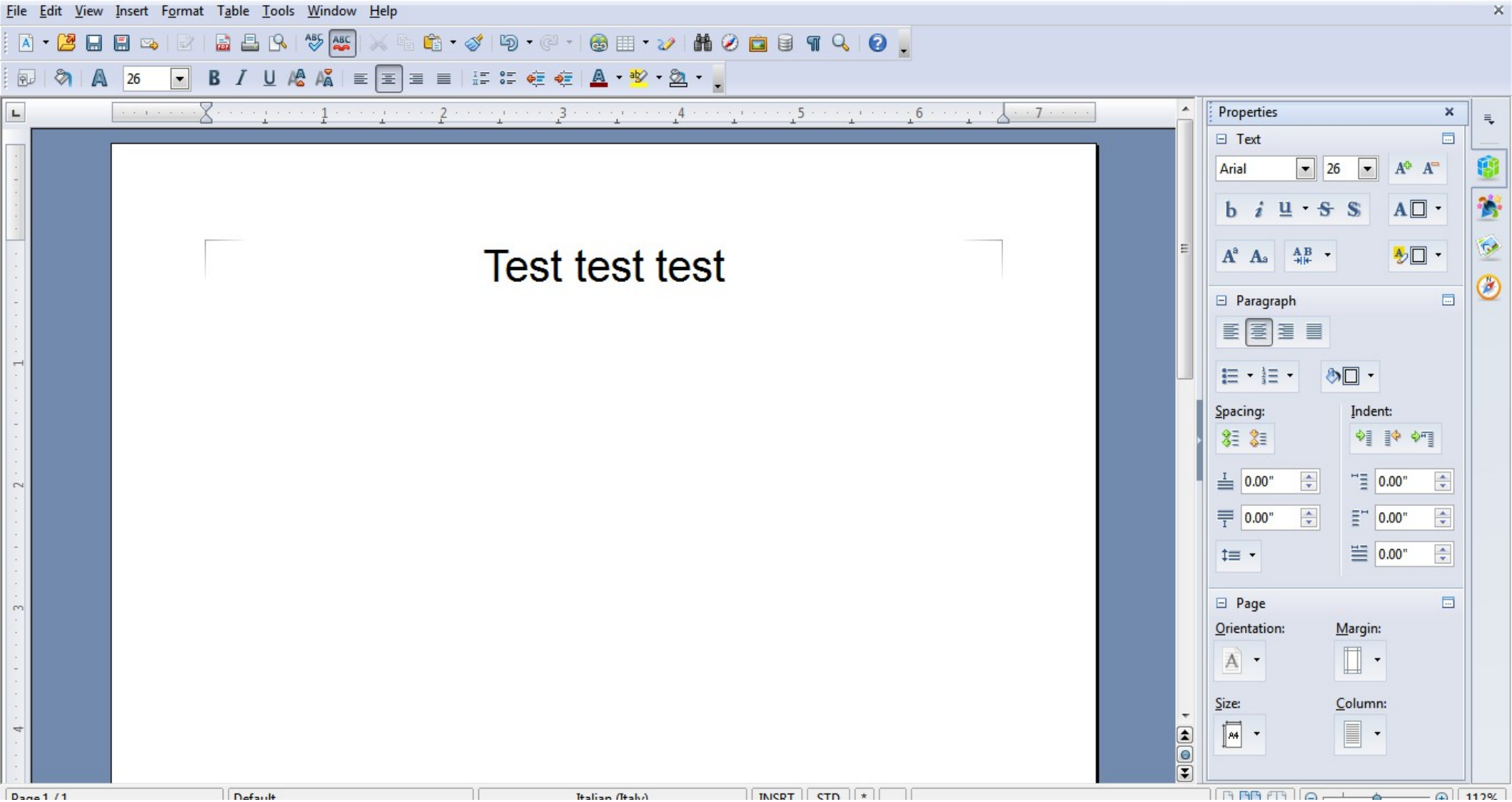
Users' Priority #1: Improve interoperability with MS Office  
While still actively promoting ODF as a better standard for the future.



Users' Priority #2: Modernize the application interface  
Better usability, get rid of "outdated" look & feel, but stay functional.



Users' Priority #3: Be connected and flexible  
Some explorations will already be discussed at this conference.



A new opportunity: IBM donated Lotus Symphony  
Ready for integration: MS Office interoperability, interface, accessibility.



A new opportunity: Better integration with online resources  
Most users never installed an Extension or looked for a Template.



Apache  
OpenOffice™

Also featuring: Smoother installation experience  
Digitally signed packages. Incremental updates (fast, small download).

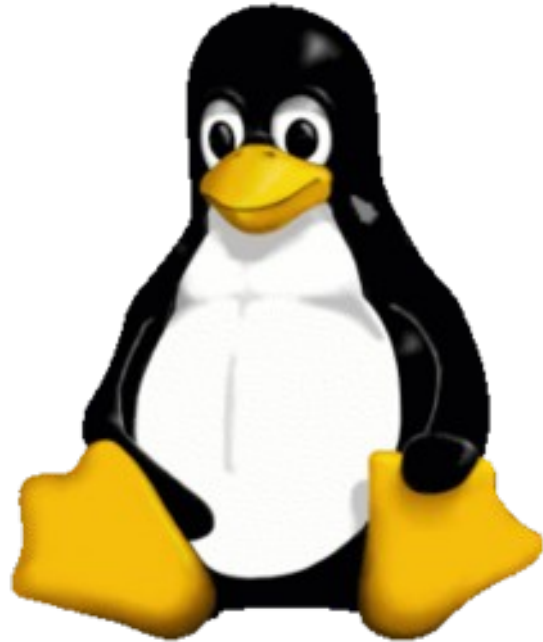


Also featuring: Improved ODF 1.2 support  
Be a reference implementation for ODF. Promote and develop it.





Also featuring: Improved system integration  
Take advantage of native system features, such as “gestures”.



Also featuring: enter the Linux distributions repositories  
OpenOffice is available for GNU/Linux, but make it easier to install.



Also featuring: New visual identity and branding (contest)  
Time to aim at a consistent, community-developed, visual presentation.



Also featuring: what you would like to develop or sponsor  
The community is open and will welcome small and big contributions.



Stay tuned: follow OpenOffice 4.0 as it takes shape  
Mailing list ([dev@openoffice.a.o](mailto:dev@openoffice.a.o)). Wiki pages. Development snapshots.



The project: Apache OpenOffice must grow in 2013.  
We need more volunteers, more companies, better publicity.

## Languages

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More volunteers: show and complete our language support

Many more languages in sources than we distribute. Aim for quality.

## Welcome to Apache OOO Bugzilla



**File a Bug**



**Search**



**User Preferences**

More volunteers: QA and developers  
Mentoring new developers: mark simple bugs as such.





More volunteers: Orientation project

Guide to finding your way around and seeing how to help effectively.



You are welcome to help, starting immediately  
Whatever skills you have, we have tasks for you. It will be fun!



More companies: get more full-time developers  
Huge codebase. Lower risk. Full-time developers are never too many.



Better publicity: We need a more efficient PR activity  
OpenOffice doesn't get the recognition and coverage it deserves.



A responsibility: our users should know the truth  
By lunchtime, today's new users will outnumber this stadium. And this city.

*“OpenOffice has become paid software”*

*“OpenOffice is no longer Open Source”*

*“OpenOffice is no longer Free Software”*

*“OpenOffice only makes source code available”*

*“OpenOffice has no developers”*

*“OpenOffice copies code from other projects”*

Contrast false claims and myths about OpenOffice

Rectify many misconceptions repeated by some journalists/bloggers.



The most common misconception: OpenOffice is dead!  
Well, it isn't. Or anyway, it's reborn at Apache. And here to stay.

Product website:

[www.openoffice.org](http://www.openoffice.org)

Project website:

[openoffice.apache.org](http://openoffice.apache.org)

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