

# An upcoming Issue in Feasibility Evaluations of a Migration to LibreOffice: **\*\*\*Security\*\*\***

Herzlich Willkommen.



04.09.2014

LibreOffice Conference 2014, Bern

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- Geschäftsführender Hauptgesellschafter der .riess applications
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- ... für Einsatz von Open Source auf dem Desktop
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# Free Office eXperts

powered by SCAI & .riess applications

## Who or what is **F-O-X**?

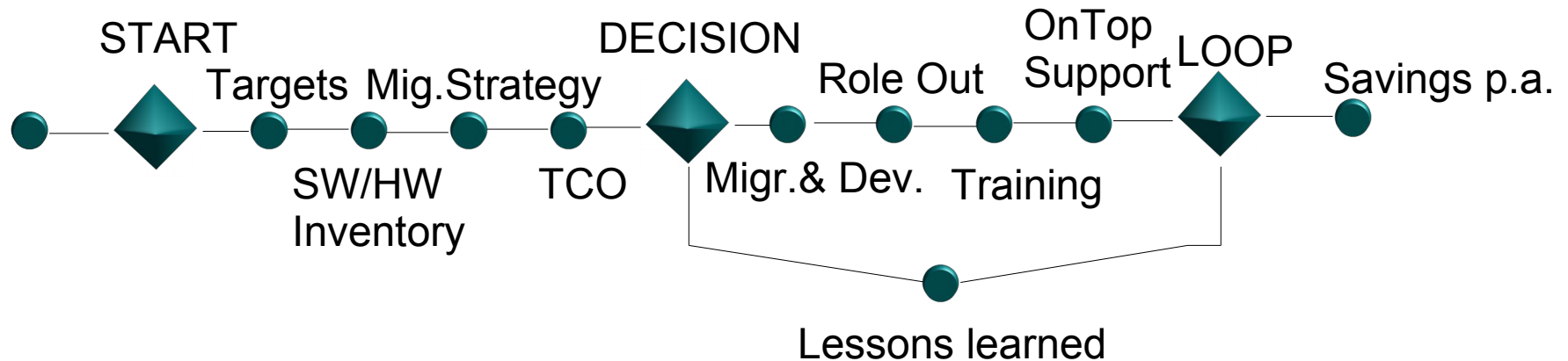
**F-O-X** is the abbreviation for **Free Office eXperts**

**F-O-X** is an expert topics platform for users and providers founded early 2013. It deals with all aspects of free office suites.

Besides our own **F-O-X** blocks they offer support for users and suppliers in increasing market transparency and fostering the exchange of information between product manufacturers, users, and community service.

For more information (in German), see: [www.f-o-x.biz](http://www.f-o-x.biz) (& .ch)

# Handling the migration process needs a methodology



- Need for a methodology:  
It's not just the path but its also the path
- Most customers underestimate the complexity of an office suite migration with a new document format (even in M\$)
- Feasibility study for free offices is mandatory (risk mgnt.)
- The Loop: no big bang possible, in consequence:  
Even in-house interoperability is mandatory

# (Feeling of) Security needs Trust <sup>(1)</sup>

- Tool manufacturer SW-Germany, 250 Cl., MSO new vers. or LibO
- During a feasibility study for LibreOffice suddenly there was heartbleed

...-(

- ... and suddenly, we found us in a „Security“ discussion, which was clearly „politically“ motivated
- Later on we heard: Sales people were scared due to the experience of document issues (in MSO) by one (big) customer („this one for an offer and nothing else“) → new discussions, new work, no deal
- Because beside TCO, a second decision criteria pro or contra free office suites is trust (or should I say for/against MSO??)



# (Feeling of) Security needs Trust <sup>(2)</sup>

- Interesting: They didn't care about new MSO Version ;-)
- „Is there an issue for LibO, which clearly involves more risk than MSO?“ - Hence we offered a workshop to compile the set of security issues a new office suite needs to address.
- And here is what they defined as a first approach for an acceptable Security benchmark: Trustworthiness about
  - No technical vulnerability (the real IT Security issue) (boy, what a wide range, live is risky, and no risk, no fun ;-)
  - Functional "completeness" – even in the future
  - No Intellectual property issues
  - Not to be Robinson Crusoe (wasn't he very secure? ;-DDD)
  - Costs and follow-up costs
  - If I get in trouble, who could me help ?
- So we went a little bit more in detail with key persons (inform, inform, inform ...)

# Trust & security in technical issues (1)

- Potential hazards and safety aspects:
  - Source Code leaks
  - Macro viruses and security handling
  - The free document format (the second side of the coin, content (text and pictures) is open, could be copied automatically)
  - Passwords on documents or parts of it (in goodness & badness ;-)
  - No automatical online update (or s.l.t. without (admin-)tracking)
- Answers by LibO
  - Source code leaks are covered, see LibO 4.2.6secfix backwards
  - Security center with options for macro handling
  - A plea for digital signatures
  - Same or quite better password algorithms,
  - Options for Internet, update, java, ...
- Please allow the question: What about MS Office for issues such as: KBXXX, document format, password algorithm, runtimes/dll...?

# Trust & security in technical issues (2)

More of such issues, they asked about:

- Meta data of documents (see options, extensions for anonymous use of LibO)
- Feedback/Crash report sending via Internet (see options)
- Registration process and data (no obligation to register)
- Quickstarter (turn off in options)
- Loss of data if LibO crashes even with other modules (see document recovery process)
- Administrative tasks like: patch mechanisms (see Collabora), group policy management (see work in GitHub and A.Timar ...)

Please allow the question: What about MS Office?



# Trust in the duration of the life cycle of the office suite

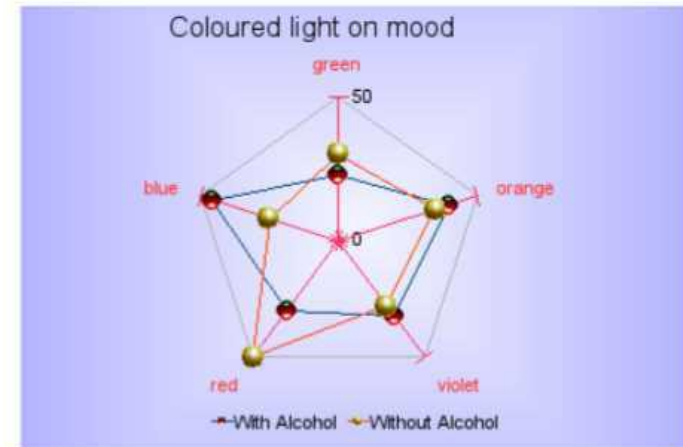
- The usage cycle is much longer than 5 years → the decision must be sustainable
- How often do I need a new training? How often does the UI change?
- In ODF format there is a conceptual competitive edge to "proprietary" Office Datability (see problems in different versions of OOXML for downgrade/backward compatibility reasons)
- Software Development process: How is it organized? What about quality insurance? Bugfixing/Support (eng.steering com., fresh/still, assistance for bug reporting. Hunting sessions, ...)
- Open source „insurance“, best example is LibO: Free Office Suites survive, even if the main sponsor jumps (e.g. OOo), or are self-organized (see LibO)
- Please allow the question: What about MS Office?

# Trust in functional completeness

- Question: Do I get all modules / functions / interfaces I need (in the future)?
  - Module completeness essentially ok (except for mail client)
  - Clear advantage: Desktop database for free/every desk
  - Interface ok, AddOn / Extension alternatives: clearly not!
  - What about a browser version? See activities around Android and other tools like rollup.com
  - (text)content for/synchro with mobile devices (ebooks,...)
  - Colaboration features (Cloud/WebDAV/CMIS, Sharepoint prot., real time concurrent editing)
- Experience: Each house is different in implementing and using the office suite individually (integration, in/outhouse processes, macros... a feasibility analysis / study is required)
- Please allow the question: What about MS Office?  
A lot of proprietary issues: packaging of MSO-versions, VBA Object model, User Interface (with File menu or without?)

# Examples for Analysis & Reporting in LibO they valued as an advantage

- Calc:
  - Big Code Refactoring for handling with Big Data
  - Import filters even for proprietary document formats, integration of different sources (OOXML, dbf-Versions III-VI, ticker)
  - Pivot-functionality for slice & dice of Data Cubes
  - Visualisation with Charts:
    - External file references for cells
    - Possibilities for Sorting and Filtering
- Base:
  - Desktop Database, with Integration to Server-Dbs via ODBC, JDBC or others
  - XLS, ODS, mdb, accdb etc. as "loaded tables" with the possibility to SQL-Query it



# Trust in interoperability and compatibility to others out there

- Question: I do not want to be Robinson Crusoe, can I collaborate with external suppliers / customers effectively?
- Collaboration is now more than ...
  - Document formats (open, close, save)
  - Layout fidelity in the representation
  - Exchange of functionality (macros, formulas)
- Synchronous (shared access) and Asynchronous (roundtrip) collaboration on a document (sharepoint, MSO365) (see sharepoint protocol compatib. – but here is a shortfall)
- LibO has – thanks to its filters – a clear advantage in this field
- Please allow the question: What about MS Office? Trust in NSA?

# Trust in behavior of product vendor

- One of the main reasons for migration in Bizz: the "vendor lock in" (price, technical, monopolist, ...)
- Essential for LibO coming from The Document Foundation:
  - TDF with the principle of meritocracy (! = Egalitarianism)
  - No dependence of the main sponsor
  - Open Source Licenses (LGPL, MPL, ...)
  - TDF as a foundation (in German law)
- Technique: open interfaces/formats, platform-independence
- This is quite the same argumentation like the Open Source „insurance“ outlined above (transparence instead of trust)
- Please allow the question: What about MS Office?  
Well, no comment on this issue ... ;-)

# Building Trust with information ...

- ... about the usability and experience with the old Office version
  - Everything is working like before (the main fear/security issue) is not realistic – but this is even not the case with the new MSO
  - Similarity of the UI with MSO2003, Warning: this argument will turn around soon or even has turned around already
  - Why are there two suites and what is the difference between LibO and AOO? (what is the role of the different licence?)  
Is there the possibility to re-unite again?
- ... in a more favorable total cost of ownership
  - In the end it may not be more expensive ...
  - The absence of license cost is not enough/only argument
  - Experience shows that it is important to conduct a feasibility study with TCO!
  - Experience: to be honest, sometimes, if migration costs are out of range, we also recommend to use the new MSO version !

# Summary of Clusters for security needs for/with free office suites

- Technical security: is it possible / how likely is it to compromise the network/clients with or via the office suite
- Security out of product care (Functional and usability „security“, kind of licence, patent trolls, quality assurance, duration of accessible support and development)
- Financial Security (Total cost of ownership, Follow on Invests)

Security and trustworthyness ...

... is present/possible if you use LibreOffice

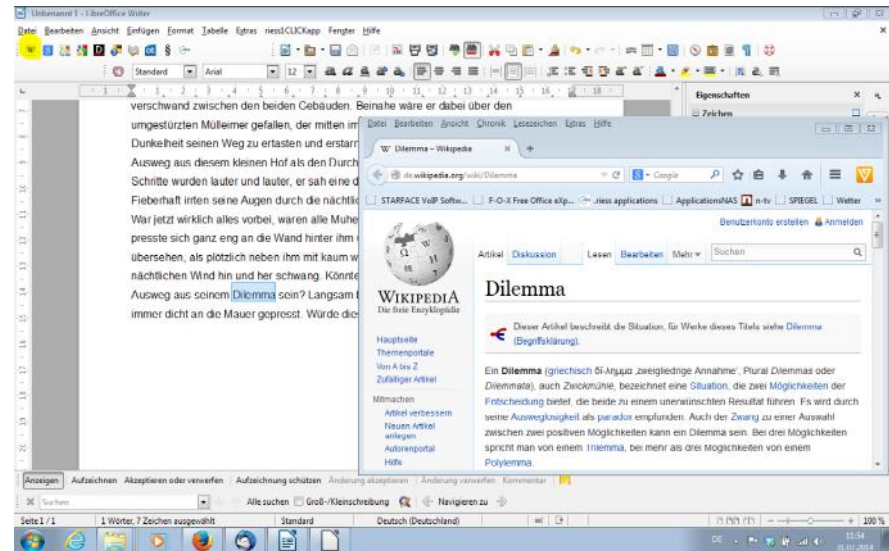
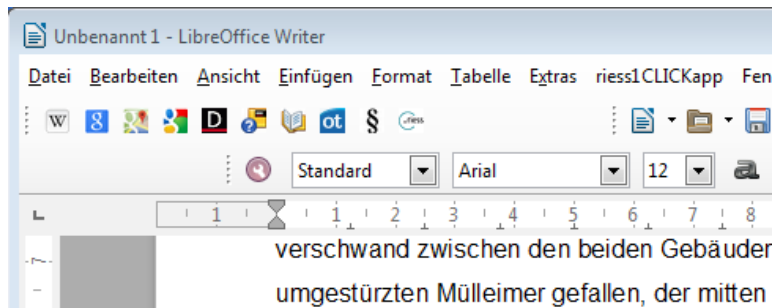
... is no problem to ask for – if you provide the right answers and if both sides are honest!

... and yes, they did it (with the support of .riess applications ;-)



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# open source & social

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# Vielen Dank! ... Bei weiteren Fragen:

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