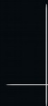Bjoern Michaelsen
Volunteer, Member of TDF BoD

Agile LibreOffice - How not to lead an open source project

- What is an open source project?

- What is leadership?

- Who is LibreOffice?

- What is Agile?

Agile LibreOffice - How not to lead an open source project

- vendor independence
- strong volunteer contributions

What is an Open Source Project?

Leadership is both a research area and a practical skill encompassing the ability of an individual or organization to "lead" or guide other individuals, teams, or entire organizations. Specialist literature debates various viewpoints, contrasting Eastern and Western approaches to leadership, and also (within the West) United States versus European approaches. U.S. academic environments define leadership as "a process of social influence in which a person can enlist the aid and support of others in the accomplishment of a common task".
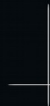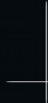
What is Leadership?

"common task?"

- the next decade manifesto from nine years ago

- shelf life is almost over

- what are project goals?

- what are product goals?

- **project goals** are much longer lived than **product goals**

Goals of LibreOffice

Project management is the practice of initiating, planning, executing, controlling, and closing the work of a team to achieve specific goals and meet specific success criteria at the specified time. The primary challenge of project management is to achieve all of the project goals within the given constraints. This information is usually described in project documentation, created at the beginning of the development process. The primary constraints are scope, time, quality and budget. The secondary — and more ambitious — challenge is to optimize the allocation of necessary inputs and apply them to meet pre-defined objectives.
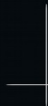
Project Management

sources of contributions

- volunteer contributions => Growth in ESC

- commercially sponsored contributions => Openness of ESC

- TDF Team => Effectiveness of Team via BoD

- TDF Tenders => Effectiveness of Team via BoD

- ESC is the bazaar

- TDF/BoD is the currently a cathedral

Who is LibreOffice?

- Marketing
- Translation
- Documention
- End User Support
- QA
- UX
- Dev

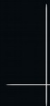Some self organized communities in LibreOffice

Simon Phipps ✔
@webmink

Follow ⌄

Posit: There is no community, just other people's employees.

3:32 AM - 9 Sep 2019

10 Retweets 28 Likes

💬 4   ⟲ 10   ♡ 28

ESC, the tit for tat market

there is no product management on the ESC

there is lots of tit for tat cooperation and coordination on the ESC

If you only care about LibreOffice, the product, not LibreOffice the project then those making the product wont be interested in your opinions ... because _they_ are the project.

community growth is important

Volunteering on Engineering

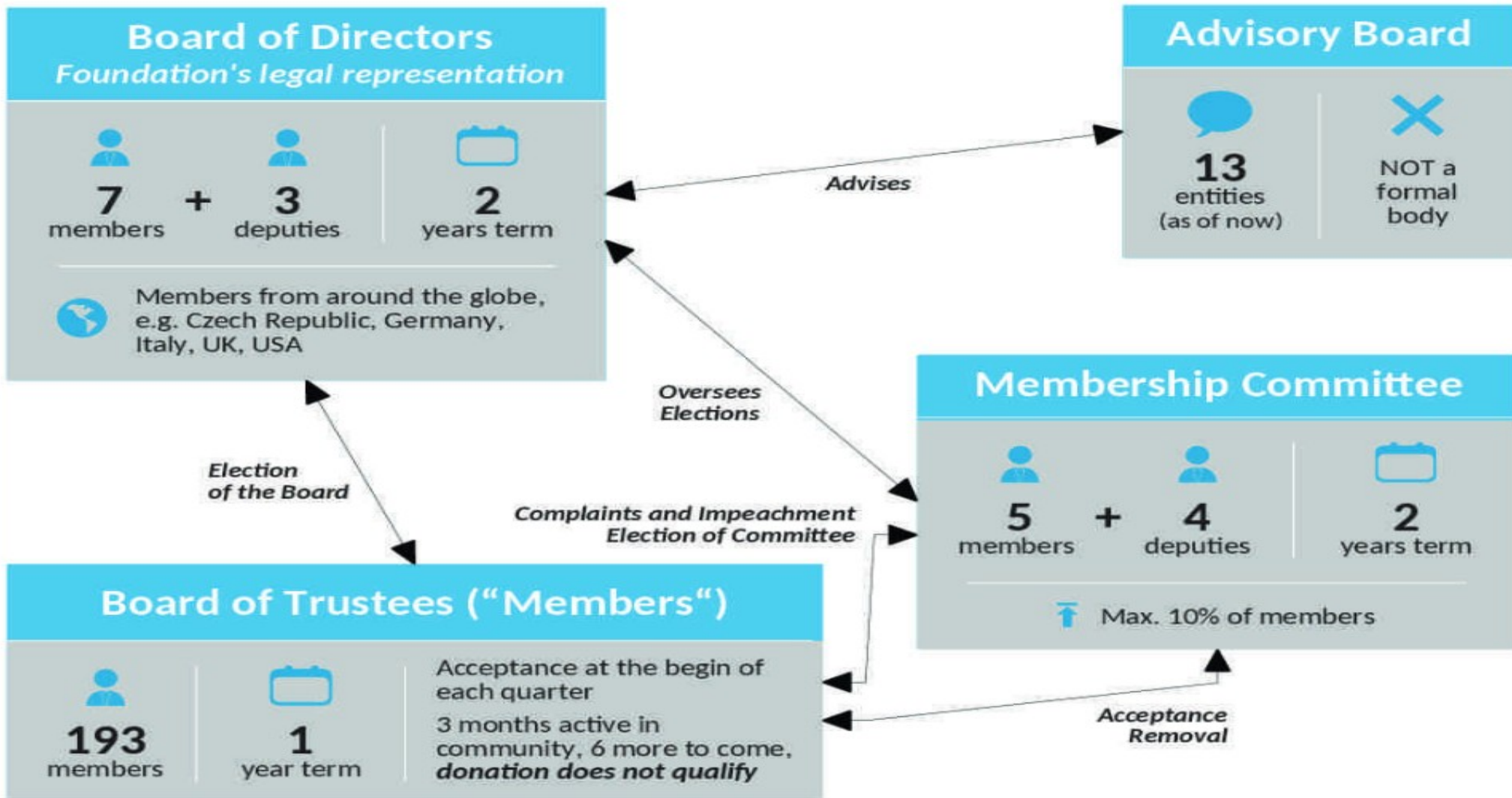Be Kind. For Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about.

Be pitiful, for every man is fighting a hard battle.
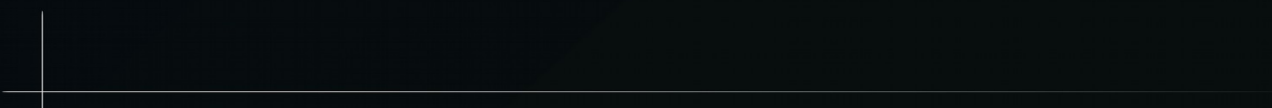
– Ian Maclaren 1897

Be Kind

TDF IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF MERITOCRACY

Board of Directors
Foundation's legal representation

7 members **+** **3** deputies | **2** years term

Members from around the globe, e.g. Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, UK, USA

Advisory Board

13 entities (as of now) | **NOT a formal body**

Advises

Oversees Elections

Membership Committee

5 members **+** **4** deputies | **2** years term

Max. 10% of members

Election of the Board

Complaints and Impeachment Election of Committee

Board of Trustees ("Members")

193 members | **1** year term | Acceptance at the begin of each quarter

3 months active in community, 6 more to come, *donation does not qualify*

Acceptance Removal

Agile software development is an approach to software development under which requirements and solutions evolve through the collaborative effort of self-organizing and cross-functional teams and their customer(s)/end user(s).[1] It advocates adaptive planning, evolutionary development, early delivery, and continual improvement, and it encourages rapid and flexible response to change.[2] [further explanation needed]

The waterfall model is a breakdown of project activities into linear sequential phases, where each phase depends on the deliverables of the previous one and corresponds to a specialisation of tasks. The approach is typical for certain areas of engineering design. In software development, it tends to be among the less iterative and flexible approaches, as progress flows in largely one direction ("downwards" like a waterfall) through the phases of conception, initiation, analysis, design, construction, testing, deployment and maintenance.

Agile vs. Waterfall

TDF Tenders are Waterfall:

- conception, initiation at TDF

- analysis, design at Contractor

- construction as Contractor

    - TDF selects Contractor

- testing at TDF

- deployment and maintenance at TDF

TDF Tenders

Manifesto for Agile Software Development

We are uncovering better ways of developing software by doing it and helping others do it.
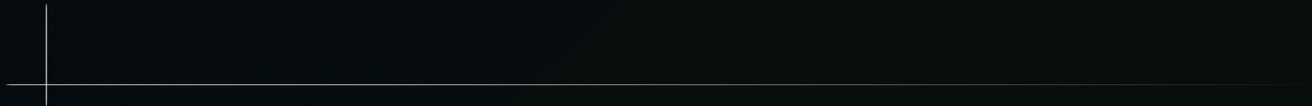
Through this work we have come to value:

- Individuals and interactions over processes and tools
- Working software over comprehensive documentation
- Customer collaboration over contract negotiation
- Responding to change over following a plan

That is, while there is value in the items on the right, we value the items on the left more.

https://agilemanifesto.org/

Agile Manifesto

The client as relatively thin endpoint means that the environment for which Agile first emerged and for which it is most well suited stand-alone open source applications - is disappearing. Today, the typical application is more likely a data stream of some sort, in which the value is not in the programming but in the data itself, with the programming consequently far simpler (and with a far broader array of existing tools) than was the case twenty or even ten years ago.

https://www.forbes.com/sites/cognitiveworld/2019/08/23/the-end-of-agile/#d603de720713
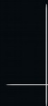
End of Agile

- Not Project Management:
  - volunteer contributions => Growth in ESC
  - commercially sponsored contributions => Openness of ESC
- Project Management:
  - TDF Team => Effectiveness of Team via BoD
  - TDF Tenders => Effectiveness of Team via BoD

Agile LibreOffice

- Individuals and interactions over processes and tools

- Working software over comprehensive documentation

- Customer collaboration over contract negotiation

- Responding to change over following a plan

- => Introduce some of the stuff on the right without impacting the stuff on the left

- => side effect: Make visible to all members of TDF what Team TDF spends their time (and thus the donations to TDF) on
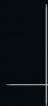
Scrumming Team TDF

- ESC does not do product management
- Instead the ESC does disaster prevention

- Be Kind.

  For Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about.
- Grow the community of active contributors!

No management of volunteers

- Not Project Management:
  - volunteer contributions => Growth in ESC
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Agile LibreOffice?