The Document Foundation

2025 Annual Report

LibreOffice
The Document Foundation

Document Liberation
Own your content

Welcome

2025 was the strongest year in the history of The Document Foundation, and the year in which the argument we have made for more than two decades reached a much wider audience. LibreOffice was downloaded almost 45 million times, our total income rose to € 2,175,997, and donations were close to 2 million euro for the first time. These results belong to the people who translate, document, test and develop LibreOffice, and to the donors who fund that work. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank all of them.

The year also showed that digital sovereignty has become a mainstream political concern. The Austrian Armed Forces completed their migration to LibreOffice, Schleswig-Holstein moved most of its workstations, Germany's IT Planning Council committed to ODF as the standard for document exchange, and OASIS approved ODF 1.4. At the same time, "sovereignty" is increasingly claimed by projects that control the infrastructure but leave the document format in the hands of a single vendor. Our position is that sovereignty is incomplete unless the format is open and native.

This report describes what we did in 2025, how we spent the money entrusted to us, and the priorities for the coming period: LibreOffice for the web, mobile and cloud, a renewed certification programme, and a clear position on AI and document formats. We welcome your comments and your support.

Eliane Domingos
Chairwoman of the Board of Directors
The Document Foundation

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State of the Foundation

THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT SHAPED THE YEAR

2025 was the year the argument TDF has made for over two decades stopped being a niche technical position and became a mainstream political one — and, in the process, the year that argument was most at risk of being co-opted.

The opportunity was unmistakable. Digital sovereignty moved from the margins of European policy debate to its centre. Governments that had spent twenty years treating the office suite as settled infrastructure began, publicly and urgently, to reconsider their dependence on a single foreign vendor. The geopolitical context did much of the work: procurement decisions that had been technical became strategic, and the question of who controls a public administration's documents acquired a weight it had not carried before.

That shift validated the position TDF has held since its founding. But it also produced a challenge we did not entirely anticipate. As sovereignty became fashionable, it was redefined — narrowed to mean control over infrastructure (where the server sits, who operates the data centre, under whose jurisdiction the data resides) while leaving format sovereignty almost entirely unexamined. The most visible expression of this was the Euro-Office coalition, announced in Berlin and shipped in mid-2025: a suite branded as sovereign, built on an OOXML-native codebase — that is, on the document dialect of the very vendor it proposes to replace. The branding inverted the substance. Sovereignty over the building; continued dependency inside the document.

This is the paradox that defined our year. The market finally agreed with our conclusion — Europe needs to control its digital future — while adopting a definition of the problem that quietly preserves the lock-in we exist to dismantle. The opportunity and the challenge were the same event.

Alongside this, the year offered a set of milestones that gave our public narrative its shape: the passing of 400 million cumulative LibreOffice downloads, the fifteenth anniversary of LibreOffice, and — most significant for our advocacy — the twentieth anniversary of the Open Document Format's adoption as an OASIS standard.

TDF'S RESPONSE, AND WHAT IT REVEALS ABOUT THE FOUNDATION'S DIRECTION

TDF's response to this environment was to sharpen, not soften, the distinction the market was blurring — and to make that distinction legible to audiences who had never previously thought about document formats at all.

The core intellectual move was to press, consistently and publicly, on a single question: not whether a system ***supports*** ODF, but whether ODF is its ***native, default*** format — the format in which documents are created, stored, and exchanged without user intervention. Supporting is not choosing. A format that is available on request but never the default leaves the lock-in fully intact. This "native versus support" distinction became the wedge through which we engaged the sovereignty debate throughout the year, applied publicly to the Euro-Office coalition and privately in direct exchanges with its principals — exchanges that yielded, on the record, an acknowledgement that native ODF status is the standard against which such projects should be measured.

What this reveals about our direction is a continued shift from ***promotion*** to ***advocacy*** — from persuading users to adopt LibreOffice toward shaping the standards, regulatory, and policy environment in which document formats live. The Annual Report itself reflects this: it has become, deliberately, as much an advocacy instrument as an accountability document.

AN ASSESSMENT OF WHERE TDF IS STRONG AND WHERE IT HAS TO GROW

TDF enters this period from a position of real strength, and it is worth naming that strength precisely rather than modestly.

Where we are strong. Financially, 2025 was the strongest year in the Foundation's history: total income of € 2,175,997, up substantially from € 1,387,589 in 2024, with donations exceeding one million euro for the fifth consecutive year and reaching € 1,976,825 — the highest figure to date. Part of that growth was organic; part is directly attributable to a concrete operational change, the in-product update notification introduced on Windows in August 2025, and we report that openly because

transparency about why the numbers move matters as much as the numbers. Adoption remains robust, with 2025 the highest download year in the series. And our intellectual position — the argument that documents are structured, executable artefacts governed by the same logic as software, and that open formats are therefore the only legitimate standard — has never been more aligned with the direction of public debate.

Where we have to grow. Three areas require honest acknowledgement.

First, ***narrative reach***. Our argument is technically unimpeachable and, to non-specialists, frequently illegible. The sovereignty debate was captured by an infrastructure-first framing precisely because that framing is easier to explain. If format sovereignty is to compete, we must make it as intuitive as "where does the server sit" — which means investing in analogy-based framing for basic users, policymakers, and educators, not only in argument for those who already agree.

Second, ***institutional resilience and succession***. A foundation whose advocacy voice is concentrated in a small number of individuals carries a structural risk. Part of the work of the coming period is deliberate: building capacity so that TDF's communications and policy function does not depend on any single person. This is a transition already underway.

Third, ***development sustainability***. The health of LibreOffice depends on a balance between volunteer contribution and ecosystem-company investment, and that balance requires continuous attention. Strong donation income is not the same as a resilient development model, and we should not let the former obscure questions about the latter.

WHAT THE NEXT 12–24 MONTHS LOOK LIKE

The next two years will be defined by whether the European sovereignty moment produces genuine format independence or merely relocates the lock-in to European soil. TDF's task is to ensure it is the former, and our work over this horizon organises around three fronts.
On **policy and regulation**, we expect the European proceedings to continue, and TDF intends to remain a substantive participant wherever format dependency is under examination. The regulatory environment is, for the first time in a generation, genuinely open to argument — and we intend to keep making it.

On **advocacy and public argument**, the priority is legibility: developing the "documents as software" thesis into framing that reaches non-specialist audiences, and connecting it to a broader civic access-to-information campaign across European countries. The intellectual foundation is built; the work now is translation and reach.

On **the Foundation itself**, this is a period of deliberate institutional maturation — strengthening the communications and policy function so that it is resilient beyond any individual, and ensuring that the strong financial position of 2025 is converted into durable capacity rather than treated as a permanent condition.

The measure of success over this period is not download counts or donation totals, welcome as strong numbers are. It is whether, twenty-four months from now, "digital sovereignty" in European public discourse routinely includes the format layer — whether the question "but is it native?" has become one that policymakers, journalists, and procurement officers know to ask. That is the argument TDF exists to win, and the conditions to win it have never been better.

Financials and Budgets

TDF exists because of a large, dynamic global community — volunteers, ecosystem companies and committed end users who support our work with donations of both time and money. The 2025 accounts tell a clear story: a foundation that grew significantly, while keeping its finances transparent and its spending tied to its mission.

A YEAR OF STRONG GROWTH IN INCOME

Total income for 2025 reached € 2,175,997, a substantial increase on the € 1,387,589 recorded in 2024. The growth came from three distinct sources, and it is worth being precise about each.

The largest share, € 1,976,825, came from donations — overwhelmingly from individual users and small businesses, mostly in Europe. This was the fifth consecutive year in which donations exceeded one million euro, and the highest figure to date. Part of this increase was organic, reflecting the continued strength of LibreOffice downloads. A further part can be attributed to a concrete change: in August 2025 we introduced a new in-product update notification on Windows, which periodically — after every major release and selected minor ones — informs users that an update is available, presents the new features, and invites them to support the project with a donation.

The effect was immediately visible as a step-up in donations from the moment it was deployed, and it is keeping donations at a higher level into 2026. We mention this openly, because transparency about why the numbers move is as important as the numbers themselves.

The second source was income from the sale of LibreOffice through online stores, sponsoring and related commercial activity, which together generated € 168,975. The Apple App Store (€ 118,942) and the Microsoft Store (€ 35,393) accounted for most of this. The third source was € 30,197 in income from securities held under the foundation's asset management.

HOW THE MONEY WAS SPENT

Total expenditure for 2025 was € 1,457,343. The breakdown by category shows where donor money goes.

Staff and operations remained by far the largest commitment, at € 1,091,032. This covers salaries (€ 406,736), statutory social security contributions (€ 93,244) and freelancers (€ 591,052) — the people who keep infrastructure, communication, administration and project coordination running.

Tenders. As in 2024, no development tenders were funded in 2025. All tenders related to LibreOffice development remain on hold pending the release of the new Procurement Policy requested by the foundation authorities and confirmed by the audit. Once that policy is in place, this category is expected to resume.

Events and community support amounted to roughly € 87,000, including the LibreOffice Conference (developer conference, € 51,184), community projects (€ 15,014) and student scholarships (€ 17,368), together with marketing initiatives. These funds support the events and local activities that hold the global community together.

Infrastructure and hosting came to € 51,420, covering the hosting, virtual machines, services and domains that underpin the project's technical independence — a foundational asset we continue to prioritise.

Closing Ledgers 2025	
Total Income	€ 2.175.997,33
Depreciation and Amortisation	€ 6.966,47
Cost Employees and Freelancers	€ 1.091.031,92
Total Project Costs	€ 112.297,98
Total Other Expenses	€ 251.902,86
Foundation Result	€ 142.915,58
Business Entity Profits	€ 167.708,22
Analysis of Individual Items 2025	
Legal Advice	€ 21.571,96
Developer Conference	€ 51.183,63
Marketing/Community Projects	€ 18.604,51
Scholarship for Students	€ 17.367,88
Graphic Redesign of Website	€ 3.570,00
Infrastructure, Hosting, VMs, Cloud, Domains	€ 51.420,28
Insurances, Fees	€ 4.625,84
Mandatory Social Expenses, Association	€ 93.243,89
Training Costs	€ 1.302,08
Accounting, Tax and Legal Advice	€ 50.229,42
Fees for Banking and Money Transfer	€ 51.189,70
Running Costs, Fees, Contributions	€ 22.965,79
Stripe Payment Fees	€ 46.446,47
Depreciation of Tangible Assets	€ 6.966,47

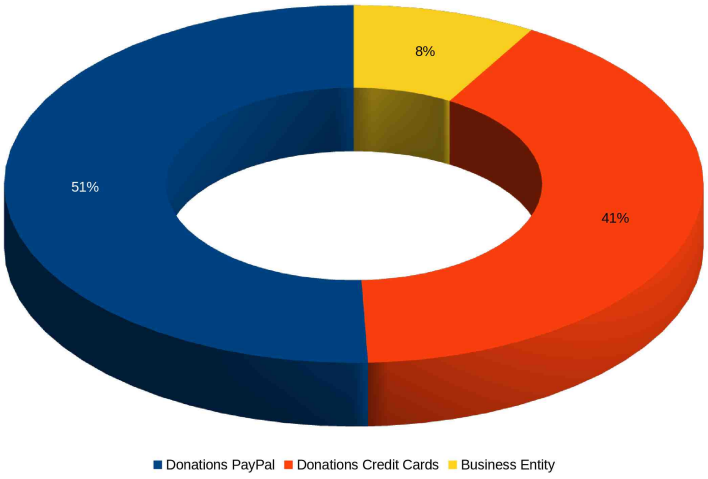
Legal and administrative expenses totalled roughly € 75,000, including accounting and the preparation of financial statements (€ 34,164), legal advice and counselling (€ 36,597 across project and general legal work), and insurances (€ 4,626).

Cost of fundraising. Receiving donations is not free. In 2025, payment-processing and banking fees came to roughly € 98,000 — Stripe fees of € 46,446 and bank transfer and money-transfer fees of € 51,190. These are simply the cost of doing business: they scale with the volume of donations we receive. It is worth adding that these figures do not capture the full picture, because PayPal's currency-conversion costs are embedded in the transactions and not separately visible — though they are comparable in scale to the Stripe fees. We report this plainly so that no reader underestimates what it costs to collect the donations that fund our work.

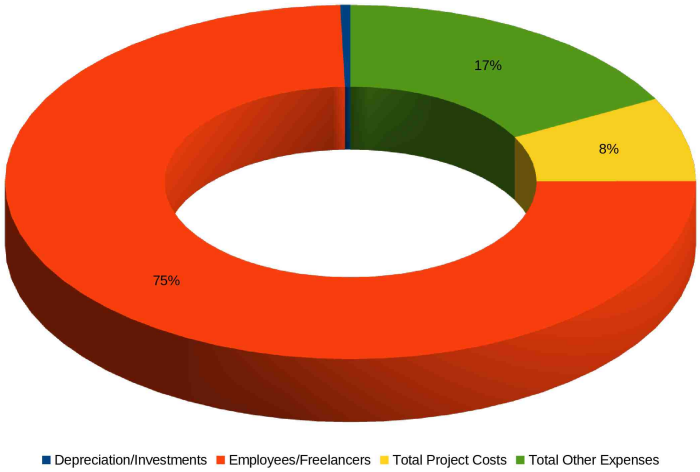
RESULTS AND TRANSPARENCY

After expenses, the charitable entity closed the year with a result of € 554,476, asset management contributed € 21,263, and the commercial business operations returned a profit of € 142,916.

The Document Foundation: Sources of Income in 2025



The Document Foundation: Expenses in 2025



Transparency remains one of TDF's defining characteristics — towards our donors, contributors, community and users. Our accounting is handled by a professional accountant, and our complete ledgers, listing all income and spending broken down by project, are published on our public wiki at ***https://wiki.documentfoundation.org/TDF/Ledgers***, with only a few items obfuscated for privacy. As in previous years, and given the scale the foundation has reached, our books have been audited, and the Board continues to work with the authorities in Berlin to implement the improvements the audit recommended.

To everyone who contributed time, skills, resources and money in 2025: thank you. The foundation's strength is your achievement.

Note: The expense categories above are indicative groupings drawn from the foundation's accounts. They exclude VAT flows and certain material costs that the ledger handles separately, so the categories are not intended to reconcile arithmetically with the per-sphere annual results. The authoritative, fully itemised figures are published in the ledgers at ***https://wiki.documentfoundation.org/TDF/Ledgers.***

Downloads and Donations

DOWNLOADS

LibreOffice was downloaded 44,809,742 times in 2025 from the official download page, and the year recorded the highest annual figure in the project's history.

These download figures should be understood as a floor rather than a ceiling. Several large channels fall outside the count entirely: most Linux users obtain LibreOffice through their distributions, installations from the Microsoft Store and the Mac App Store are not recorded, and the new Windows update mechanism means that a user may download the software once and subsequently update it without generating a further download. Actual usage is therefore considerably higher than the download total alone suggests.

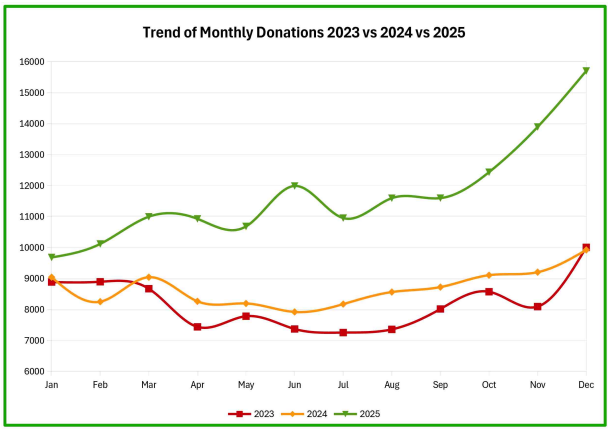
Viewed month by month, downloads remained consistently strong throughout the year, with 2025 ahead of both 2023 and 2024 in most months. The pattern shows no single dominant spike but rather a sustained level of demand, consistent with LibreOffice's established position rather than a one-off event.

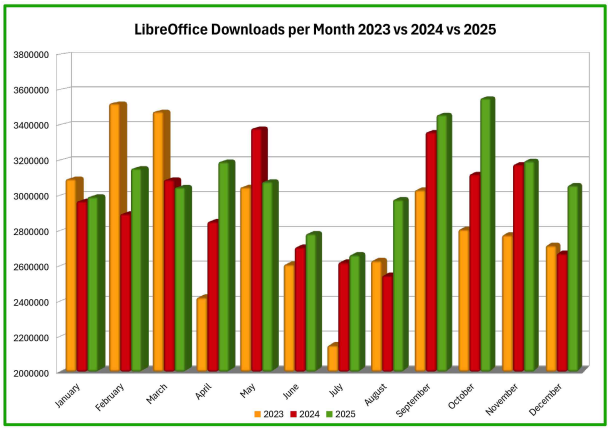
The update page offers a complementary perspective. It recorded 581,615,673 visits during the year — a figure that, while not deduplicated, gives a sense of the scale of the active user community. On a conservative basis, the Foundation estimates the LibreOffice user base at around 100 million, with a substantial further number of occasional users. A higher reading is also defensible: at a ratio of roughly one user for every three to four update-page visits, the active community would fall between 145 and 195 million.

DONATIONS

In 2025, The Document Foundation received 140,593 donation transactions, for a total of € 1,807,780 net of payment processing and currency conversion charges. This represents a substantial increase over the two preceding years: donation transactions had numbered 98,361 in 2023 and 104,430 in 2024, while the corresponding amounts were €1,302,956 and €1,387,589. Transaction volume therefore grew by approximately 35% year on year, and the cleaned total rose by roughly 30%. A note on methodology is useful here. The charts in this section report the number of donation transactions rather than the amounts received. This is deliberate: the financial figure can be established only after each transaction has been cleaned by subtracting conversion charges and processing fees, whereas the transaction count is known directly. The charts therefore describe the shape of the trend, while the euro totals given above represent the financial reality behind it.

The quarterly distribution shows that the year's growth was strongly concentrated in its final months. The first three quarters each built modestly on the last, and the fourth quarter rose well above them. This Q4 surge has a clear explanation. The announcement of LibreOffice 25.8 in August was followed by the introduction of a new update mechanism on Windows, which presents users with a dedicated new-features page and an invitation to support the project. This combination proved markedly effective in converting attention into contributions. The growing public interest in European digital sovereignty over the course of 2025 may have provided additional, favourable context, but the measurable drivers were the release and the new update mechanism.





Marketing and Advocacy Activities

In 2025, The Document Foundation and the global LibreOffice community pursued a marketing and advocacy programme that combined the established work of community building and software promotion with a sharpened public argument about digital sovereignty and open document standards. The year was framed by two anchoring milestones — LibreOffice's fifteenth anniversary and the passing of 400 million cumulative downloads — and by an increasingly explicit defence of the Open Document Format as the only open standard for office documents. What follows is a thematic overview of the major activities carried out in support of TDF and LibreOffice over the course of the year, grouped by area rather than reported month by month.

ANNIVERSARY AND ADOPTION MILESTONES

Two milestones gave the year its public narrative.

In January, TDF announced that LibreOffice had surpassed 400 million cumulative downloads since 2011, with an average of 28.6 million downloads per year and an upward trend reaching over 35 million annual downloads. The announcement reaffirmed the project's standing against the long-running narrative that the desktop office suite was destined to disappear into the cloud.

In September, the project celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of LibreOffice, launched on 28 September 2010 as a fork of OpenOffice. The anniversary was treated not merely as a software birthday but as a statement about the movement LibreOffice represents: a community of thousands of contributors and dozens of companies, localisation into more than 120 languages reaching billions of potential users, and a sustained argument for digital autonomy in an era of cloud lock-in and disappearing ownership. The communication tied the milestone directly to ODF as the guarantee of perpetual, transparent control over one's own documents.



ADVOCACY: DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY AND OPEN STANDARDS

The most distinctive development of 2025 was the consolidation of marketing into a coherent advocacy campaign around digital sovereignty and open document standards.

The end of Windows 10 support, ended on 14 October 2025, provided the central advocacy occasion. TDF backed the international @endof10 campaign and argued that the moment was a crossroads rather than a routine product transition, positioning Linux and LibreOffice as a privacy-respecting, future-proof alternative to a forced upgrade path toward Windows 11 and Microsoft 365, with their attendant subscription costs, cloud dependency, and hardware obsolescence.

Alongside this, the foundation built a body of technical and policy-oriented material making the case for ODF as the only open standard for office documents and exposing the structural problems of OOXML. This advocacy strand reframed the project's communication from product promotion toward a public argument about format ownership, lock-in, and institutional control of documents — an argument that resonated strongly with public-sector and policy audiences.



CONFERENCES AND MAJOR EVENTS

International and regional conferences remained central to the foundation's visibility.

The annual LibreOffice Conference 2025 was the flagship gathering of contributors — developers, designers, documentation writers, translators, and marketers — and was promoted across the project's channels in the now-established pattern of agenda, speaker, and live-update coverage. Two major regional conferences extended the programme across the world's communities: the LibreOffice Asia Conference 2025, hosted in Japan, and the VI Latin American LibreOffice Congress, held in Habana. Both brought together contributors and users from their respective regions, generated substantial follow-up content, and reinforced the project's presence in two of its most active geographies.

The community calendar was also rich with smaller regional events that the marketing team supported and amplified, including the LibreItalia Conference 2025, LinuxDays 2025 in Prague, the OSS Conf 2025 in Luxembourg, an event in Nepal tied to Software Freedom Day, the Augsburger Linux-Infotag, the Prague InstallFest, the Univention Summit, the Linux Arena in Pordenone (Italy), and FLISoL Brasília. The project also maintained a presence at FOSDEM 2025 in Brussels at the start of the year.

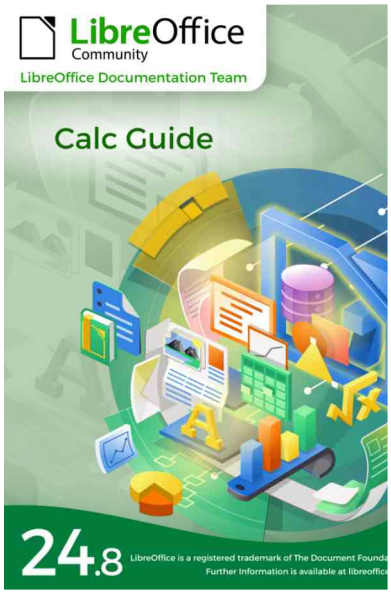
COMMUNITY BUILDING AND RECOGNITION

The recurring Month of LibreOffice campaigns ran again in May and November, recognising and rewarding contributors across development, documentation, QA, localisation, and marketing through digital badges, public acknowledgement, and sticker packs and merchandise shipped to participants. The campaign continued to serve both as a celebration of existing contributors and as an on-ramp for new ones.



A significant structural development was the launch of the LibreOffice US community in November. Recognising that the United States, despite a large user base, had never developed an organised local community, TDF created dedicated communication channels (Discord, bridged to Matrix, and a Mastodon account) with the goal of supporting US-specific merchandise, marketing and advocacy materials, and meetups.

DOCUMENTATION, PUBLICATIONS AND MERCHANDISE



The community continued to expand its published resources as a marketing and onboarding asset. New user guides were released for the 25.2 line, alongside the Calc Guide 24.8 and Czech translations of the Getting Started Guide 24.8 and the Calc Guide 25.2, reflecting the contribution of native-language communities. New LibreOffice Expert magazines for 2025–2026 were made available for schools and local communities, and a new line of LibreOffice merchandise was introduced to support events, giveaways, and fundraising.

MEDIA, PRESS RELATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

TDF sustained its media relations work throughout the year, issuing press releases tied to releases, milestones, events, and public-sector adoption, and reinforcing LibreOffice's position as a cost-effective, secure, and privacy-respecting alternative to proprietary office suites. The social media strategy continued across Mastodon, LinkedIn, and the project's other channels, with particular

emphasis on reaching decision-makers in public administration through case studies and adoption stories, and on carrying the digital-sovereignty argument to professional and policy audiences. Monthly project-and-community recaps provided a steady, aggregated record of activity across the year.

PUBLIC-SECTOR ADOPTION

Public-sector migration continued to be one of the most persuasive elements of the project's external messaging, demonstrating LibreOffice's viability at institutional scale and lending concrete weight to the digital-sovereignty argument that ran through the year's advocacy. These migrations were amplified through press and social channels as evidence that open standards and open-source office software are a realistic foundation for public administration.

CONCLUSION

In 2025, TDF's marketing and advocacy work matured from software promotion into a coherent public case for digital sovereignty built on open document standards. Anchored by the fifteenth anniversary and the 400-million-download milestone, sharpened by the end of Windows 10 and the defence of ODF, and sustained by conferences, community campaigns, publications, and steady media work, the year's activities both amplified LibreOffice's visibility and strengthened the wider argument that documents — and the institutions that depend on them — are better served by open standards and community-driven software.



Language Support

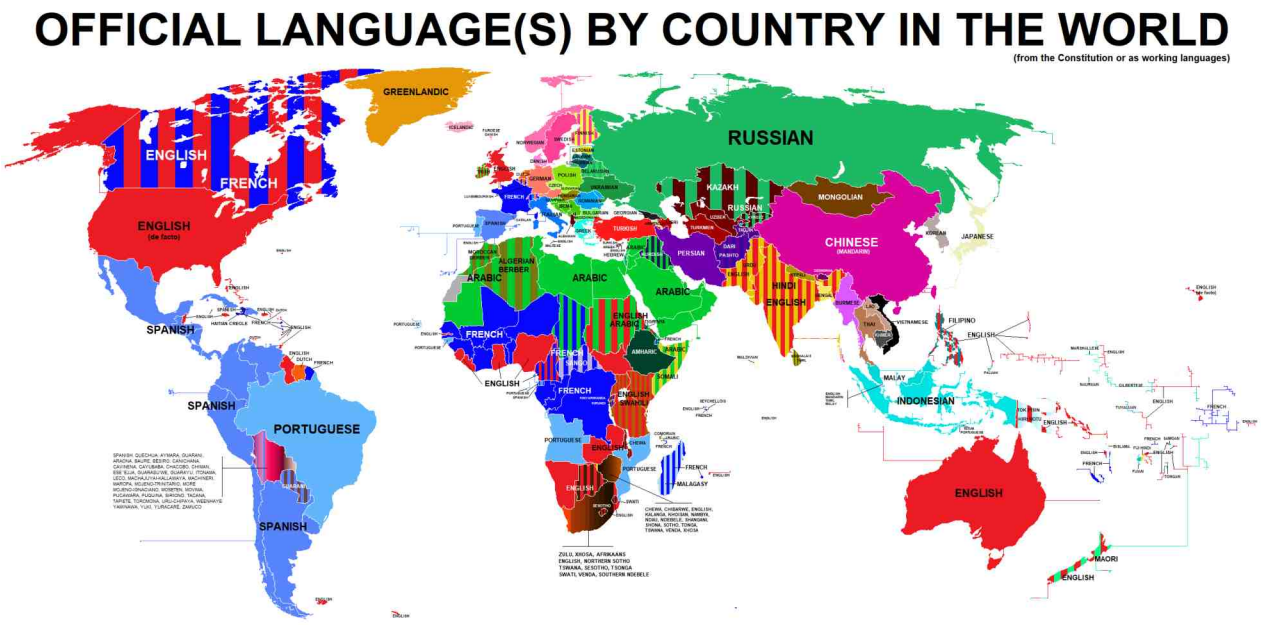
SOFTWARE IN THE LANGUAGE OF ITS USERS

LibreOffice is available in more native languages than any other office software: 120 released language versions, with close to fifty more in active development. This is the work of native-language communities around the world, and of the thousands of volunteers who translate the interface, build spell-check dictionaries, and maintain the linguistic resources that make the software usable in daily life rather than merely installable.

The depth of that support varies, and deliberately so. Comprehensive support means far more than a translated menu: it covers a localised user interface and help system, AutoText and AutoCorrect lists, spell-check dictionaries, hyphenation patterns, a grammar checker, and a thesaurus. Each component is a separate effort, and each is contributed by people who know the language from the inside. The result is software that adapts to the user, rather than asking the user to adapt to the software.

For many languages, this is not a convenience but a precondition for digital existence. Proprietary vendors localise by market size: a language is supported when supporting it is commercially worthwhile, and neglected when it is not. By that logic, languages spoken by smaller or less affluent communities are served last, or never. Some of the languages present in LibreOffice are supported by no other software at all; some are spoken by communities working actively to keep them alive. Guaraní, co-official in Paraguay and spoken across parts of Argentina and Brazil, is one example; Venetian, the expression of a strong and self-aware regional community, is another. For their speakers, an office suite in their own language is a small but real act of cultural continuity.

This is where language support meets a question we usually frame in technical terms. Digital sovereignty is most often discussed as control over formats, data, and infrastructure — the freedom to keep working without depending on a single vendor's decisions. But there is a linguistic and cultural dimension to it as well. A community that cannot read, write, and compute in its own language is dependent on whoever decides that language is worth the effort. Software available in one's own language is therefore not only closer to the user; it is a form of sovereignty in its own right — the ability of a linguistic community to participate fully in digital life on its own terms, without waiting for permission from a market.



LibreOffice Development and Releases

RELEASES OF THE YEAR

LibreOffice's release plan works on a time-based release schedule, with major updates every six months (typically in February and August). In other words, there are two new versions of LibreOffice per year. Many other FOSS projects adopt a similar time-based approach, and since 2024, LibreOffice has used a "year.month" versioning scheme – so LibreOffice 25.2, for instance, was released in the second month (February) of 2025. This versioning scheme helps users to see how old (or new) their currently installed version of LibreOffice is.

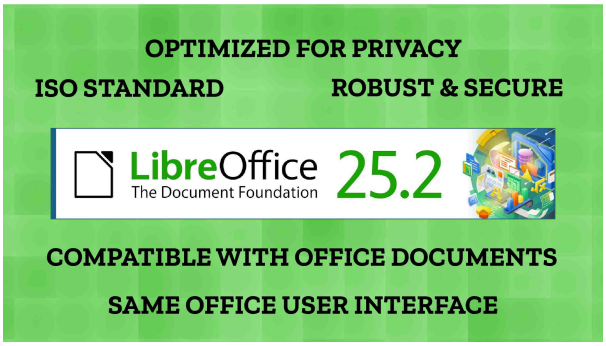
In addition to the major upgrades, there were monthly smaller "point" releases, mainly fixing bugs, compatibility issues and security vulnerabilities.

MAJOR FEATURE HIGHLIGHTS

LibreOffice 25.2 was released on 6 February. It introduced the ability to read and write ODF version 1.4, alongside numerous interoperability improvements with proprietary OOXML documents. It became possible to automatically sign documents after defining a default certificate. Additionally, Windows 7 and 8/8.1 were designated as deprecated platforms, with support scheduled to be removed in version 25.8, and extensions and features relying on Python ceased to work on Windows 7.

In LibreOffice Writer 25.2, improvements were made to Track Changes management to better handle a large number of changes in long documents. Comments were tracked in the Navigator when the focus was moved into them, while resizing the area containing comments showed a visual guide. Options were added to set a default zoom level for opening documents, which overrode the level stored within the documents themselves. It also became possible to delete all content of a specific content type, excluding headings, via the Navigator.

In LibreOffice Calc 25.2, a “Handle Duplicate Records” dialog was added to select or remove duplicate records. Both the Function Wizard dialog and the Functions Sidebar deck received improvements to searching and



user experience. Solver models could be saved into spreadsheets, and the Solver became able to provide a sensitivity analysis report. New sheet protection options were also added relating to Pivot Tables, Pivot Charts, and AutoFilters.

Furthermore, many improvements were made to all Impress templates, which received visible elements, such as the font colour being set to black, in Master Notes and Handout. Objects could be centred on the Impress slide or Draw page in a single step, and the automatic repeating of slides could be activated in windowed mode. Finally, overflowing text in presenter notes was no longer cut off when printing.

Meanwhile, LibreOffice 25.8 was released on 20 August. It brought new performance and features to the suite. In the User Interface, the Welcome/What’s New dialog began offering access to the user interface picker and appearance options, which allowed new users to leverage LibreOffice’s flexible UI and personalise the look and feel according to their preferences. The release also provided better interoperability with Microsoft Office files, offering



more accurate handling of DOCX, XLSX, and PPTX files with fewer formatting issues, thanks to changes such as:

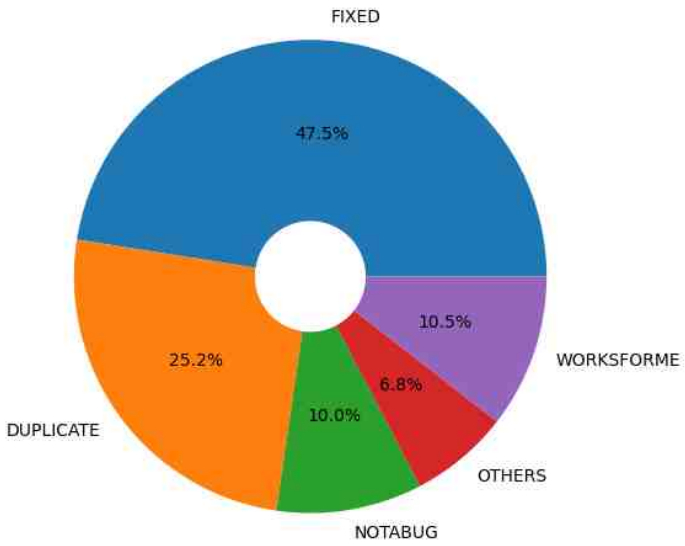
- A complete overhaul of word hyphenation and spacing
- Font management in Impress updated to be compatible with PowerPoint files
- The addition of new functions in Calc: CHOOSECOLS, CHOOSEROWS, DROP, EXPAND, HSTACK, TAKE, TEXTAFTER, TEXTBEFORE, TEXTSPLIT, TOCOL, TOROW, VSTACK, WRAPCOLS, and WRAPROWS.

There were, of course, other important new features, such as the ability to export to the PDF 2.0 format, and several new ScriptForge library services.

PERFORMANCE

Throughout 2025, the LibreOffice community continued to work on improved performance in the suite. In LibreOffice 25.2, the speed of font previews in Calc was greatly improved. Additionally, the speed of saving from XLS to ODS was greatly improved to offset the impact of increasing the supported number of columns to 16k, and saving ODS files with large merged ranges became faster. Spreadsheets with lots of conditional formatting opened and saved much faster, while spreadsheets with lots of comments also saved much faster. Finally, the speed of loading XLS files was also greatly improved to offset the impact of increasing the supported number of columns to 16k.

In LibreOffice 25.8, performance was upgraded so that everything ran faster, from startup to scrolling through large documents, with significant speed improvements delivered on less powerful machines. In benchmark tests, Writer and Calc opened files up to 30% faster. Optimised memory management allowed for smoother operation on virtual desktops and thin clients.



RESOLVED BUGS RESOLUTION

QUALITY ASSURANCE

For every release, the LibreOffice Quality Assurance community produced Alpha, Beta and Release Candidate versions, giving users the chance to test the software (and report bugs) well in advance of the final release. Throughout the year, thousands of bugs were confirmed, triaged and resolved. The QA team wrote monthly reports about its activity on the QA blog: ***https://qa.blog.documentfoundation.org***

ACCESSIBILITY

In LibreOffice 25.2, the Accessibility Sidebar featured improved warning and error levels, along with a new option to ignore specific warnings. Additionally, user interface elements were updated to report an accessible identifier that can be utilised by assistive technologies.

Platform-specific enhancements included on Windows, where accessibility was automatically enabled whenever a tool queries information on the accessibility level, and accessible relations were now correctly reported. Meanwhile, on Linux, the positions of UI elements, including those on Wayland, were accurately reported on the accessibility level.

LibreOffice 25.8 added an accessibility check for links and references in header/footer. Menus in the File Templates/Manage Templates dialog became screen reader accessible on Windows. Support for the IAccessible2 "text-indent" attribute was added, which could be used by assistive technology like screen readers to report the indent of a paragraph's first line. Additionally, the table design view in Base no longer becames unresponsive when a screen reader was active on Windows. Finally, comboboxes and other controls inside toolbars were also represented in the accessibility tree of the application.

Document Liberation Project

The Document Liberation Project was created to empower individuals, organisations and governments to recover their data – locked inside obfuscated and proprietary file formats – and migrate them into perpetually accessible standard file formats. To return effective control over content to its real authors, the DLP develops software libraries that can be used by applications to read data in proprietary formats. The libraries are currently used by LibreOffice, along with other free and open source tools including Calligra, Inkscape and Scribus.

Development continues on many of the libraries, but the developers would appreciate more help, to understand proprietary file formats in more detail. Anyone can contribute by submitting documents and files at ***https://www.documentliberation.org/contribute/***. Non-programmers can help by testing applications that use the latest versions of the libraries, and seeing if there are any issues with their documents. And developers are encouraged to expand the support of file formats by creating new libraries.

A full list of DLP import and export libraries is provided on the website at ***https://www.documentliberation.org/projects/***. This page also provides links to introspection tools, which can be used to analyse documents (especially binary formats that can be difficult to decode).

In 2025, there were two updates to Document Liberation Project libraries. Libvisio is a library that parses the file format of Microsoft Visio documents of all versions, and version 0.1.10 improved theme colour handling. Meanwhile, Libetonyek, a library that parses the file format of Apple iWork documents (Keynote, Numbers and Pages), was updated to version 0.1.13 and added missing Numbers function names.

THANKS TO THE DOCUMENT LIBERATION PROJECT WE CAN READ YOUR DOCUMENTS

Policy and Digital Sovereignty

THE GLOBAL DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY SCENARIO

Across the reporting period, the public conversation about office software and document formats shifted decisively. The justification for moving away from proprietary suites is no longer framed primarily as cost saving. It is framed as the preservation of independence — the ability of a government to act without asking permission from a foreign supplier. Several of the year's migrations were announced with that argument stated explicitly and the cost argument set aside; the Austrian Armed Forces went so far as to say the move was not about money at all.

This reframing matters for The Document Foundation, because it moves the debate onto ground where the Foundation has argued for two decades. Digital sovereignty is the ability of nations, organisations and individuals to control their own digital destiny: to control access to their own information without depending on third parties, to make technological choices based on their own needs rather than a vendor's commercial strategy, and to preserve that self-determination as the market consolidates. When public bodies store their documents in proprietary formats controlled by a single company, they surrender part of that sovereignty.

The year also clarified a distinction the Foundation has long insisted on, and which is developed later on: sovereignty is not delivered by any single layer of the technology stack. It requires an open standard format at the base, an open source application above it, open source infrastructure for data location, and a legislative framework that defines the requirements. A law favouring open source, an open cloud, and an open suite together still leave sovereignty incomplete if the document format itself remains under one vendor's control. The format is the foundation of the stack, and it is the layer most often overlooked.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS RELEVANT TO ODF ADOPTION AND OPEN STANDARDS

The year's central policy development was Germany's formal commitment to ODF, a decision whose full weight became apparent only as it moved from principle toward binding implementation.

Germany's IT Planning Council Commits to ODF (April 2025)

In April 2025, Germany's IT Planning Council — a seventeen-member body representing the federal government and the state governments — committed to moving public administration to the Open Document Format, with the stated aim of making ODF the standard for document exchange by 2027. The Council framed open formats and open interfaces as a necessary building block of public-sector transformation toward digital sovereignty, and commissioned its Standardization Board to implement the decision. The commitment set a clear trajectory: a federal-level decision, binding on the implementing board, with a 2027 target for ODF as the standard for document exchange. Its translation into concrete, enforceable infrastructure standards was expected to follow — and the early signs as the year closed pointed toward exactly that outcome.

ODF 1.4 Approved as an OASIS Standard (December 2025)

On 3 December 2025, OASIS Open approved ODF v1.4 as an OASIS Standard — the organisation's highest level of ratification — coinciding with the twentieth anniversary of ODF's original adoption as an OASIS Standard. The new version maintains full backward compatibility while improving accessibility support (assistive technologies, decorative-object marking), professional formatting and visual design, and features for data analysis and technical documentation. It remains an XML-based, vendor-neutral, royalty-free format. Earlier ODF versions are published as ISO/IEC 26300; the four-part v1.4 specification is available in the OASIS library.

Twentieth Anniversary of ODF Standardisation

The year carried the twentieth-anniversary thread throughout: ODF's adoption as an OASIS Standard in 2005, and its ISO/IEC standardisation on 3 May 2006. The ODF v1.4 ratification in December 2025 was deliberately timed to the OASIS anniversary. The anniversary is not merely commemorative: it underpins the argument that ODF is the only open standard for office documents with a twenty-year record governments can rely on for long-term archival access.

OPEN DOCUMENT FORMAT CAMPAIGN AND DOCUMENT FREEDOM DAY

The Foundation ran a sustained ODF communications campaign through the year, built around a regular series of articles on the TDF blog. Rather than isolated announcements, the series formed a coherent body of work that moved from the fundamentals — what ODF is and why it matters — through technical and practical material on file types, compliance and interoperability, the differences between ODF and proprietary formats, migration guidance, and the new features of recent ODF versions, and on to the wider argument connecting open document standards to digital sovereignty. Taken together, the series gave the Foundation a standing reference resource and a consistent public voice on the format throughout the year.

Document Freedom Day was marked as a purely advocacy-driven occasion: blog posts, social media activity across the Foundation's channels, and small local events organised by community members around the world. The emphasis was on awareness and outreach rather than on any single flagship event.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS MIGRATING TO LIBREOFFICE/ODF DURING THE YEAR

The following migrations were publicly reported and verifiably advanced during 2025. Status reflects what the primary or most reliable source actually supports. Long-standing legacy deployments are deliberately excluded; this list is reserved for movement during the year, and only entries with solid sourcing are included.

Schleswig-Holstein (Germany) — Confirmed, Substantially Advanced

By early December 2025, the northern German state reported that close to 80% of administrative workstations outside the tax administration were running LibreOffice as the binding standard, with Microsoft Office and Outlook either already uninstalled or in the process of removal, and a new-licensing rate already well below 10%. The state reported licence-cost savings already exceeding €15 million, against a one-time 2026 migration investment of €9 million. The remaining ~20% of workstations depend on specialist applications with technical ties to Microsoft formats; migration paths for these, and for the tax administration, have been defined. In parallel, the state completed the migration of more than 40,000 mailboxes (over 100 million messages and calendar items) off Exchange/Outlook to Open-Xchange and Mozilla Thunderbird, with the cutover finishing 2 October 2025.



Austrian Armed Forces / Bundesheer — Confirmed, Completed in 2025

The Austrian military migrated approximately 16,000 workstations across all branches from Microsoft Office to LibreOffice, with the project finalised in 2025 and Microsoft Office 2016 removed from all machines (Office 2024 LTSC retained only under special permission for legacy macro/Access cases). The Directorate 6 (ICT & Cyber) stated the primary driver was digital sovereignty and in-house data processing, explicitly not licence savings. The Bundesheer contributed more than five person-years of upstream development back to the LibreOffice project; the migration was presented at the LibreOffice Conference 2025 in Budapest.



THREATS TO ODF ADOPTION AND DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY

The year's gains were real, but they sit alongside structural threats. The central risk is that the open-source application migrations succeed while the open format battle is quietly lost — that lock-in survives the move by relocating from the application to the document.

Format Sovereignty as the Overlooked Layer

An office suite that does not use ODF as its native format handles ODF files imperfectly, which re-creates interoperability problems and pushes users back toward the proprietary format "for convenience." A government can therefore adopt an open suite and an open cloud and still fail to achieve sovereignty if its documents remain in a format controlled by a single vendor. The format is the base of the stack; without it, every layer above is compromised.

The "ISO Standard Format" Sleight of Hand

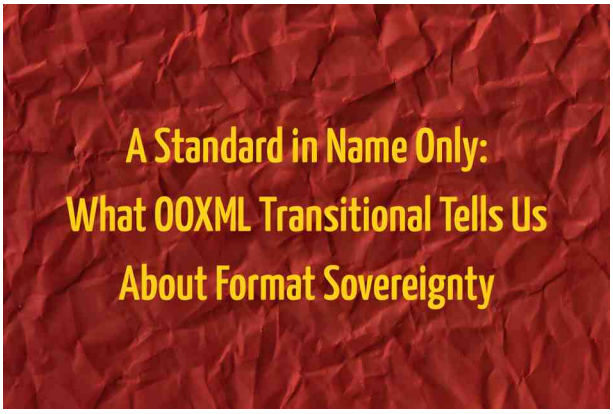
When a public administration is told its documents are stored in "an ISO standard format," the reasonable assumption is genuine openness. OOXML Transitional does not deliver it: its stacked dependencies — format, rendering and fonts — re-encode failure at each layer. A format named as a standard while defined by its own specification as provisional is the principal rhetorical obstacle to ODF adoption, and the principal target of the Foundation's three-strand evidence work.

Initiatives that Default to OOXML under a Sovereignty Banner

A specific and growing risk is the European sovereignty initiative that adopts open source applications and open infrastructure while defaulting to OOXML rather than ODF as its native document format. Such an arrangement re-encodes the dependency at the format layer even as it presents independence at every other layer. This is a precise failure mode, which gives the Foundation's insistence on a native open format its practical urgency.

Political Reversibility

Sovereignty gains are reversible without durable policy commitment. Munich's LiMux reversal remains the cautionary precedent, and the year offered a live counter-signal: even as Schleswig-Holstein advanced, Bavaria was reported to be pursuing a major Microsoft 365 contract. This is why a binding federal commitment to ODF, of the kind Germany set in motion in 2025, matters: it raises the cost of reversal. But commitments depend on sustained political will to carry them into enforceable practice.



Migration Case Studies

AUSTRIAN MILITARY

The Austrian military (Bundesheer) migrated 16,000 PCs from Microsoft Office to LibreOffice. The main reasons behind the switch were to: strengthen digital sovereignty; maintain independence of IT infrastructure; and ensure that data is processed in-house.

The initial plan to move to LibreOffice was formed in 2020, and detailed planning and training of internal developers for improvements began in 2022. In 2023, a company in Germany was contracted to provide technical support and additional development.

The Austrian military's migration reflects a growing demand for independence from single vendors. With free and open source software like LibreOffice, anyone can study and modify the source code to make improvements specifically for their setup and workflow. Government bodies and organisations can free themselves from vendor lock-in, spending taxpayers' money on local companies to provide support and further development – rather than paying for licence fees from overseas companies.

At the LibreOffice Conference 2025, representatives from the Austrian armed forces gave a talk about their switch from Microsoft Office, highlighting some of the new features and improvements that they have sponsored: notes pane; live-mode slideshow editing; scrolling through presentation slides; zoom level presets in Writer; deleting metadata on demand; import of protected pivot-table sheets; and many more.

FLOTTE KAROTTE

Flotte Karotte is a German organic delivery service founded in 1996. Operating with approximately 50 employees across its office, packing and delivery divisions, the company has evolved into a full-range supplier akin to an organic supermarket. Flotte Karotte places a strong emphasis on sustainability, regionality, and ethical cooperation, prioritising secure marketing channels for smaller farms and utilising electric vehicles and cargo bikes for its logistics operations.

The organisation's alignment with Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) began at its inception. Operationally, the adoption of LibreOffice was driven by two primary factors:

Cost Efficiency: Minimising licensing overhead is critical for sustainable business margins.

Vendor Independence: Utilising open-source software prevents dangerous dependencies on single, proprietary software providers.

Flotte Karotte deploys LibreOffice as its standard office suite, primarily using it for day-to-day word processing and spreadsheet operations. The software integrates into a broader open-source ecosystem that includes a Linux-based server infrastructure, Proxmox for virtualisation, Mozilla Firefox, and Thunderbird.

The company's management reports that LibreOffice successfully and fully meets its requirements. The company notes only a minor compatibility issue involving an advanced Excel formula used by a public sector contractor. Rather than viewing this as an internal limitation, Flotte Karotte argues that public sector entities should similarly transition away from proprietary software ecosystems to achieve digital sovereignty. The company maintains high satisfaction with the platform, underscored by a financial donation to support the continued development of the LibreOffice project.

Native Language Projects

CZECH

The Czech community maintained an active presence both online and in-person. Their localisation efforts remained strong, keeping the UI fully translated and the Help files at 95% completion. The team also stayed connected with their user base through the Czech Ask LibreOffice site, along with social media presence across X, Facebook, Instagram and Mastodon.



There was also outreach at events. The team hosted dedicated LibreOffice booths at InstallFest in April and LinuxDays in October, both held in Prague. Documentation also saw significant updates, with the publication of the Getting Started Guide (24.8), the Calc Guide (25.2), and the Draw Guide (25.8).

DANISH

The Danish community focused on multimedia education and consistent localisation in 2025. There was the launch of the @libreofficeskolen ("LibreOffice School") YouTube channel. This initiative provides the Danish-speaking public with a series of instructional videos designed to lower the barrier to entry for new users. Alongside this output, the community kept the UI and Help files fully translated at 100%, and ensured that LibreOffice promotional videos were accessible via localised subtitles.

DUTCH

Beyond maintaining the local website and providing assistance via the Ask LibreOffice website and mailing lists, the Dutch-speaking community worked on many documentation updates.

Beginning in January with the Calc Guide for 24.8, the community then published a steady stream of translated manuals for version 25.2, including the Writer, Impress, Math, and Getting Started Guides. This effort then led to the release of the updated 25.2 Calc Guide in July. On the localisation front, the Dutch team continued their work on Weblate, successfully maintaining 100% translation coverage for both the User Interface (UI) and the Help system, following upstream changes.

FINNISH

The Finnish community focused on steady and ongoing translation efforts. The team prioritised localisation of the UI, with secondary work continuing on the Help system. To ensure the long-term sustainability of these efforts, the community has been proactive in outreach, utilising the vapaaehtoistyo.fi online platform to recruit volunteers.

FRENCH

The French-speaking team maintained 100% translation coverage for both the UI and Help systems across all versions of LibreOffice. Their localisation work extended to the new Hugo-based website, release notes, and the Extensions wiki page. Significant progress was also made on the translation of Calc functions on the wiki and the subtitling of promotional videos.

Outreach was a major topic in 2025, with the community representing LibreOffice at events like Capitole du Libre in Toulouse, and Open Source Experience in Paris. The team also worked on academic ties, coordinating with UBO University to involve translation students in user guide writing. Beyond documentation and QA, the French team supported users through the Ask LibreOffice site and published various articles on LinuxFR. In addition, there were REGEX tutorials for civil servants and introductory presentations at public media libraries.



GERMAN

Throughout the year, the German-speaking community wrote blog posts (and translated others from the English-language blog), maintained its social media activity on Mastodon, and worked on user interface translations. Community members also attended local events on behalf of the LibreOffice project, such as the Augsburger Linux-Infotag 2025 and Digitaltag 2025 in Duisburg.

IRISH

The Irish-speaking community made significant steps in 2025 to bring the suite to native speakers. Currently, the UI and website translations are nearing 100%, with the LibreOffice 26.2 user interface already reaching a 96% completion rate. The team's primary focus is now on finalising these remaining strings and resolving technical checks.

ITALIAN

The Italian-speaking community maintained 100% translation status for the UI and Help files across all active versions of the suite. The team helped with localising the project's new Hugo-based website and kept the Italian-speaking public informed by translating all release notes and press releases. Current efforts are focused on the ongoing translation of Calc functions on the wiki and a comprehensive revision of various wiki pages.

In 2025, the Associazione LibreItalia organised a full-day LibreItalia conference in Gradisca d'Isonzo, following the adoption of a regional law mandating the use of free open source software in Friuli Venezia Giulia, an eastern Italian region bordering Slovenia. The politician who signed the law provided an overview of the approval process.

The event was organised by Marco Marega, a long-standing member of LibreItalia who is active in the localisation team and other areas of the project. Several members of the Pordenone LUG attended the conference and initiated a discussion about organising the 2026 LibreOffice Conference in their city. This discussion then evolved into an official proposal.

JAPANESE

The Japanese community had a busy year in terms of events. There was the LibreOffice Asia Conference 2025 in Tokyo, a two-day event that brought together 70 attendees. Outreach extended internationally as



Japanese members travelled to COSCUP 2025 in Taiwan to deliver three talks and strengthen ties with the Taiwanese community.

The community also organised:

- Online Hackfests: Held 46 times via Jitsi and YouTube Live
- Online Study Parties: Three sessions dedicated to user knowledge sharing
- LibreOffice Days: Monthly offline meetups in Osaka, co-hosted with the Open Data Mokumoku-kai
- Open Source Conferences (OSC): Booths and hackfests at seven locations across Japan, from Hokkaido to Fukuoka



On the documentation front, the team published the Writer Guide for LibreOffice 25.2 in Japanese. Localisation efforts currently stand at 91% for the UI and 46% for Help. The team also remained responsive to end users, answering nearly 50 new questions on Ask LibreOffice, publishing 20 blog articles, and maintaining a steady presence on X, Facebook and Bluesky.

KAZAKH

Starting in late 2025, the community launched a refresh of its translation efforts, achieving 100% UI completeness in time for the LibreOffice 26.2 release. This work extended to the localisation of the official website and the activation of the Help master branch, preparing for future documentation projects.

To improve consistency across other open source projects, the team is currently developing a unified Kazakh glossary derived from various localisation projects. Furthermore, the community has begun testing the use of AI-assisted translations, reporting high-quality results to improve their workflows in 2026.

TAGALOG

The Tagalog community made steps forward in localisation, maintaining the user interface and Help files at a high completion rate of 98–99% across all versions. The team continued to integrate Deep Language Modelling to automate accuracy verification. While the community experiences a natural ebb and flow of contributors, there is growing interest in expanding support to regional dialects, such as Ilocano.

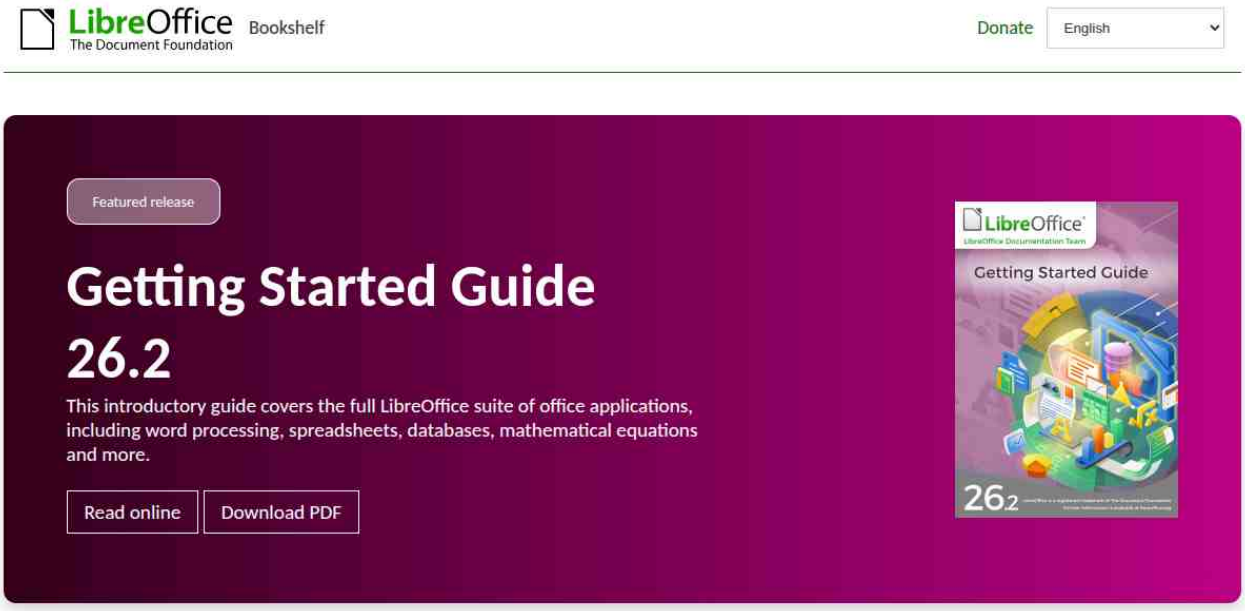
The team also wishes to extend a special note of gratitude to the dedicated group of US-based translation helpers whose contributions were vital to success in 2025.

Documentation Milestones

LibreOffice's documentation team, made up almost entirely of volunteers, had a productive year. At the start of 2025, Dione Maddern and the rest of the team announced the immediate availability of the LibreOffice Calc Guide 24.8, an update of the existing Calc Guide 24.2 with enhancements taken from the recently released LibreOffice 24.8 Calc module. The book was reviewed for clarity, readability and content additions, notably the Calc database table referencing in formulas, removal of deprecated JavaScript debugger and refactoring of the Calc's chart topic – in which the chapter on charts was split in two, one for the chart basics and the second for the chart types.

In July, the team announced that the Writer, Calc, Impress, Draw, and Math User Guides were now available for LibreOffice 25.2. Jean Weber led the Writer guide, Peter Schofield coordinated the Impress, Draw, and Math guides, and Olivier Hallot headed the Calc guide. Big thanks also to Dione Maddern, Celia Palacios, Ed Olson, B. Antonio F., Mike Kaganski, and Vasudev Narayanan for their valuable contributions.

Later in the year, work continued updating the guidebooks for the upcoming LibreOffice 26.2 release. In addition, the team worked on updating the online Help content for the suite.



Certification

WHY CERTIFICATION MATTERS, AND WHY IT MATTERS IN FOSS

Certification has long been one of the connective tissues of the IT industry. For decades it has answered a practical question that every CIO, procurement officer and IT manager eventually asks: how do I know that the person or the organisation in front of me actually knows what they claim to know? Vendor certification — from Cisco, Microsoft and Oracle to, more recently, the major cloud providers — became the shorthand answer. It reduced hiring risk, structured career progression, gave employers a common vocabulary for competence, and let the market price expertise with some confidence.

Whatever one thinks of the proprietary business models behind these schemes, the underlying need they serve is real: complex technology creates an information asymmetry between those who build systems and those who depend on them, and certification is one of the few mechanisms that narrows it.

Free and open source software does not escape this need, if anything, it faces it more acutely. The proprietary vendor sells a licence and, with it, an implicit promise of accountable expertise, while a FOSS project distributes code under a licence that explicitly disclaims warranty.

The competence that a proprietary vendor centralises inside a company is, in a healthy FOSS project, distributed across a community. That is a strength, but it leaves a gap precisely where the corporate world looks first: an organisation deciding whether to migrate thousands of desktops to LibreOffice, or to commission a bug fix, or to train hundreds of staff, wants the same reassurance it would demand of any other supplier.

The absence of a credible certification does not make the need disappear, it simply pushes risk-averse decision-makers back towards the proprietary options they already know how to evaluate. Certification in FOSS is therefore not an imitation of proprietary practice, it is the removal of an unfair disadvantage. It is worth recalling that the model is not alien to open source, as MySQL, Red Hat and SUSE have run competence certification for years, precisely because the enterprise market required it of them.

WHY THE DOCUMENT FOUNDATION IS THE RIGHT CERTIFYING AUTHORITY

The harder question is not whether FOSS needs certification, but who has the standing to grant it. For LibreOffice the answer follows from where competence actually resides.

The Document Foundation is the project's home: the developers who write and review the code, the migration professionals who have moved public administrations off proprietary suites, the trainers who teach the software, and the community members who assess interoperability and open standards are all here, or one step away.

No external body possesses that concentration of first-hand, verifiable knowledge of LibreOffice, the OpenDocument Format and the surrounding ecosystem. Certification is only as trustworthy as the competence of those who confer it, and that competence is a collective property of the community rather than of any single individual or company.

This is the principle on which our programme rests. TDF certification is granted through peer-to-peer review by people whose own standing in the project is established and public, and recognises individual skills without binding the Foundation to the certified person's actions or holding it liable for them. It is a benchmark of quality, not a warranty.

Crucially, because the reviewers are themselves active contributors, the assessment is not a paper exercise against a checklist but a judgement of genuine capability by qualified peers — the same mechanism that governs how contributions to the project itself are evaluated.

A foundation that already trusts its community to steer the code, the format and the roadmap has every reason to trust that same collective competence to say who is, and who is not, a credible LibreOffice professional.

Seen this way, certification is not a bureaucratic add-on but an extension of the project's core logic into the corporate world.

It gives CIOs and IT managers a recognition comparable to what proprietary vendors offer — a like-for-like basis for choice that includes not only the software but the value-added services around it — while keeping the source of that recognition where it belongs: inside the community that builds and sustains LibreOffice.

It is against this backdrop that the programme now enters a period of review and renewal.



LIBREOFFICE CERTIFICATION IN 2025

Ten years after its introduction, the certification programme was put on hold in 2025, pending a relaunch based on updated rules reflecting market developments, which is due to take place in 2026.

The programme had a complex genesis between 2012 and 2014 because it introduced a process typical of proprietary software into a free and open-source software project, but it subsequently proved its worth as it was fundamental to some of the most important migration projects; indeed, even today, the certification is sought after primarily by developers, who at the time were among the most sceptical about its necessity.

Today, it is necessary to standardise the criteria for accessing certification, which until now have differed for developers and for professionals in the fields of migration and training; to extend certification to include support, as the maintenance of migration projects has become a major challenge for many organisations; and to introduce a certification of skills in ODF, the standard document format.

This is in response to developments in the international landscape, where digital sovereignty – understood as the transparent governance of technologies at all levels, from supranational bodies to individual states and their institutions, to organisations and companies, right down to individuals – is key. This landscape will require skills that are, in part, different from those needed to date, not least because of the rapid rise of AI across all processes.

LibreOffice Conference and External Events

LIBREOFFICE CONFERENCE

The LibreOffice Conference was the annual get-together of the worldwide LibreOffice community, bringing together developers, contributors, and users. The 2025 event was held in Budapest, Hungary, from 3 to 5 September, and was preceded by a community session.

The main conference featured 53 sessions spread over three days. It kicked off with a welcome and housekeeping session, followed by an opening speech of Eliane Domingos from TDF's Board of Directors, and a welcome speech from the university that hosted the event.

After that, the talks began across several different tracks, including the Open Document Format, advocacy and marketing, development and extensions, UX and design, and more. The full list of talks can be found on https://events.documentfoundation.org/libreoffice-conference-2025/schedule/. There was also a notable talk from the Austrian military (Bundesheer) about their migration to LibreOffice and the new features they funded.

The event finished on Friday with a lightning talks session, followed by the closing address and a celebration for the 15th anniversary of LibreOffice. But the conference was more than just talks: there was a community dinner as well.

Now the community is looking forward to 2026's LibreOffice Conference. The event did take place in



Pordenone, northern Italy, from 10 to 12 September, and was extremely successful.

In addition to the main LibreOffice Conference, there was the LibreOffice Asia Conference 2025, which took place in Tokyo, Japan, from 13-14 December. Speakers and guests from around the world discussed topics specific to Asian communities, such as complex text layout (CTL) and CJK (Chinese, Japanese, Korean) language support, and marketing LibreOffice in specific countries.

There was also the sixth edition of the Latin American LibreOffice Congress, held in Habana, Cuba, from 6 to 9 October. LibreOffice project activities were concentrated on October 6, and in the special session “LibreOffice Congress and Technological Sovereignty”, on the 8th. With the remaining days available, the organisers articulated a parallel agenda of activities, with visits and strategic meetings with managers and professionals from governmental and community areas.



TDF AT EXTERNAL EVENTS

Throughout 2025, members of The Document Foundation and the LibreOffice community attended many other events around the world. The first major event was FOSDEM, held in Brussels in early February - the biggest meetup of free and open source software developers in Europe. As usual, the LibreOffice community was present with a stand, merchandise, stickers, flyers, clothing and more. Attendees came by to talk about the project, report issues and make suggestions.

In late April, the Augsburger Linux-Infotag 2025 event took place in southern Germany, and LibreOffice was present with a stand and merchandise. Another German event was the Univention Summit 2025: it took place on January 23 and 24 in Bremen, and the LibreOffice project was present and met with the people overseeing the migration to LibreOffice in the northern German state of Schleswig-Holstein.

Italian community members attended the Linux Arena event from April 25 – 27 in Pordenone. They had a LibreOffice stand with a 32" monitor, showing an Impress presentation about LibreOffice on a loop. At the stand they met different interested people – some of whom they already knew since they visit the fair regularly, while others they saw for the first time. There was curiosity about LibreOffice, and this time the stand personnel noticed an increasing demand for AI integration and related plugins. The LibreOffice coffee/beer mats were very much appreciated by visitors to the stand.

Later in the year, Community members in Nepal tuned in to an online call and turned Software Freedom Day 2025 into a success. Birendra Open Source Club – one of the student clubs and LibreOffice project contributors in Nepal, with support from Liaison Suraj Bhattarai and other key open source clubs, hopped onto Discord on 20 September.

On October 4 and 5, the LinuxDays 2025 event took place at the Faculty of Information Technology (Czech Technical University) in Prague. It combined stands for free and open source software projects with workshops and talks, and the Czech-speaking LibreOffice community was there.

The Indian LibreOffice community celebrated Document Freedom Day in Noida on 29 March. The event featured a few talks on free software such as OpenStreetMap, Prav and KDE, and also a lawyer told attendees how they manage all their clients' data with free software while keeping their privacy in mind. LibreOffice merchandise was distributed at the sticker table.









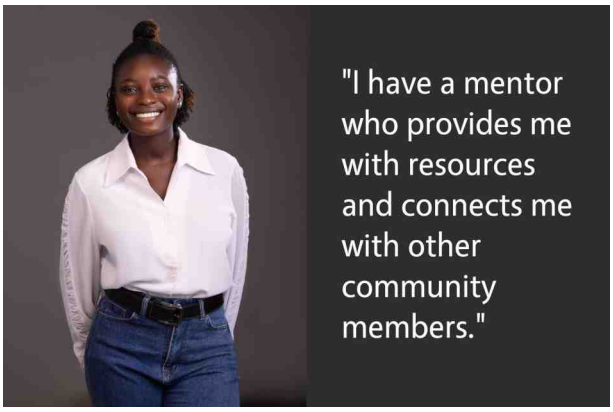
Contributor Spotlights

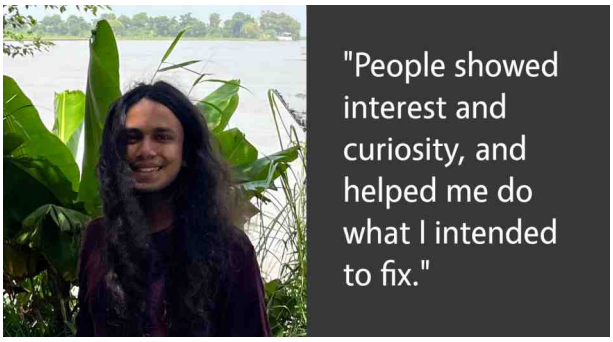
In 2025, The Document Foundation showcased the work of various contributors. Part of this was done via the "Month of LibreOffice" campaigns, which gathered statistics about contributions in May and November, and featured the names (or usernames) of contributors on a wiki page. Everyone on the page could then request a LibreOffice and Document Liberation Project sticker pack from TDF - and some bonus merchandise was sent out to 10 randomly chosen winners too.

TDF also highlighted contributor activities on the blog. For instance, as part of the "Community Member Monday" series, TDF interviewed Ndidi Folasade Ogboi about her contributions to the LibreOffice project. She talked about being part of the Outreachy project and working to improve LibreOffice Writer templates - also saying thanks to her mentors at TDF.

Then TDF interviewed Devansh Varshney, who was working on making the Basic IDE better and more powerful by introducing a new Object Browser in the IDE, which is one of the most requested features as users working with LibreOffice had to visit the online API webpage to refer to the details of UNO APIs.

TDF also showcased some extensions made by the community. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a hotly debated topic, and LibreOffice has no plans to include it as a standard feature in the suite, while the community has created optional extensions to answer the request of AI-powered features. Igor Támara created the “Stable Diffusion for LibreOffice” extension for AI-generated images powered by AI Horde (a volunteer crowd-sourced distributed cluster of image generation workers), and we interviewed him for the blog. Similarly, John Balis worked on localwriter, an extension to allow for inline generative editing with local inference. It can be used with any language model supported by Ollama or text-generation-webui.





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milupo	30024	Michael Wolf	5318	Edgarsons	2584
kees538	26838	naniud	5294	inurwansah	2524
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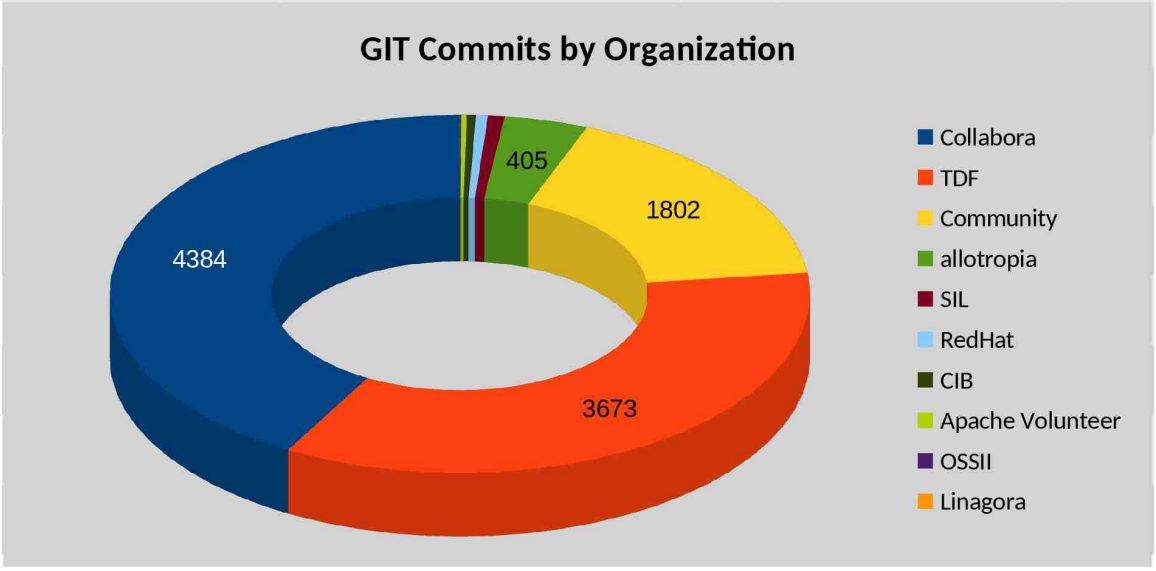

Interoperability and the Format Landscape

Document interoperability is not a feature. It is the precondition for everything else a document is meant to do: to be read by someone other than its author, on software other than its author's, in a year later than the one it was written. Where interoperability fails, the document stops being a record and becomes a dependency. This chapter reviews the year's developments across the two formats that define the field, and the conditions under which each can be opened, inspected, and trusted over time.

STANDARDS DEVELOPMENTS: OASIS AND ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 34

The principal development of the year for the OpenDocument Format was the ratification of ODF version 1.4 as an OASIS Standard on 3 December 2025, the organisation's highest level of approval. The release coincided with the twentieth anniversary of ODF's original adoption as an OASIS Standard in 2005.

ODF 1.4 maintains full backward compatibility with earlier versions. Its improvements concentrate in four areas: clearer developer documentation, expanded support for assistive technologies and accessibility, refinements to professional formatting and visual design, and extended capabilities for data analysis and technical documentation. The specification remains a multi-part standard built on a publicly available, RELAX NG–schema-defined XML structure, published at no cost through the OASIS library.

A point of precision matters here, because it is one that procurement officers and policy-makers are entitled to expect us to state plainly. ODF 1.4 is, as of the close of the reporting year, an OASIS Standard. It has not yet been submitted to ISO/IEC for international standardisation. The current ISO/IEC text remains ISO/IEC 26300:2015, corresponding to ODF 1.2. The pathway from OASIS ratification to ISO/IEC publication is established — ODF 1.0, 1.1, and 1.2 each travelled it through JTC 1/SC 34, the joint ISO/IEC committee responsible for document description and processing languages — but the steps are distinct, and the work is sequential. Anyone specifying "the ISO standard for open documents" today is specifying ODF 1.2. Anyone specifying "the current OASIS OpenDocument Standard" is specifying ODF 1.4. Both statements are correct; they are not interchangeable.

The OpenDocument Technical Committee continues its work under OASIS, meeting regularly and operating, as it has throughout its existence, as an open committee that any qualifying organisation or individual may join. The contrast with how the competing format reached international standardisation — examined below — is not one we need to draw rhetorically. The committee structures themselves draw it.

AUDITABILITY: AN INSPECTABLE STRUCTURE VERSUS AN OPAQUE ONE

An ODF file is a ZIP package. Unzip it and the contents are legible: the document body, its styles, its metadata, and its embedded media, each in a separate XML part, each conforming to a published schema. A reader with no tool more specialised than a text editor can open content.xml and see what the document contains. A validator can confirm that the file conforms to the specification, because the specification fully defines what conformance means. Nothing in the format's behaviour is described by reference to the undocumented behaviour of a particular application.

This property is not an aesthetic preference. It is the working basis of three things public institutions depend on. The first is verification: an archivist or auditor can confirm that a stored document is what it claims to be, without trusting the vendor that produced it. The second is automation: workflows can read, transform, and generate documents against a stable, documented schema. The third is longevity: a format whose structure is fully specified can be re-implemented decades from now by people who have never seen the software that created it.

OOXML's structure is XML and ZIP-based as well, and in its Strict form it is, in principle, comparably inspectable. The difficulty is that the form Microsoft Office actually produces is not the Strict form, and the Transitional form is not fully specified within the standard. A significant portion of its behaviour is defined by reference to how

particular versions of Microsoft Office behave — including versions that are no longer sold or supported. A file can be syntactically valid XML and still be unintelligible to anyone without access to the originating application's undocumented conventions. Inspectability requires more than that the bytes be XML. It requires that the specification, read on its own, be sufficient to explain them. For ODF, it is.

OOXML STRICT VS TRANSITIONAL: THE CONFORMANCE GAP PERSISTS

ISO/IEC 29500, the OOXML standard, defines two conformance classes. Strict is the clean version: a modern format intended to be implementable by any qualified party working from the specification alone. Transitional is the compatibility class — a large catalogue of deprecated elements, legacy graphics formats such as VML (rejected by the W3C in 1998, and surviving only inside Transitional), and behaviours specified by reference to older Microsoft Office versions. Transitional was presented at standardisation as a temporary bridge, necessary to carry documents converted from the old binary .doc, .xls, and .ppt formats into XML without loss.

The reporting year brought no change to the central fact of this arrangement, and the absence of change is itself the finding worth recording. Microsoft Office has never produced Strict OOXML as its default output. Read and write support for Strict arrived only with Office 2013; the option to save in Strict remains inconsistently available across editions of Microsoft 365, present in the installed desktop applications and absent from the browser-based versions. Almost two decades after standardisation, Transitional remains what Office produces by default, what users receive, and what any competing implementation must support to be useful.

The consequence for procurement is specific. Specifying "ISO/IEC 29500" in a tender does not guarantee an implementable, vendor-neutral format. It guarantees conformance to a specification whose practically deployed variant is, in effect, whatever Microsoft Office produces. The clean standard exists on paper. The standard that exists in files is the other one. A conformance class that no major producer generates by default, and that the standard's principal implementer supports unevenly across products sold under the same name, is a definition without a deployment.

DATA SOVEREIGNTY AND THE CLOUD-PROCESSED DOCUMENT

The format questions above concern what a document is. The sovereignty question concerns where it is processed and stored, and who, in consequence, can reach it.

When a document is created, edited, and held within a vendor's cloud environment, the format in which it is encoded is no longer the only thing that determines access to it. A second layer of dependency is added: the operator of the service can read its contents, can change the terms under which it is reached, and can — by suspending an account, altering a licence, or withdrawing a service in a jurisdiction — render the document inaccessible to the party who wrote it, without that party's file ever changing. The document has not moved. The conditions of access to it have.

This is the distinction that matters for any institution treating document storage as a sovereignty question rather than a procurement convenience. A locally held ODF file remains readable by its owner under any circumstance in which the owner controls a device and a conforming reader — and conforming readers are multiple, independent, and free of charge. A document held in a vendor-operated environment remains readable on terms the vendor sets and can revise. The first arrangement keeps the capacity to read one's own records inside the institution. The second relocates it to a supplier, and frequently to a supplier under a foreign jurisdiction.

The policy weather of the reporting period reflected a growing recognition of this distinction. The EU Data Act's cloud-switching provisions, applicable from September 2025, tightened obligations on providers to enable migration away from their services — an implicit acknowledgement that data held in a vendor environment is not, by default, freely portable out of it. Several administrations moved in the same direction at the level of format mandate. The structural point underlying all of these measures is the one this chapter has traced through both format and storage: dependency does not announce itself at the moment it is created. It is discovered at the moment it is invoked — when a file will not open, when a service is withdrawn, when a document that was always "ours" turns out to have been reachable only on someone else's terms. A format and a storage arrangement that keep that moment from arriving are not technical preferences. They are the difference between holding a record and renting access to it.

Governance Updates

IThe Document Foundation has several bodies, including the Board of Directors, the Membership Committee and the Board of Trustees. These foundation bodies are guided by a set of policies, and in late 2025 the Board of Directors voted on a Code of Ethics and Fiduciary Duties. The code ensures that members of the Board of Directors "are expected to act strictly with the mission, effectiveness, and the best interest of the foundation in mind."

With the new governance, Board members must prioritise the Foundation's interests above personal or third-party gains. They are obliged to:

- Act with honesty, integrity, and competence
- Maintain confidentiality regarding internal proceedings and human resource matters
- Avoid harassing behaviour, discrimination, and self-dealing
- Refrain from poaching employees, diverting donors, or speaking on behalf of the Foundation without authorisation
- Refuse gifts or compensation that could influence their decisions

In addition, directors are bound by four core fiduciary responsibilities, which carry serious legal liability:

- Duty of Care: Perform duties with the diligence of a "prudent businessperson," making informed, legally compliant decisions
- Duty of Disclosure: Share all critical information with the board in a timely manner
- Duty of Loyalty: Declare conflicts of interest, recuse themselves when necessary, and avoid competing with or taking business opportunities away from TDF
- Duty of Obedience: Ensure TDF's actions align with its mission (such as providing free software) and comply with all non-profit laws

Looking Ahead

The Document Foundation enters the coming year with a clear sense of direction. The strategic questions that have long defined our work — how open document standards survive in a market shaped by a small number of dominant vendors, and how a volunteer-driven community sustains a professional-grade office suite — are now joined by a newer and more urgent one: how the rise of AI-assisted document production reshapes the terms on which openness is either preserved or quietly eroded. This section sets out our development, community, financial, and policy priorities, and states the Foundation's emerging position on artificial intelligence and document formats.

DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCT PRIORITIES

The central development ambition for the coming period is to move LibreOffice decisively into the web, mobile, and cloud space. This work is framed not as a single monolithic project but as a set of independent initiatives, each of which delivers a useful improvement to LibreOffice on its own, and each of which can proceed without waiting on the others. Structuring the work this way reduces the schedule risk that comes from dependencies between components, and it rests on a high level of code sharing across the desktop, web, and mobile versions — lowering both initial development effort and long-term maintenance cost.

The priorities are:

A responsive user interface. LibreOffice already supports multiple interface styles. This initiative extends that work with a new optional interface mode optimised for web and touch-based devices, scaling appropriately to window dimensions. Once complete, it will become the default configuration for the web and mobile distributions. Design and evaluation, including closer study of the streamlined interfaces offered by the major commercial suites, form part of this work.

Web distribution using WebAssembly. A working prototype of LibreOffice for web browsers already exists, built on Qt and WebAssembly, demonstrating that a browser-based LibreOffice is achievable without large-scale duplication of effort or resource-intensive server components. The coming year's work concentrates on polish and packaging to produce a minimally viable, web-deployable build.

Mobile distributions from the desktop codebase. Building on the ongoing effort to standardise on the Qt 6 VCL backend, this initiative targets minimally functioning desktop-derived builds for Android and iOS, to be improved incrementally.

Document server and desktop integration. LibreOffice already supports a range of remote file services. This initiative introduces an easy-to-host, first-party LibreOffice document server, together with a more streamlined experience for working with such servers. It is designed to be lightweight, inexpensive to host, and readily extended or incorporated into other services.

Client-server collaborative editing. This initiative implements collaborative editing in the desktop version incrementally, beginning with a client-server architecture and a single authoritative document state. Peer-to-peer collaboration remains a compelling longer-term vision, but it touches on several active research problems; the client-server work is a necessary precondition for it in any case, and doing it first reduces overall project risk.

Taken together, these initiatives signal that LibreOffice is on a credible trajectory toward technical parity with the dominant commercial suites. Rather than replicate their model of privileged, first-party cloud integration, we are designing toward a world of many small clouds: server components that ordinary operators can afford to run, expensive computation kept on the client side, and a desktop application that assumes users will draw on multiple providers — including on an ad hoc basis for one-off collaboration. This is both a technical and a values-based distinction from Microsoft and Google, neither of whom offers a genuine on-premises option since the announcement of the discontinuation of Microsoft's Office Online Server.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Events. The LibreOffice Conference 2026 took place from 9 to 12 September at the University of Pordenone. The event was organised by the Pordenone Linux User Group, the largest LUG in Italy, and was sponsored by Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia, Comune di Pordenone, Polo

Tecnologico Alto Adriatico, and the Pordenone University Campus. Throughout the year, members of the LibreOffice community took part in numerous FOSS community events and have organised local events to mark Document Freedom Day and Software Freedom Day.

Mentorship. The Document Foundation has taken part in Google Summer of Code every year since 2011, with a team of mentors drawn from its senior developers. The programme runs throughout the summer, with students attending the LibreOffice Conference in September to present their work. All the features developed by project participants have always been among the new additions in the LibreOffice major release announced in February.

Community growth and onboarding. Community growth has always been an important objective for The Document Foundation. Consequently, the team has always included mentors whose role is to help newcomers quickly become active contributors, both in the area of development and in other activities such as quality assurance, documentation and localisation. Our communications work also aims to encourage participation, through the publication of interviews with volunteers and the sharing of experiences from local communities.

FINANCIAL TARGETS AND FUNDRAISING PRIORITIES

The Foundation's financial priorities for the coming years are shaped by the scale of the web, cloud and mobile development programme, which represents a significant and sustained investment.

Donations. Increasing donations is one of the objectives of our marketing activities, with specific initiatives aimed at improving the conversion rate from downloads to donations. Daily monitoring of donation trends enables us to react immediately to fluctuations and to explore ways of increasing the number of transactions. Thanks to these initiatives, donations have grown steadily in recent years at a significant annual rate, a trend that is likely to continue into 2026.

Development funding. Although donations have not yet reached their full potential, their increase has enabled The Document Foundation to establish an in-house team of developers specialising in specific areas, which complements the work of volunteer developers and developers employed by companies within the ecosystem. This team is still growing, with the aim of implementing the web, cloud and mobile development strategy in the near future.

Reserves and sustainability. The Document Foundation enjoys excellent financial stability, thanks to investments and the annual allocation of a portion of donations, which enables it to manage the cyclical nature of donations and to fund development and community support with confidence. Naturally, this does not preclude the exploration of further funding opportunities to ensure the project's long-term sustainability.

POLICY ACTIVITIES AND ENGAGEMENTS

The coming year's policy work continues along two established lines — digital sovereignty and open standards in public administration — and adds a third: artificial intelligence.

European Union. We note that software sustainability and "green coding" are moving from advocacy into procurement law: the French RGESN V2 (*Référentiel général d'écoconception de services numériques*, 2024) mandates eco-design principles and resource efficiency for certain public procurement, and comparable regulation is developing in Germany, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere. This trajectory aligns directly with the Foundation's lightweight, low-resource cloud architecture and strengthens the case for open, energy-efficient office software in the public sector.

Global and standards bodies. Investment in the development of the ODF format will continue, with the recruitment of a senior developer who has been contributing to the project for many years, and the support of the other developers who sit on the OASIS Technical Committee. ODF has always been a key element of LibreOffice's development and evolution strategy, and in recent years it has become even more important as it is the only open standard document format available on the market, and as such is a fundamental element of Digital Sovereignty.

AI-ASSISTED EDITING AS A NEW VECTOR OF LOCK-IN

For most of its history, format lock-in has been discussed as a property of files: a document saved in a proprietary format carries with it a dependency on the software that created it. The Foundation has long argued that this dependency is layered — extending beyond the file format to rendering behaviour, embedded fonts, and, more recently, to the temporal and commercial conditions under which a document remains usable at all.

AI-assisted editing introduces a further layer, and a more insidious one, because it operates before the file is ever saved. When the act of composing, rewriting, summarising, or formatting a document is performed by an assistant embedded in a proprietary suite, the document's structure, style, and even its content are increasingly shaped by a system the user does not control and cannot inspect. The dependency is no longer only on the format in which the work is stored, but on the service that produced the work in the first place.

Several distinct lock-in vectors follow from this:

Behavioural dependency. As users become accustomed to AI features tied to a particular suite — drafting, restructuring, style enforcement, data lookup — the switching cost rises in a way that has nothing to do with file compatibility. A document that can be opened perfectly well in any ODF-compliant application is of little practical help if the user's entire working method now depends on an assistant available in only one product.

Format shaped by the tool. AI features tend to generate and expect document structures optimised for the proprietary tool that produced them. Over time this risks a soft re-privatisation of document structure: files that are nominally standards-based but are in practice authored, and best re-processed, only within one vendor's environment. This mirrors, at the level of AI behaviour, the long-standing gap between a format that is a standard in name and one that is a standard in fact.

Opacity of transformation. When an AI system rewrites or reformats a document, the transformation is not transparent, not reproducible, and not portable. The user cannot fully know what was changed or why, cannot audit the process, and cannot carry it to another tool. For public administrations, legal contexts, and archival purposes, this is a governance problem, not merely an inconvenience.

Concentration of capability. AI-assisted editing raises the resource threshold for offering a competitive office suite, because credible assistant features require substantial models and infrastructure. Left unaddressed, this favours precisely the small number of dominant vendors whose market position the open-standards movement has spent two decades contesting.

The Foundation's response is not to reject AI-assisted editing — such features answer real user needs — but to insist that they be built on the same principles that govern the rest of our work: open formats, local control, transparency, and the freedom to move between tools and providers. An open document is one whose creation, as well as its storage, the user can understand and control.

TDF'S POSITION ON AI AND DOCUMENT FORMATS

Artificial intelligence is rapidly becoming a routine part of how documents are written, edited, and processed. This is a significant development for the governance of information, and it deserves the same scrutiny that open-standards advocates have long applied to file formats.

The Document Foundation's position rests on three propositions.

First, **openness must extend to the whole document lifecycle, not only to storage**. A document format can be fully open and standardised, yet the document itself can still be locked to a single vendor if the tools that create and transform it are closed, opaque, and available in only one environment. Policy that concerns itself only with file formats, and not with the systems that produce them, will address yesterday's lock-in while tomorrow's takes hold.

Second, **transparency and reproducibility are prerequisites for trust**. Where an AI system participates in producing or altering a document — particularly a public, legal, or archival document — it should be possible to understand what was done, to reproduce it, and to carry the document to a different tool without loss. Open formats make this possible; opaque, proprietary AI pipelines make it impossible.

Third, **AI capability should not become a new barrier to entry that entrenches the dominant vendors**. The public interest is served by a diverse ecosystem of office software, including free and open source options that public bodies can adopt without ceding control. AI features built on open standards, capable of running under the user's own control and across multiple providers, keep that ecosystem open. AI features available only inside a single commercial cloud narrow it.

For policymakers, the practical implication is straightforward: the criteria that already justify open document standards in public procurement — interoperability, longevity, auditability, independence from any single supplier — apply with equal force to AI-assisted document tools. Procurement and regulatory frameworks should be updated to reflect that the relevant unit of openness is no longer the file alone, but the entire process by which the file comes to exist.

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CREDITS

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