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LibreOffice Architecture, accessibility and QA

Jacobo Aragunde Pérez

blogs.igalia.com/jaragunde



Project history

Some history

- 1985: StarWriter for Z80 micros
- 1986: StarDivision founded, StarOffice
- 1999: Sun Microsystems acquires StarDivision

StarWriter 1.0, 1986

		Sinak-Akutisk II Bi=Dumny Text			
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StarOffice 2.0, 1994

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StarOffice 2.0, 1994

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StarOffice 5.2, 2000

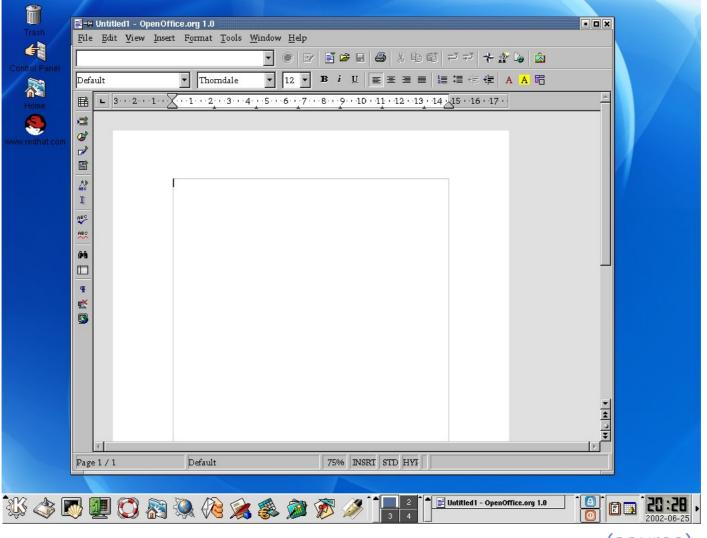
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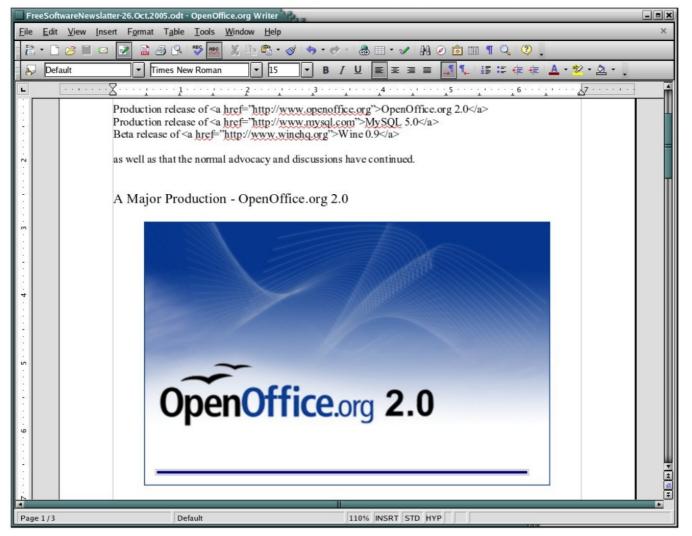
Some history

- 2000: OpenOffice becomes Free Software
- 2002: OpenOffice 1.0
- 2005: OASIS standard, OpenOffice 2.0

OpenOffice.org 1.0, 2002



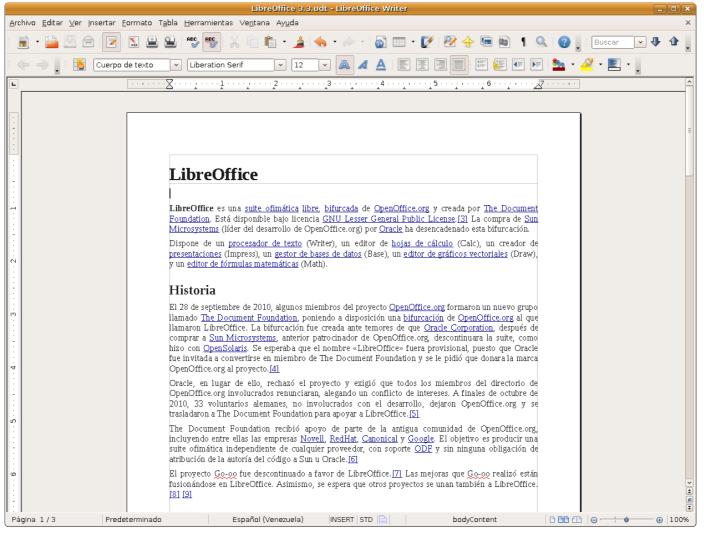
OpenOffice.org 2.0, 2005



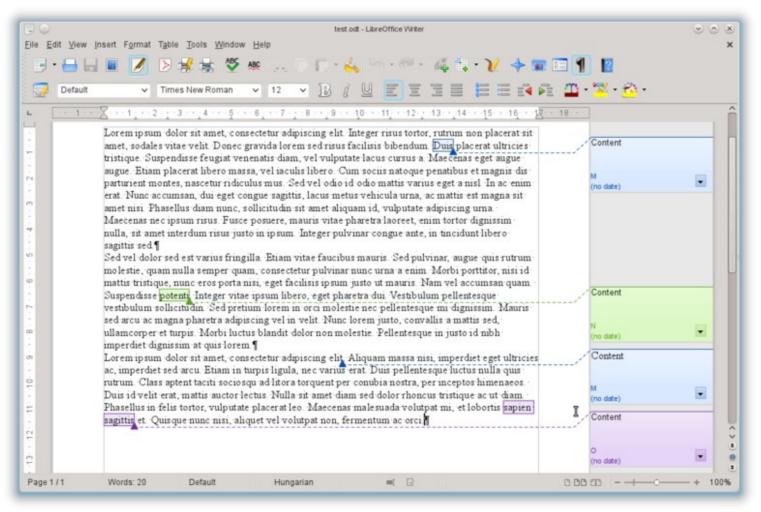
Some history

- 2010: Oracle acquires Sun
- 2010: LibreOffice and The Document Foundation
- 2011: Apache OpenOffice

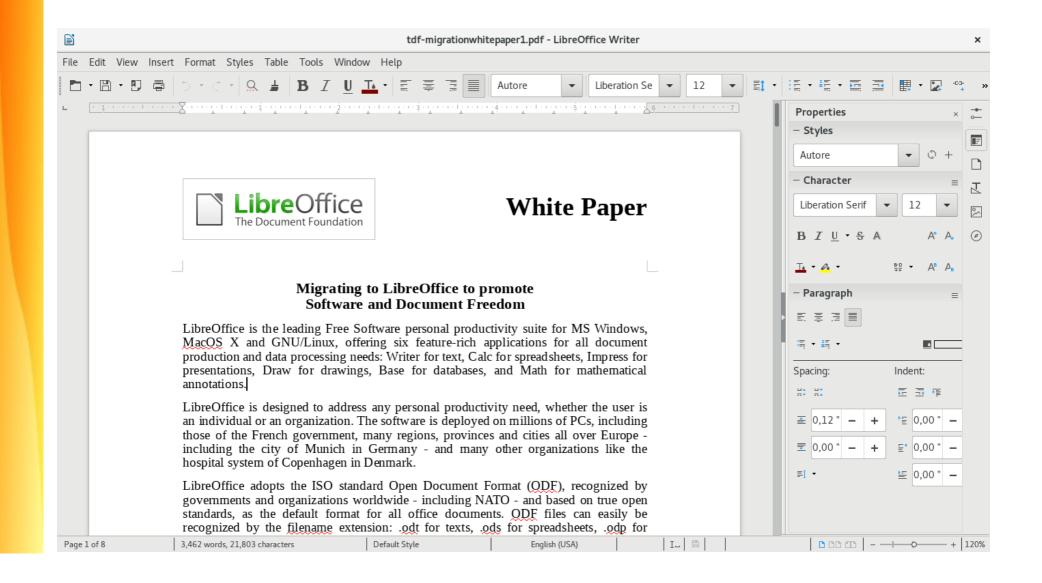
LibreOffice 3.3, 2010



LibreOffice 4.x, 2013-15



LibreOffice 5.x, 2015-17



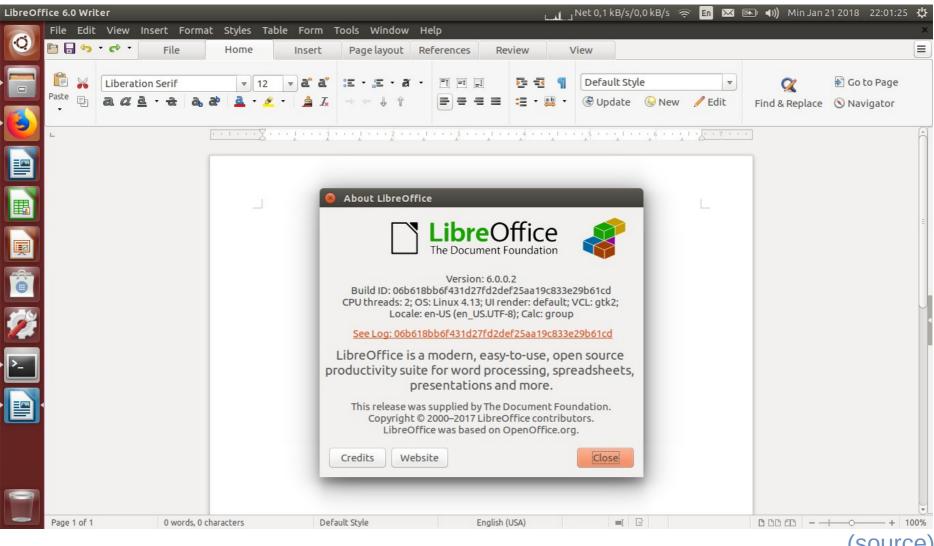
LibreOffice Online, 2016

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Apache OpenOffice 4.1.5, 2017

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Page 1 / 1 Default Spanish (Spain) INSRT STD	C CC ⊖ ♦ 100 %

LibreOffice 6.0, 2018



The project today

Development figures

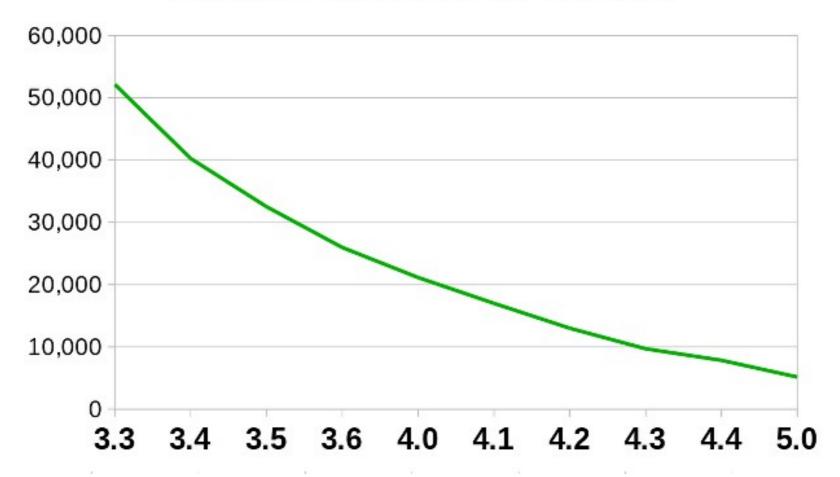
- Around 400 weekly commits by 50 different authors
- 9M lines of code
- ~28 years of history

"Exact history was lost before Sept. 18th, 2000, but old source code comments show that Writer core dates back until at least November 1990."

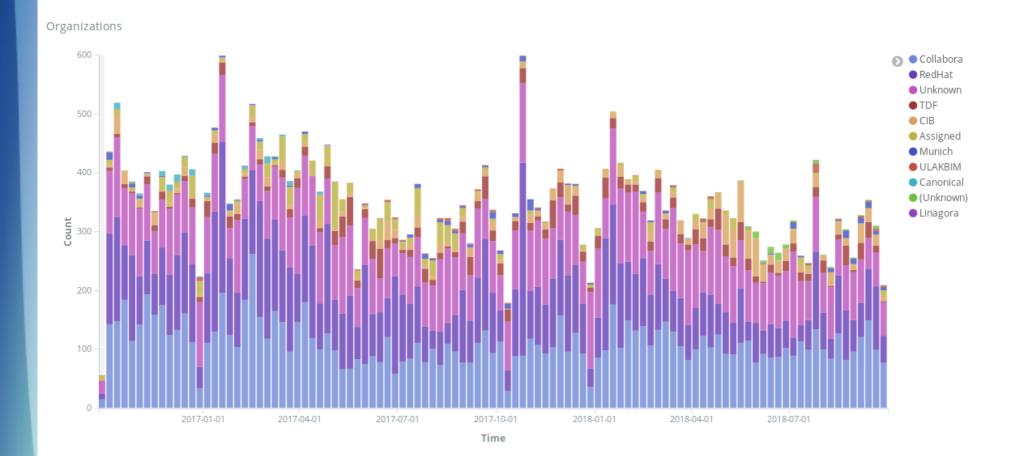
- Still 50000 lines of German code comments when LibreOffice was forked!
 - Bug closed in 2018

Stats: German comments

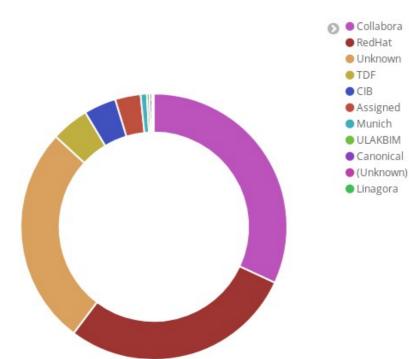
Detected lines of German comment



Stats: commits (Oct 16-Sep 18)



Stats: commits (Oct 16-Sep 18)



Organizations

Release calendar

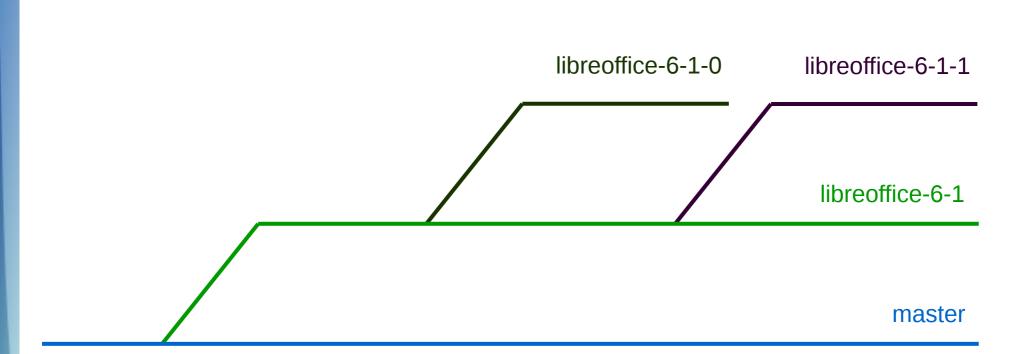
- Release early, release often
- Major release every six months (6.1.0)
 - Brings new features
- Minor release ~ every month (6.1.1, etc.)
 - Bugfixing only
- End of life: 9 months
- Always two versions coexisting
 - Right now: 6.0.6 and 6.1.2

Release calendar

- Plan for 5.0
 - https://wiki.documentfoundation.org/ReleasePlan

release	freeze	publishing
5.0.0	Week 21 , May 18, 2015 - May 24, 2015	Week 31 , Jul 27, 2015 – Aug 2, 2015
5.0.1	Week 31 , Jul 27, 2015 - Aug 2, 2015	Week 35 , Aug 24, 2015 - Aug 30, 2015
5.0.2	Week 36 , Aug 31, 2015 - Sep 6, 2015	Week 39, Sep 21, 2015 - Sep 27, 2015
5.0.3	Week 41, Oct 5, 2015 - Oct 11, 2015	Week 44, Oct 26, 2015 - Nov 1, 2015
5.0.4	Week 48, Nov 23, 2015 - Nov 29, 2015	Week 51 , Dec 14, 2015 - Dec 20, 2015
5.0.5	Week 3 , Jan 18, 2016 - Jan 24, 2016	Week 6 , Feb 8, 2016 - Feb 14, 2016
5.0.6	Week 15 , Apr 11, 2016 - Apr 17, 2016	Week 18 , May 2, 2016 - May 8, 2016
End of Life	May 29, 2016	

Branch model



Organizing a community

- The Document Foundation umbrella
 - Owns trademarks
 - Collects donations
 - Provides services to community
 - Organizes events
 - Occasionally funds development

Organizing a community

- Communication channels
 - Mailing lists
 - IRC
 - Bug tracker and code review
- Committees and teams
 - Engineering Steering Committee
 - Design team
 - QA team

Organizing a community

 Ultimately, individuals and companies define the project priorities by providing effort

Current lines of work

- Mobile and cloud versions
 - LibreOfficeKit API
- Support more document types
 - OOXML
 - Document Liberation Project
- GTK+ 3, Wayland, KDE Plasma
- UX improvements (design team)
- Polish

Architecture

General considerations

- There is not a global, application-wide design
 - Document filters: finite-state machine
 - VCL (visual components library): modeled after existing UI frameworks
 - Document model: Frame-Controller-Model

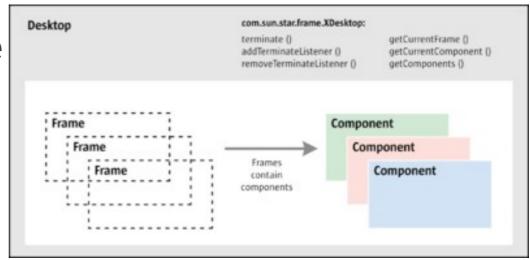
Frame-Controller-Model

- Model
 - Represents an object from the document
 - Text, shapes, spreadsheet cells
- Controller
 - Interaction between the screen and the model
 - Observes the model
 - Manipulates the presentation but not the model
- Frame
 - Bidirectional communication between controller and UI
 - Hierarchical organization

Other elements

• Component

- Common interface between controller and frame
- A frame can contain several components, which are either controllers of other frames
- Desktop
 - Hierarchy root frame
 - Specific interface



Dispatch framework

- Communication interfaces between components and UI
- Commands expressed by a URL
- Implemented in frames and controllers
- Responsibility chain
 - Traverse the hierarchy until reaching the one implementing the command

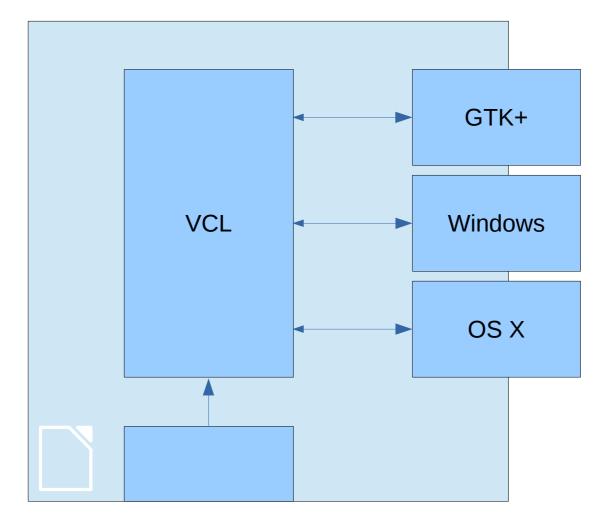
Other considerations

- Sometimes, interfaces expose the Frame-Controller-Model architecture but the implementation does not match
 - Historical reasons: architecture was engineered over an existing code base
 - Need to provide uniform API

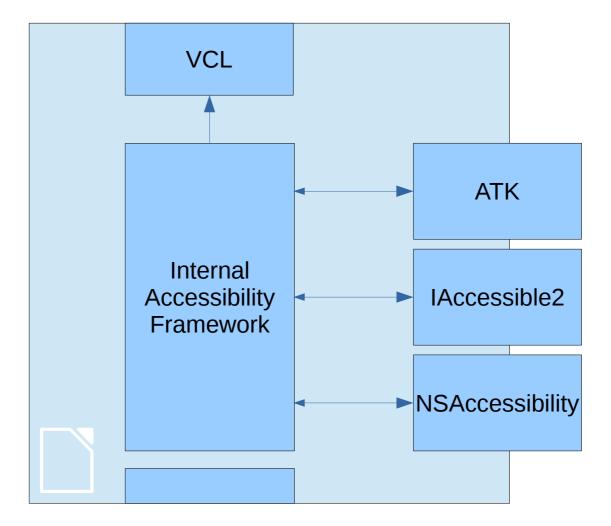
Visual components library

- Abstract UI elements: buttons, menus, etc.
- Each abstract element wraps an actual element of a supported UI framework
- Several UI frameworks available, enabled in compile time
 - GTK+, Windows, OSX

Visual components library



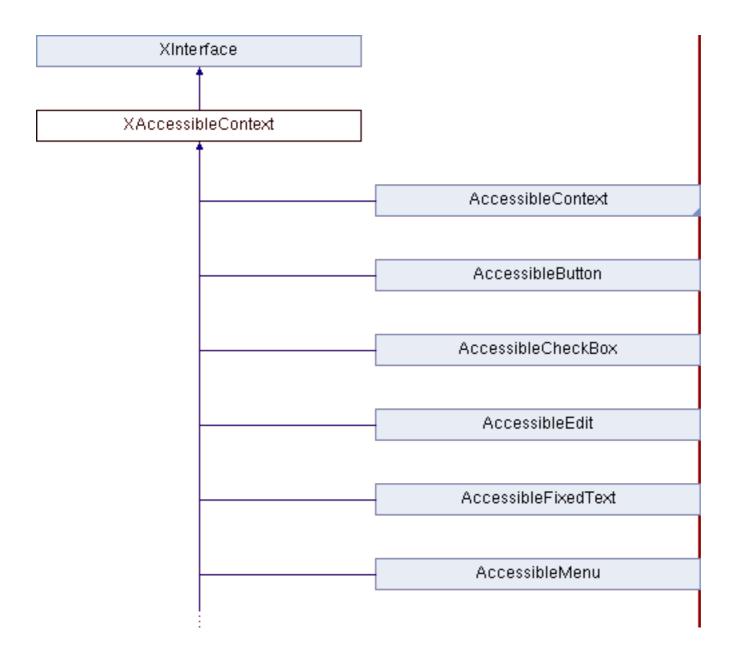
Accessibility framework



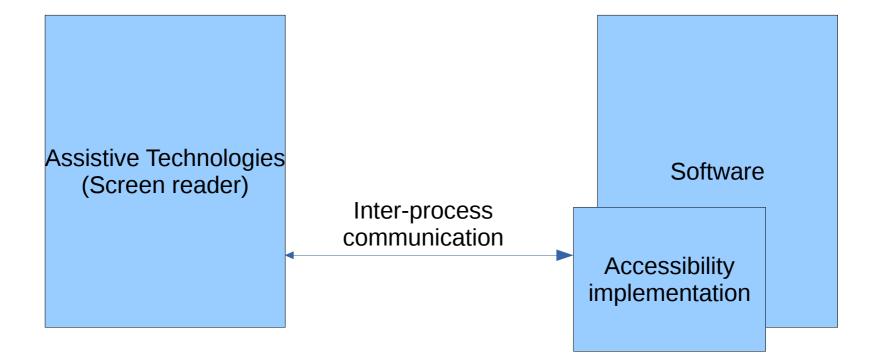
Accessibility framework

- Abstract accessible elements: buttons, menus, etc.
- Accessible elements match members of the VCL and wrap native classes of the a11y framework
- Several frameworks available, enabled in compile time
 - ATK (Linux), IAccessible2 (Windows), NSAccessibility (OSX)

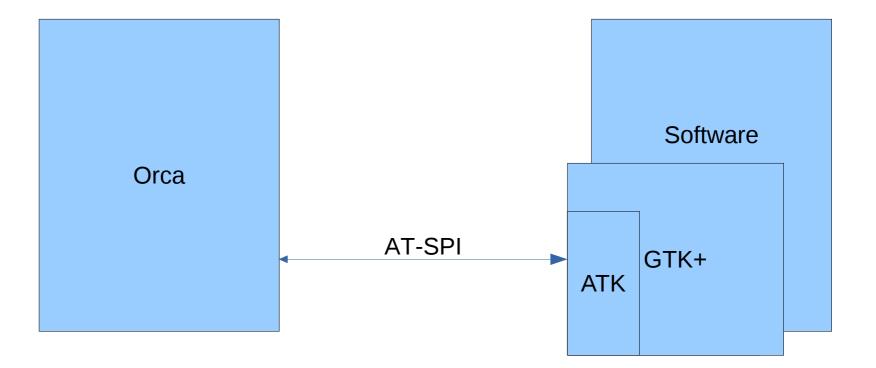
Interfaces involved in a11y

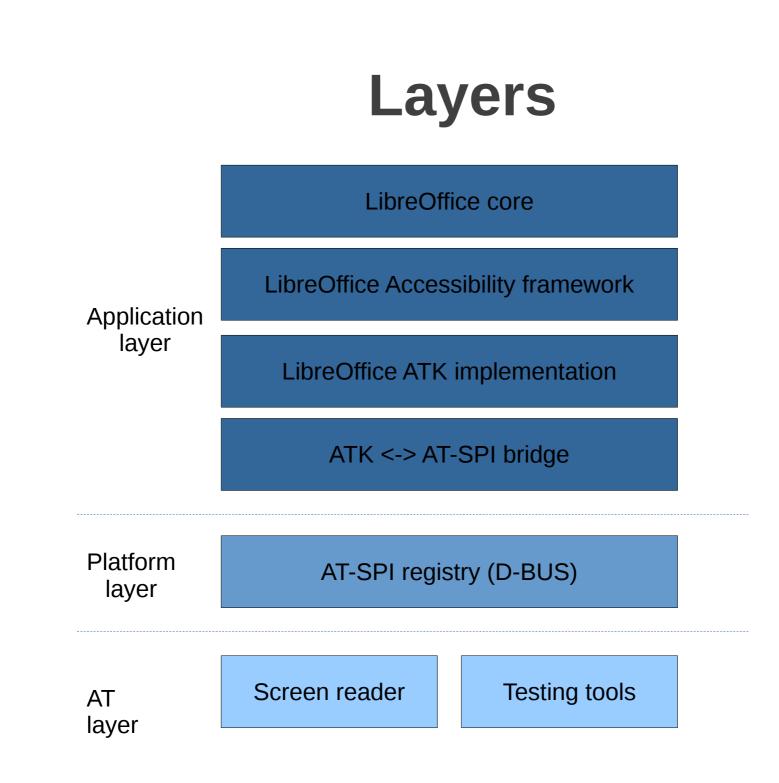


An abstract screen reader



Screen reader (GNOME)





Quality assurance

Techniques and tools

- Peer review
- Unit tests
- Continuous integration
- Crashtests
- Static code analysis
- Bug triaging
 Regression detection tools
- Manual testing

Peer review

- master branch
 - Committers without review, 1 review for others
- libreoffice-6-1 branch:
 - Only bugfixing
 - +1 review in any case
- libreoffice-6-1-x branches:
 - Only patches from 6-1 branch
 - +2 reviews

Peer review

Change 12213 by sushil_shinde Review in Progress C Reply							
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Branch Strategy Updated Change-	master Cherry Pick 23 hours ago I5d664867c982e48d2ff01363659282354822e541	 fdo#85491 : break parameter incorrectly set in .XLSX import. 1) TextBreak Parameter was bydefault 'false'. 2) At xichart.cxx::convert() [line:2973] 'TextBreak' property was changed as per 'labelFreq' value. 4) I have done same thing here and by doing this no existing unit test was failed. 					
Topic Code-Revi	iew		5) Added unit test to check 'TextBreak' value for chart. Change-Id: I5d664867c982e48d2ff01363659282354822e541				
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LibreOffice

Unit tests

- Check key elements in documents
 - Import
 - Import + export + import
- Variable coverage
 - Good coverage for new document formats
- No automated UI testing as for now

Continuous integration

- Several machines are periodically compiling LibreOffice
 - Daily or several times per day
 - Also run unit tests
- Compile patches in code review
- Different platforms
 - All supported platforms and some more (Android, iOS)
- Different compilation options

Continuous integration

< > G FI 🌣 http://tinderbox.libreoffice.org/MASTER/status.html × Tinderbox Status Page tree: MASTER Created at: Mon Nov 3 14:20 Add to Notice Board Regnerate HTML Pages Administrate this tree (MASTER) Tinderbox Index Build Time (UTC) inux-rpm deb-1 Inux-rpm deb-1 Inux-rpm deb-286 45-TDF-dbg 286 64 46-TDF Guilty enkins Jenkins MacOSX ×86 Time 1/03 14:2 03 13: 13:10 details details <u>details</u> 14.10 14:00 13:00 03 13:50 12:5 details rs: 225 core 12:40 13:40 13:30 12:30 13:20 12:20 13:10 12:10 <u>details</u> 13:00 12:00 1/03 12:50 11 /03 11:50 <u>details</u> 12:40 11:40 details errs: 33 <u>core</u> 12:30 11:30 12:20 11:20 12:10 11:10 details errs: 225 core rrs: 33 cor 12:00 11:00 3 10:50 details 3 11:50 11:40 10:40 11:30 10:30 11:20 10:20 11:10 10:10 details rs: 33 cor 10:00 11:00 details errs: 33 core 3 10:50 09:5 details errs: 45 <u>core</u> details core 09.40 10.40 10:30 09:30 10:20 09:20 details 80 co details core 10:10 09:10 details errs: 33 details errs: 33 corr details 09:00 detail 10:00 <u>details</u> errs: 33 11/03 09:50 /03 08:50 <u>details</u> 09:40 08:40 09:30 08:30 09:20 08:20 09:10 08:10 09:00 08:00 rs: 3616 co 3 08 50 08:40 07.40 08:30 07:30 08:20 07:20 08:10 07:10 08:00 07:00 /03 07:50 3 06: 50 07:40 06:40

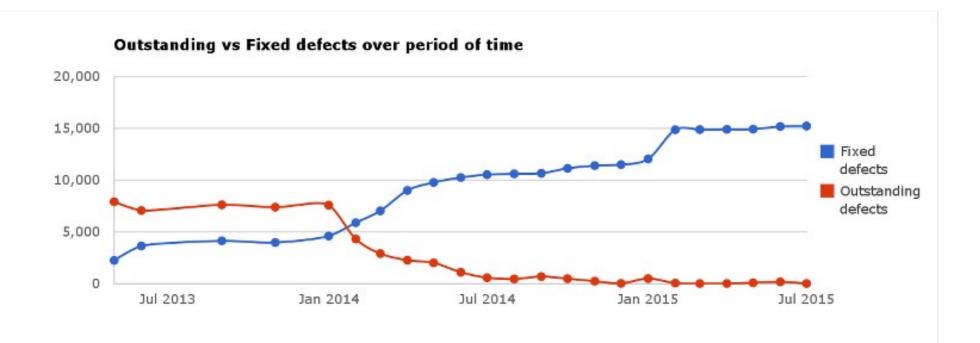
Crashtests

- Check crashes when opening and saving documents
- Sample size: 92000 documents
 - Most come from bug reports
- Periodicity: weekly

Static code analysis

- Tool Coverity Scan
 - Free for open source projects
- Detects: dead code, uninitialized variables, uncaught exceptions...
- Defect density reduced from 1,1 to ~0
 - Density measured in defects every 1000 lines
 - Average for similar sized projects: 0,71

Static code analysis



Bug triaging

- Periodically check bugzilla reports
 - Confirm bugs
 - Detect duplicates
 - Prioritize
 - Verify patches

Regression detection tools

- Regression: a problem that was not present in previous versions
- Main tool to fix regressions: *bisect*
 - Binary search of the guilty commit
 - Recompilation cycle makes it unfeasible in LibreOffice
- LibreOffice tool: *bi-bisect (binary bisect)*
 - Binary repository from different development stages
 - Recompilation not necessary

Manual testing

- List of tests to be manually run
 - Tool: MozTrap
 - Testing rounds for every pre-release (betas, release candidates)
- "Freestyle" testing
- Bug hunting sessions

¡Thank you!



