To infinity minus one:
Improving the tools we use for QA

Robinson Tryon
LibreOffice Conference
Milano, 25 Sep. 2013

MIL■■NO
CONFERENCE2013

LibreOffice
The Document Foundation

Improving QA

QA Roundtable

The past, present, and future of QA

Joren

Joel

- A positive atmosphere helps retain members
- Work together, as a team
- Humans are our most important tools

Steal our Technical Improvements!

- We use FLOSS whenever possible
- Treat other projects as we'd like them to treat us
  - We're acutely aware of the importance of good bug reports!
- Some QA-specific tools; many are more general
- Please copy what we're doing here and use it in your other projects/non-profits
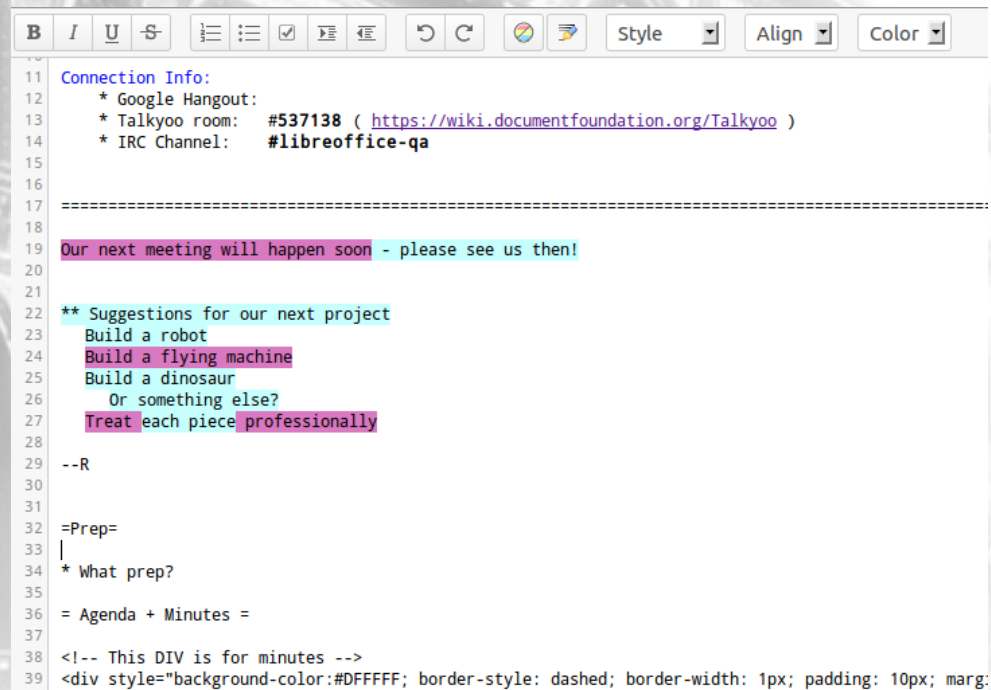
QA Meetings

- Every two weeks
- Generously supported by talkyoo *your conference company*
- Google Hangout bridges phone and Internet
  - Allows contributors to join without expensive fees
- FLOSS alternative?

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QA Meetings: Etherpad Lite

- Online, collaborative text editor

- Fast and Free (as in freedom)

- Primary note taker + others to fix mistakes

- Secondary channel allows fixing minutes without halting flow

- Enfranchise quiet people

```
11  Connection Info:
12      * Google Hangout:
13      * Talkyoo room:    #537138 ( https://wiki.documentfoundation.org/Talkyoo )
14      * IRC Channel:     #libreoffice-qa
15
16
17  =============================================================================
18
19  Our next meeting will happen soon - please see us then!
20
21
22  ** Suggestions for our next project
23      Build a robot
24      Build a flying machine
25      Build a dinosaur
26        Or something else?
27      Treat each piece professionally
28
29  --R
30
31
32  =Prep=
33  |
34  * What prep?
35
36  = Agenda + Minutes =
37
38  <!-- This DIV is for minutes -->
39  <div style="background-color:#DFFFFF; border-style: dashed; border-width: 1px; padding: 10px; marg
```

QA Meetings: Wikified Minutes

- Combine agenda + minutes
- Follow progress of Action items
- Navigate meetings chronologically
- Time-consuming and error-prone by hand
- Plan to leverage features of MediaWiki to automate

Meeting of the QA Team	
previous - next	
Date and Time (UTC)	2013-09-06 13:00 UTC 🔗
G+ Hangout	[This Meeting]
Chair	Robinson Tryon
Secretary	Robinson Tryon
Started	13:15
Adjourned	13:51
Participants	Bjoern, Robinson, Joren
Pad	http://pad.documentfoundation.org/p/qa 🔗
Talkyoo Room Number 537138	

PENDING ITEM: What to do with releases after EOL

- **[DONE] ACTION**: Joel will create new version in FDO "inherited from OOo" for bugs that predate our fork
    - Aug 23 - Joel added the version to FDO.

> All done

PENDING ITEM: Bibisect Repositories

- **ACTION**: Bjoern/Robinson will investigate the possibility of being able to update the bibisect repository via git
- **ACTION**: Florian R. will discuss with Bjoern the compression used for the daily builds [If possible "Save only". Fears a big redownload -> Untested...]
- (tentative) Robinson will investigate creating a Windows bibisect repository based on winPenPack builds 🔗

> - Continue to work on this one
> - Milan Conference: Have a discussion about how bibisect repositories can best work for us
> - tb3 tinderbox is moving, so a bit of delay
> - Ubuntu builder stalled
> - **ACTION**: Bjoern: reping jibel about it

PENDING ITEM: Feedback pages

- **ACTION**: Robinson will go ahead with the Feedback page idea (and ping Rob)

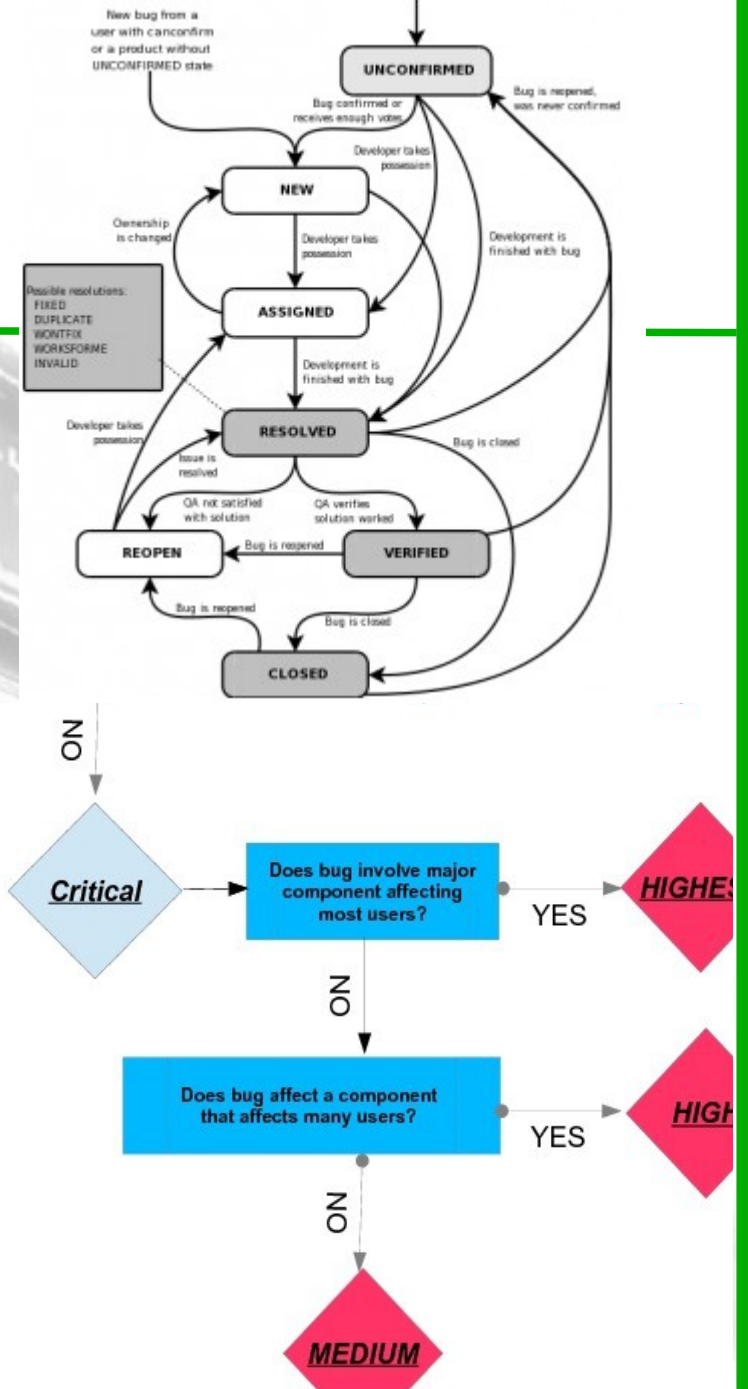LibreOffice
The Document Foundation

QA Pub Chat

- Informal, BYOB chat
- No set agenda
- Attract new volunteers
- Promote existing members
- Uncover issues to bring to QA Meeting
- Trialling in US/North America
- Might work well elsewhere?

Informal Meeting of the QA Team (US)	
prev - next	
Date and Time	15:00 EST (19:00 UTC ⧉)
G+ Hangout	[See QA/IRC 5min before meeting starts]
Bartenders	Joel Madero, Robinson Tryon
Started	*(not yet)*
Adjourned	
Participants	
Pad	http://pad.documentfoundation.org/p/qa ⧉
Talkyoo Room Number	537138

QA Documentation

- Duplicate/contradictory docs were confusing
- Reorganized/refactored many pages
- Working to establish consensus
- Keeping localizations updated is hard
  - Organizing 'Wiki Day' to work in parallel?
- Roadmap to review all docs by end of year

Bugzilla

- Love/hate relationship with the software
- So powerful, it scares new users
- We're the 800lb gorilla on FDO infrastructure
- "Creative" use of Bugzilla fields
- Balancing our needs with other projects on shared Bugzilla infrastructure

Bugzilla: Migration

- Migrating to a separate Bugzilla instance
- Several improvements
  - Change field labels
  - Component sanity
  - List new projects
  - Granular version management
  - Keyword autocomplete
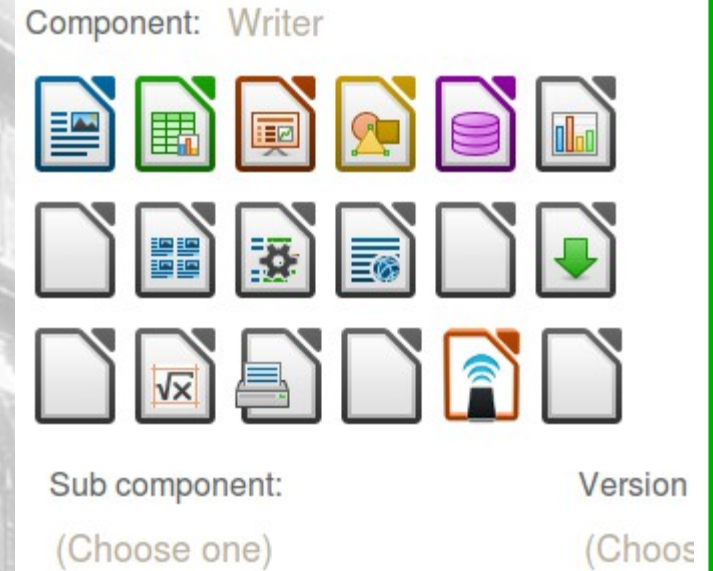- Simplify bugtracker for everyone

Bugzilla: To infinity minus one

- Cleaned up version selector
- Integrated display of Bugzilla content on wiki pages (e.g. EasyHacks)
- Migration will allow us to go even further

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Bug Submission Assistant (BSA)

- User-friendly Bugzilla front-end
- New French-localized BSA
  - Leverages community list to review, translate, and check for duplicates
  - Interest from other communities (BR-PT, ES, etc..) in localized BSAs
- XML-RPC rework will give us shorter, more beautiful code

Component: Writer

Sub component:

(Choose one)

Version

(Choos

Feedback Page

- Unified page for Bugzilla, Ask LibreOffice, & Feedback
- Get user to the right tool, quickly
- Reduce avoidable workload on QA Team and Ask LibreOffice admins
- Better metrics

Bibisect

- Incredibly useful tool for finding regressions
- Combines
  - Binary search
  - Chronological (sorted) builds in git
  - Git de-duplication
  - Our amazing volunteers

Bibisect: One repository to rule them all

- Combine existing repositories
- Track regressions to the Beginning of Time
- Big: 16GB + 7GB/year
- Disk is cheap; Kryder's law[†] will make this point moot
- 32 bit?
- Less git-fu required
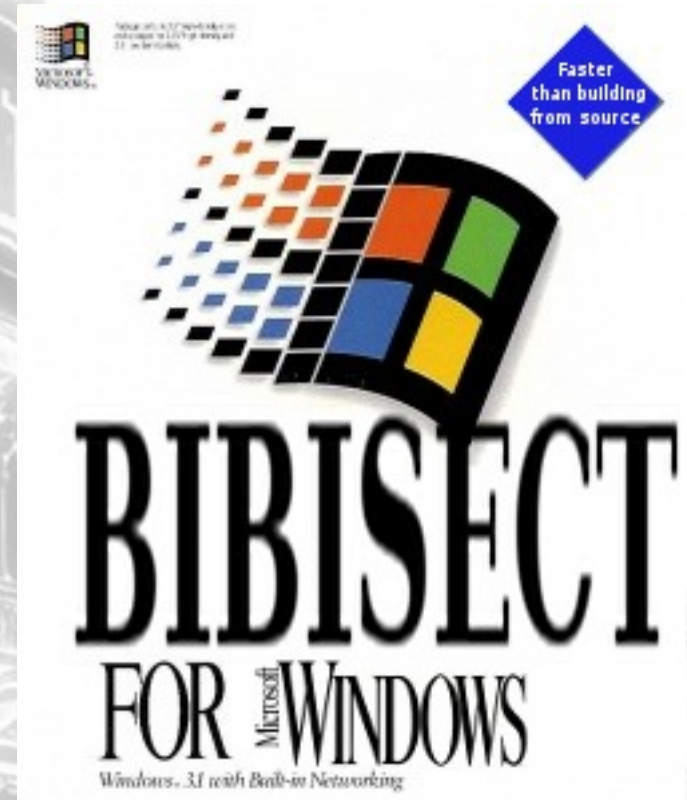 ```
  ./update
  ./run latest
  ```

[†]The magnetic disk equivalent of Moore's law



*Improving QA*

# Bibisect: For Windows

- Considered previously; abandoned
- Some technical hurdles re: pre-installed builds
- Renewed interest
- Serious plans are underway
- No timetable yet

# Is QA the Ugly Duckling?

- Not the most popular job
- Less visible, less understood role
- Need to recruit more heavily
- Should provide valuable rewards (tangible or not)
- Manage workload
- Healthy team → High morale, better retention
- Humans are our most important tools

# Fin

Questions?

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**Identi.ca:** @qubit
**Favorite color:** red

# Image credits

Images listed (roughly) in order of appearance in the presentation

- *King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table* - Michel Gantelet
  https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:King_Arthur_and_the_Knights_of_the_Round_Table.jpg

- *QA Team Members* - Joel Madero and Joren De Cuyper
  http://qa.libreoffice.org/Team/

- *Talkyoo Logo* – Talkyoo telecom UG
  http://www.talkyoo.net/

- *Etherpad Screenshot, Wiki Minutes Screenshots, Pub Chat Screenshot* – Robinson Tryon

- *Unconfirmed Bugs Status Flowchart* – Joel Madero
  https://wiki.documentfoundation.org/File:Unconfirmed_Bugs_Status_Flowchart.odg

- *Lifecycle of a Bugzilla Bug* – Bugzilla Documentation
  http://www.bugzilla.org/docs/3.4/en/html/lifecycle.html

- *Bugzilla Search Interface Screenshot* – Robinson Tryon

- *Buzz Lightyear* – Pixar
  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Buzz-lightyear-toy-story-3-wallpaper.jpg

- *Bug Submission Assistant Screenshot* – Robinson Tryon

- *Bruticus Maximus Toy* – www.tfu.info
  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bruticusmaximus.jpg

- *Bibisect For Windows Logo* – Robinson Tryon
  (based on Windows for Workgroups design - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_3.1x#Windows_for_Workgroups_3.11 )