



LibreOffice
The Document Foundation



ROME
CONFERENCE

LibreOffice right to left (RTL) support status 2017

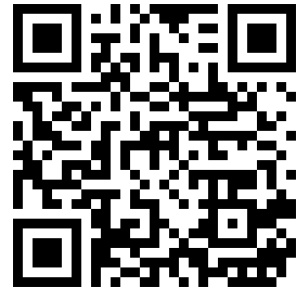
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ROME | October 11th, 2017

Agenda

- RTL Scripts
 - Short history
 - Which are in use today
- RTL support in LibreOffice
 - How to enable it
 - Examples of RTL UI
- RTL issues
 - A few examples
 - RTL meta issues
- How can we improve RTL support
 - Awareness
 - Tests
 - Recruiting more native speakers
 - LibreOffice RTL Telegram group



Cuneiform script



(the very short) History of scripts

- Phoenician (c. 1200–150 BC) – Abjad writing system
- Aramaic (c. 900 BC) - move to “square” script
- Hebrew / Arabic – continuing older languages
- Greek / Latin switch to LTR

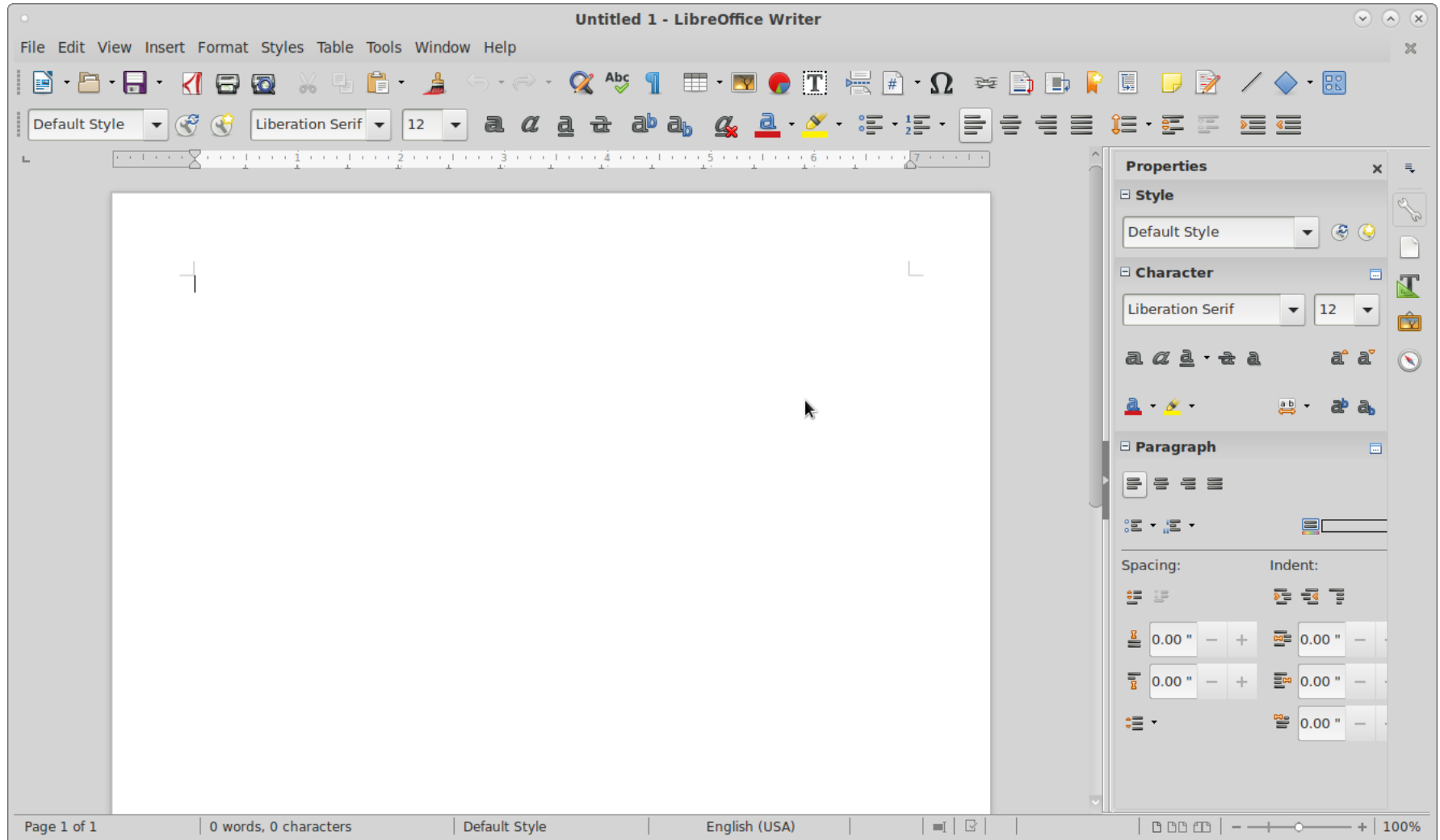
A “close to home” example about such a change: [tdf#107204](#) - Writer treats Hungarian Rovas (aka Old Hungarian) text as left-to-right script instead of right-to-left

Languages and scripts

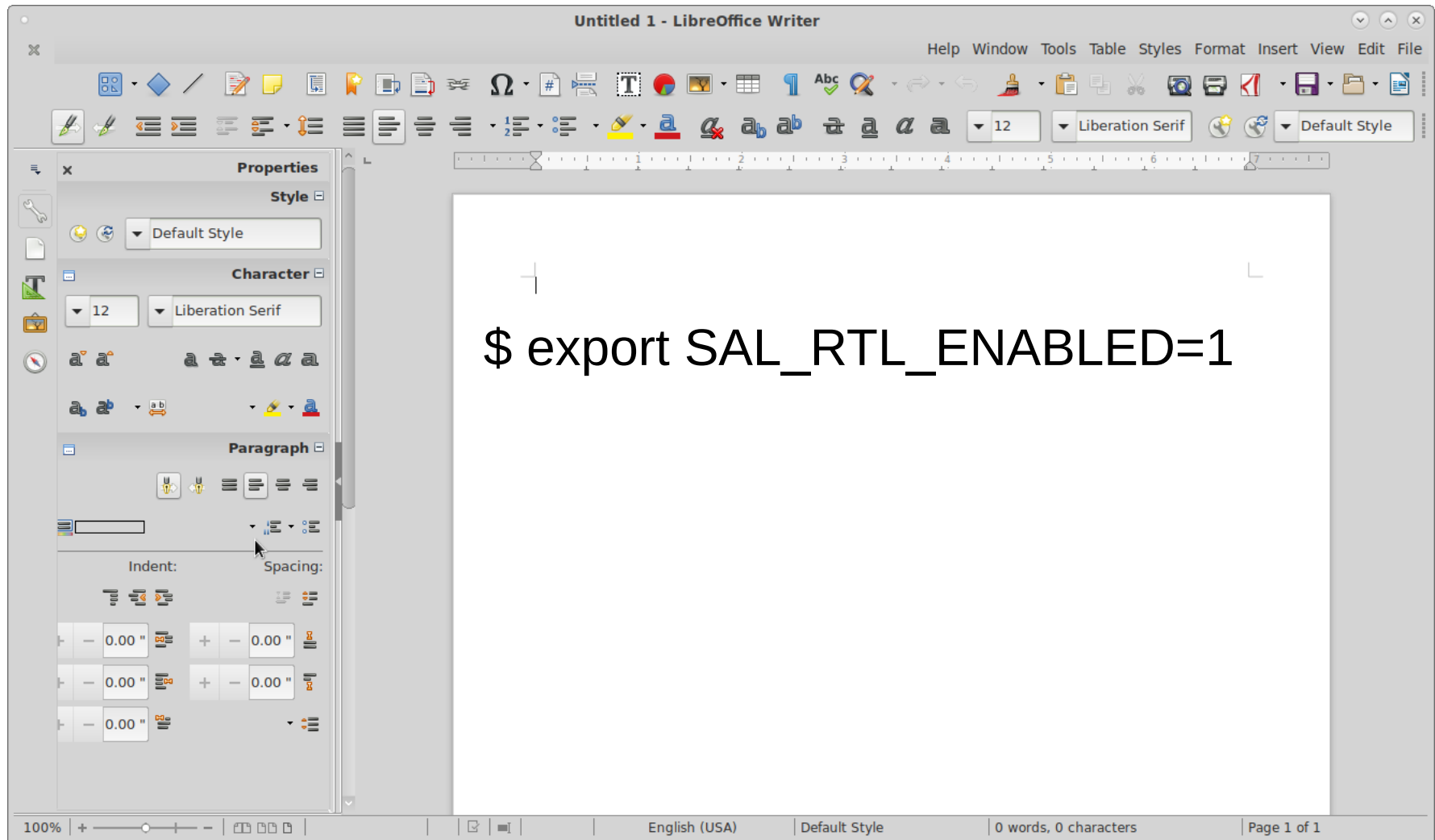
Languages can be written in more than one script (e.g. Kashmiri, Sindhi, Punjabi, Serbian, Tajik)

Scripts can be used for more than one language (e.g. Latin, Arab, Cyrillic and Hebrew)

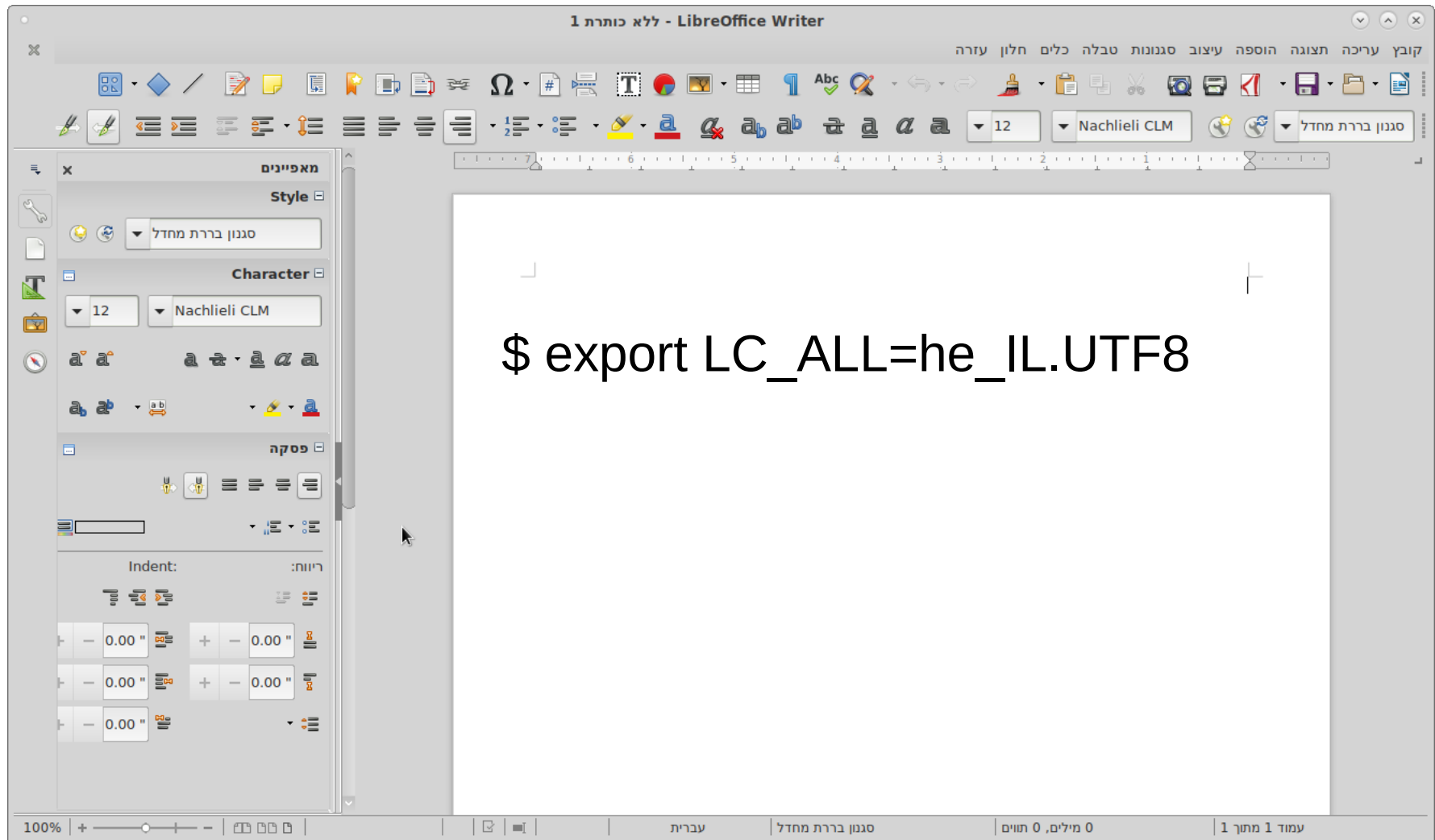
LibreOffice LTR Interface (En)



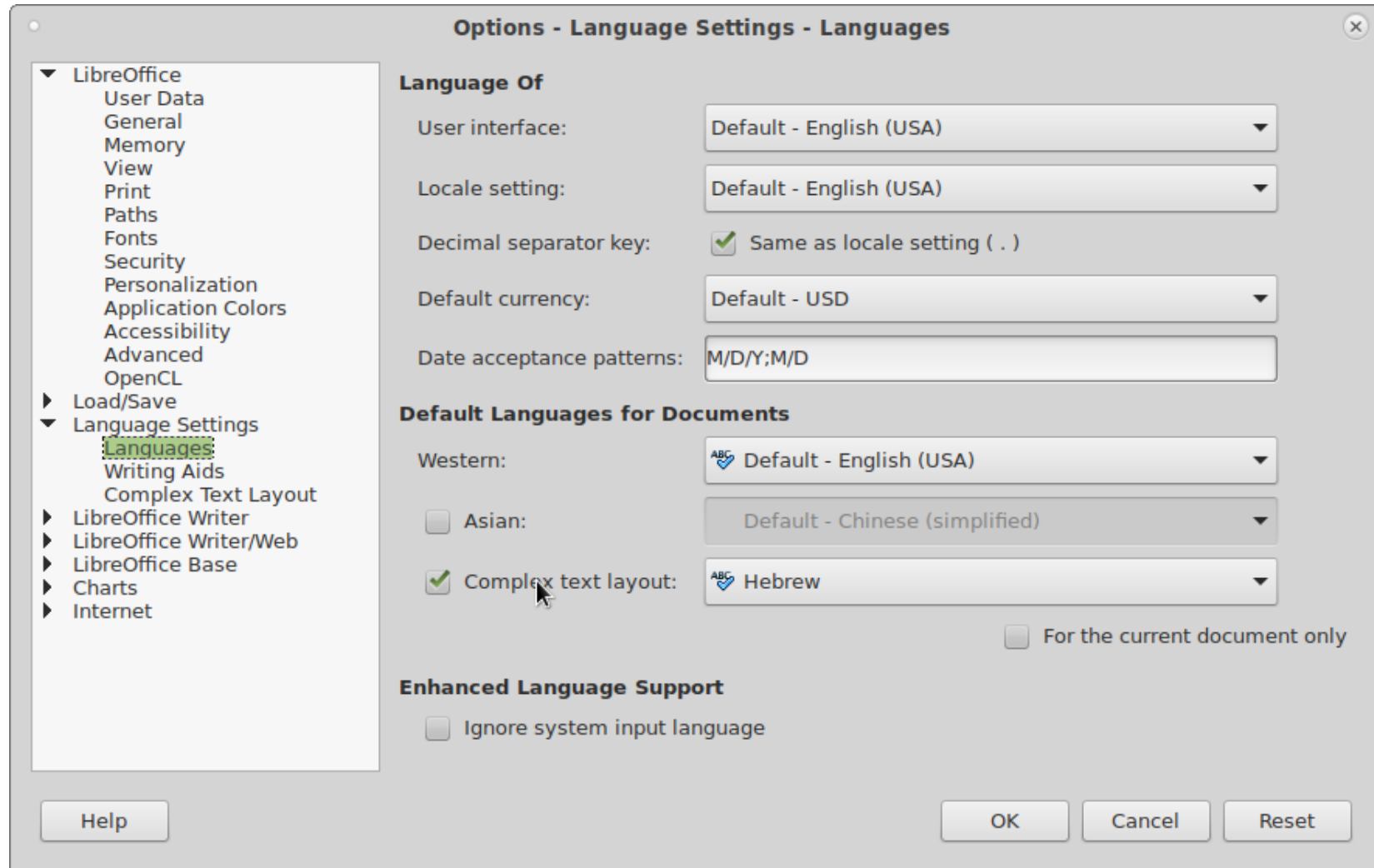
LibreOffice RTL Interface (En)



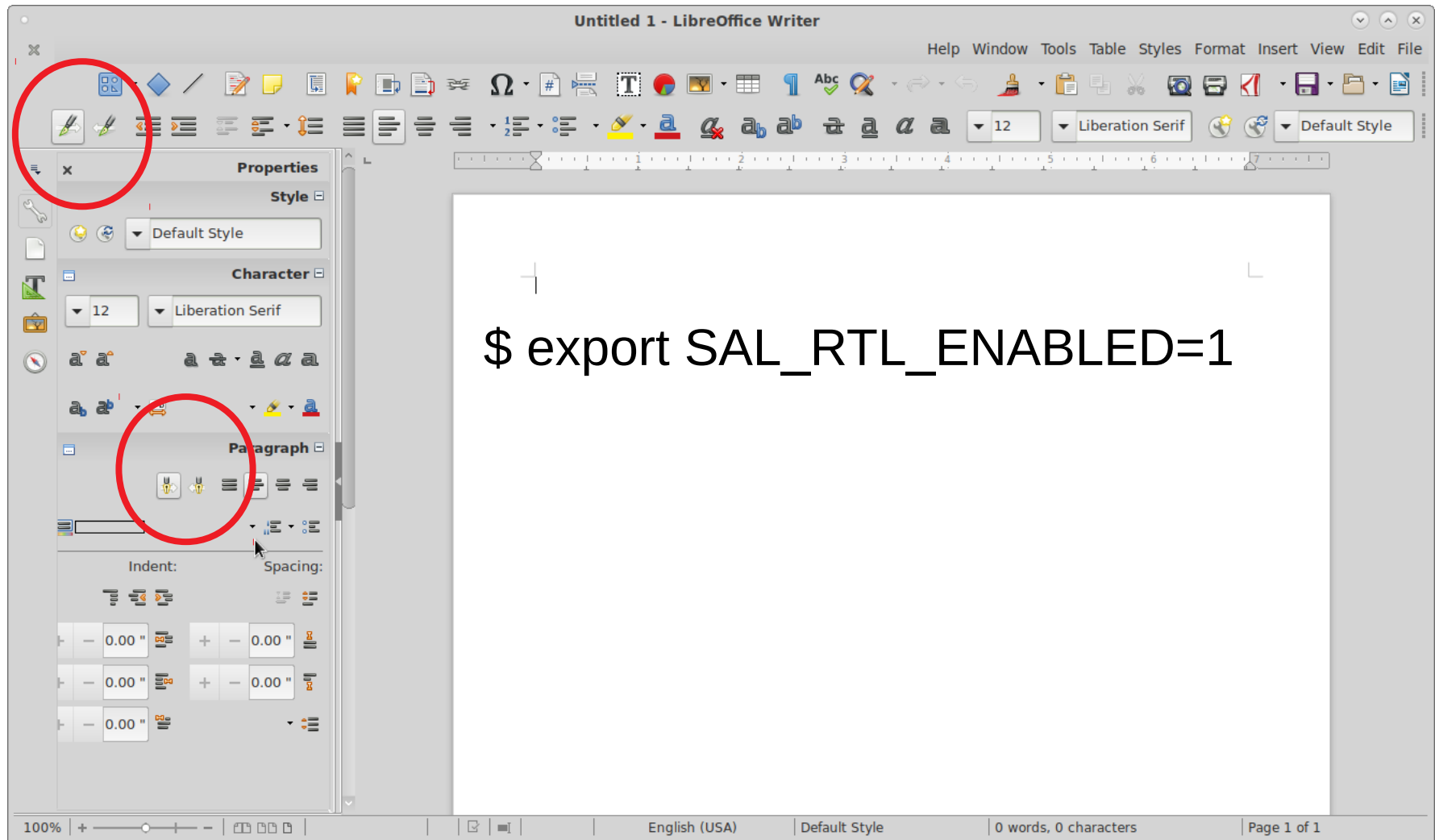
LibreOffice RTL Interface (He)



Enabling RTL support



LibreOffice RTL Interface (En)



Impress isn't RTL ready

- [tdf#55361](#) RTL text appears reversed during animation
- [tdf#113063](#) – weak characters misplaced when sentence begins with LTR text
- [tdf#113062](#) – numbering in textbox > 9 switch digits in RTL directionality

Writer is ready, but with bugs

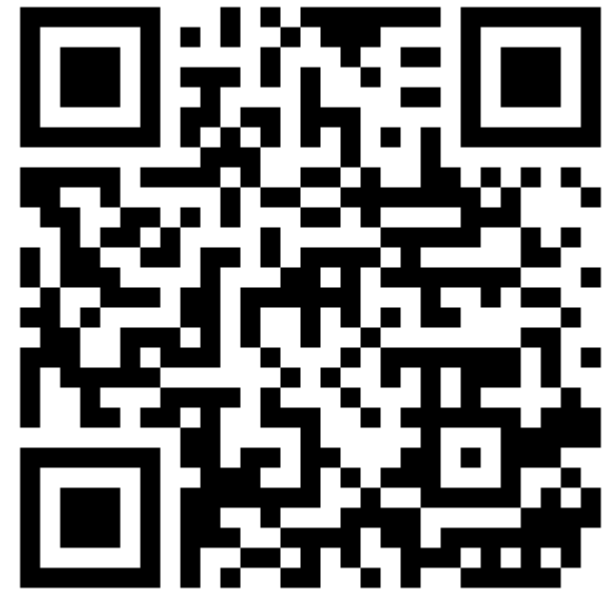
- [tdf#103495](#) Space between Arabic/Hebrew word missing in textboxes when sentence begins with English word
- [tdf#45999](#) FILESAVE: DOC - Hebrew and arabic text in comments appear in MS Word in reverse order and wrong font
- [tdf#106163](#) Create Table toolbar tool creates wrong number of columns in rtl environment – fixed in 6.0 (backported for 5.4.2 and 5.3.7)

Bug categories

- Language support – happens only with a RTL languages
- Directionality support – happens only with RTL directionality
- Interface problems – happens only with RTL interface
- Mixed of the above
- Language specific requirements (e.g. Arabic but not Hebrew)

More bugs

- https://wiki.documentfoundation.org/RTL_Bugs
- We use 3 meta bugs:
- RTL-CTL: [tdf#43808](#)
- RTL-Arabic: [tdf#112810](#)
- RTL-Hebrew: [tdf#112812](#)



What can be done?

- Raising awareness for developers and QA
- Creating test scenarios for automation (please show me how)
- Recruiting more native speaker to the project (Arabic ~350M, Urdu ~160M, Punjabi ~120M, Farsi ~110M, Hebrew ~8M)
- Train (more?) native speakers as developers to contribute code
- Cooperate with CJK speakers
- Join our Telegram group: LibreOffice RTL



Thank you

Questions ?



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