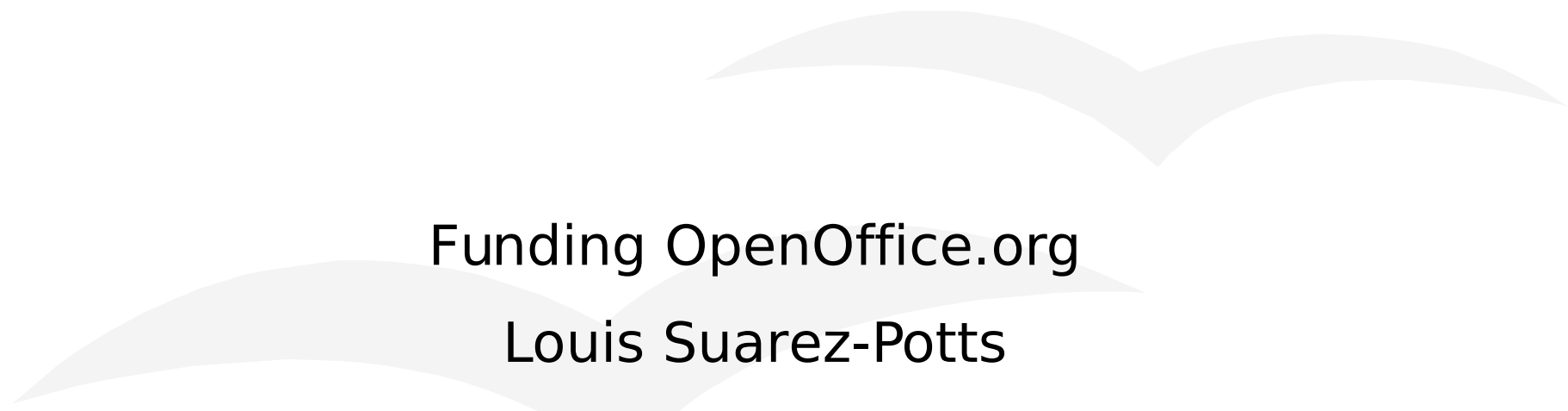




OOoCon 2004 - Berlin



Funding OpenOffice.org
Louis Suarez-Potts
Community Manager

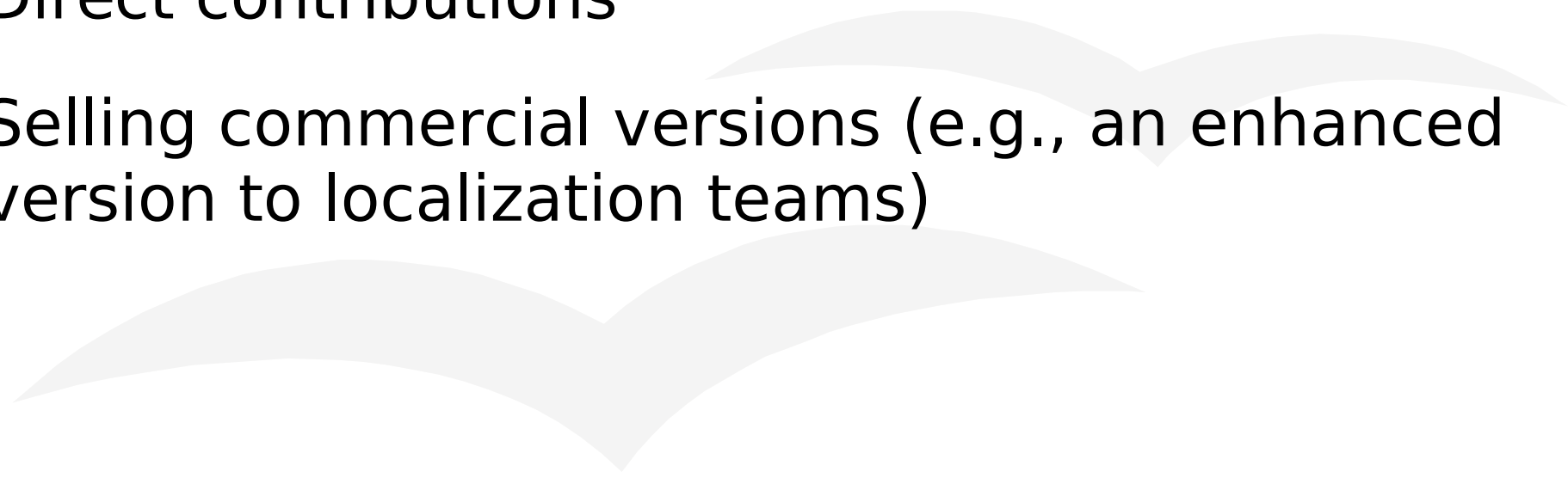


Agenda

- Theme: We need money. We also need to manage it. How?
- What are the issues, moral, political, fiduciary?
 - *That is, how do we get money without alienating volunteers? And how do we honor donors while also honoring volunteer work?*



Funding options

- Sponsors (ad fees)
 - Direct contributions
 - Selling commercial versions (e.g., an enhanced version to localization teams)
- 



Option 1

- Sponsor pages: where, how?
 - Off main homepage & support
 - On CD-ROM/OEM pages
 - On support page
- A risk is creating too many such pages that litter OpenOffice.org with advertisements
- Another risk is alienating developers with the commercialization



Option 2: Direct Contributions

- We currently encourage direct contributions to OpenOffice.org e.V., a German nonprofit corporation. We accept bank transfers and PayPal submissions, as well as checks.
- What else?
 - The Community Council has endorsed the creation of a US-based nonprofit (preferably tax-deductible)
 - The nonprofit would be managed by elected members of the community
 - How would the funds be used?
 - The CC has also suggested using an organization that earmarks (specifies) the allocation of funds.
 - Why? So that if someone wants, say, to fund the development of a WP filter, and only that filter, we would have a way of managing those funds.



Volunteers

- How to honor volunteers while also honoring cash contributors?
- Open source contributions are honored by attribution and by what the code does. Anything beyond that is not needed. We do not need a special page beyond the credits page.
- But: non-code contributions should be honored more publicly.
- The mistake is to try to equate cash and volunteer contributions.
- There is no logic that would allow such equation without also causing madness.