

Extensions: Ugly Toupee or Hipster Hairdo?

Stephan Bergmann

FOSDEM, February 2017

Recently on IRC...

<buovjaga> has there even been a version of "How many LibO devs does it take
to change a light bulb?"?

<bubli> "None, they will sit in the darkness and curse UNO, because changing light bulb would be an incompatible API change"

<thorsten2> ABI even. since you can only get those newfangled LED lights
these days.



Recently on IRC...

- To summarize:
 - Developers hate compatibility constraints
 - It is hard to tell whether a change is incompatible



Meanwhile in Userland...

- tdf#105212:
 - Example Writer document has a few lines and a button that launches sort()-macro. Works Before LO 5.2 beta1 ...
 - This bug started with the commit

```
https://cgit.freedesktop.org/libreoffice/core/commit/?
id=e16fa715c43dcdf836ce8c400b6d54eae87b627d
```

committer Stephan Bergmann <sbergman@redhat.com> 2016-05-03 19:26:06 (GMT)

"Handle wchar_t as native C++11 type on windows"



Meanwhile in Userland...

- To summarize:
 - Extension authors and users hate incompatibilities
 - It is hard to tell whether a change is incompatible



So



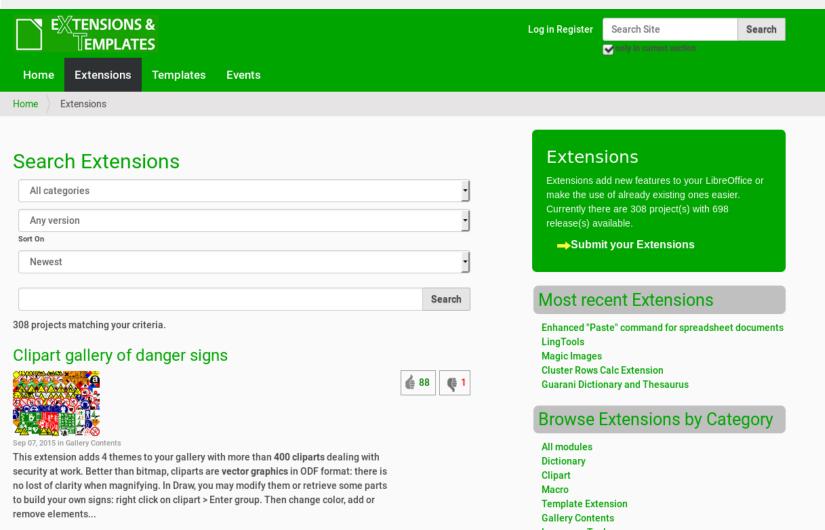
https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/564x/d0/4a/ad/d04aad28527dfb3767abf534cdd6013e.jpg



 $https://follow.kapsch.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Meerschwein_La_India_Piaroa_-_Fotolia.com_01-1024x683.jpg$



extensions.libreoffice.org



Of those 308 extensions...

- 71 offer nothing to download?!?
- 6 are raw dictionary data files (.aff/.dat/.dic)
- 2 are documents (.ods/.ots)
- 1 is plain BASIC code (.bas)
- the remaining 298 are .oxt extensions (or .zip)



Of those 228 extensions...

- 81 contain only data
 - dictionaries, gallery images, ...
- 81 are BASIC
- 28 are Python
- 22 are Java
- 5 are other scripting
 - mostly Python, again
- 4 are C++
 - (incl. two versions of mysql-connector)
- 7 remain unidentified





THANK YOU