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# Native-language communities around OpenOffice

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# Languages: A key feature

A strength of OpenOffice. But it can be exploited better.



Support for 100+ languages in the OpenOffice sources

We only release a few dozens, those that are 100% up-to-date.



Reaching a very large percentage of the world's population  
Estimates (2009): available, at least as sources, to 95% of the people.



Covering minority languages too  
Thanks mainly to the work of motivated community volunteers.

# A Glue for Communities

Languages as the enabling factor for communities.



Communities form naturally around languages  
Discussion is easier. The OpenOffice interface is often localized.



Volunteers can be immensely useful  
And we have a lot of small tasks, rather than a few big tasks.



EN OpenOffice Community Forum

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ES OpenOffice Foro de la comunidad

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FR Forum francophone OpenOffice

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HU OpenOffice Közösségi fórum

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IT Forum della comunità OpenOffice

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JA OpenOffice コミュニティーフォーラム

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NL Nederlandstalige Gemeenschap

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PL Forum społeczności OpenOffice

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VI Diễn đàn viOO

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ZH OpenOffice 中文社区论坛

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Native-language communities: support  
Discuss OpenOffice in native language. Help users. Recruit volunteers.

## Languages

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Native-language communities: localization  
Translate OpenOffice. Often 80% done, even for unreleased languages.

## Welcome to Apache OOo Bugzilla



**File a Bug**



**Search**

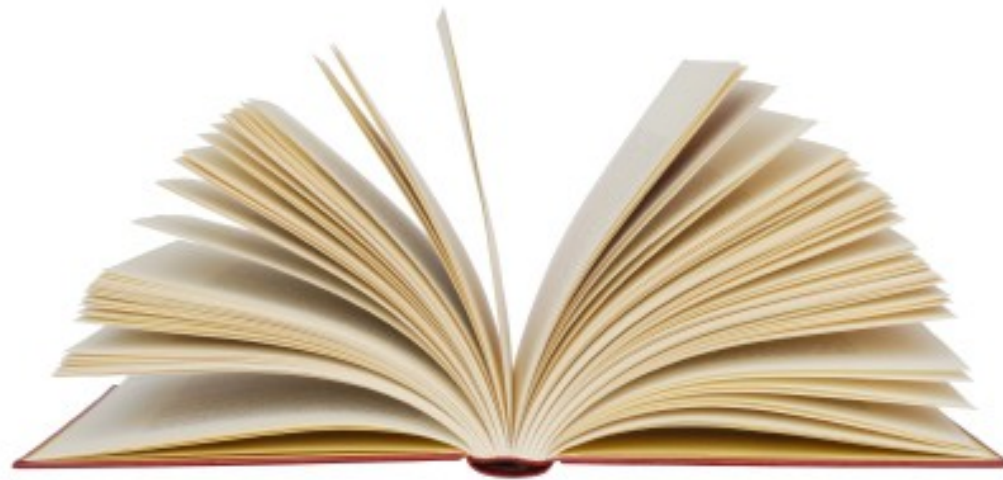


**User Preferences**

Native-language communities: quality assurance  
Test translation quality and locale-dependent functions (sorting).



Native-language communities: templates  
The [templates.openoffice.org](https://templates.openoffice.org) site is language-dependent.



Native-language communities: writing aids

Develop/maintain dictionary, thesaurus, LanguageTool (extension) rules.



Native-language communities: marketing  
Local/national events, at least when language and geography overlap.

# Engaging Communities

Working together at Apache. Recruiting new volunteers.



Actually, there are no “communities” or “groups”  
In the Apache Way there is only one community, with flat hierarchy.





But we can create mailing lists in native languages  
And, in general, the *Apache Way* accepts (motivated) patches.

- `ooo-progetto-it@incubator.apache.org`  
(Italian project mailing list)
- `ooo-utenti-it@incubator.apache.org`  
(Italian users mailing list)

Create a “users” and a “project” list.

One for peer support and announcements, the other for coordination.



Aim: at least one committer per language  
Enables initiative, sustained contribution and better quality control.



Strategy: delegate new contributors to do the actual work  
Even if it takes more time than doing it yourself, you gain a volunteer.



A new tool: the Orientation initiative

A guide to finding your way around and seeing how to help effectively.

Product website:

[www.openoffice.org](http://www.openoffice.org)

Project website:

[openoffice.apache.org](http://openoffice.apache.org)

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