

Bringing Collabora Online to your web-app *its easy ...*

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*“Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the
ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and
walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls...” -
Jeremiah 6:16*

CS3 2020



What is Collabora Online ?

Documents + Spreadsheets + Slides

- Viewing and Collaborative editing; **Web, Tablet, Phone**

Excellent interoperability with Microsoft formats

- DOCX, DOC, RTF, XLSX, XLS, PPTX, PPT

Many other filters - PDF, Visio, Publisher ...

Powerful WYSIWYG rendering, built on **LibreOffice core**

On-premise Integration with your existing EFSS.

- ownCloud, Nextcloud, Seafile, pydio,
or LMS: Moodle, or chat: Mattermost etc.

Architecture – a bet on CPU threads & network ... getting cheaper.





How to get something running fast:

- Install CODE on a dedicated server
 - <https://www.collaboraoffice.com/code/>
- Setup the SSL for the https access
- Install the integration between your document storage and the Online
 - Or if your are integrating yourself, implement the REST endpoints
 - And modify your webapp to add iframe for the Online
- Enjoy the success! :-)

Or maybe you have an additional need before you are completely happy with Online in your webapp?



Or build it yourself ...

```
$ git clone  
https://git.libreoffice.org/online
```

```
$ make run
```

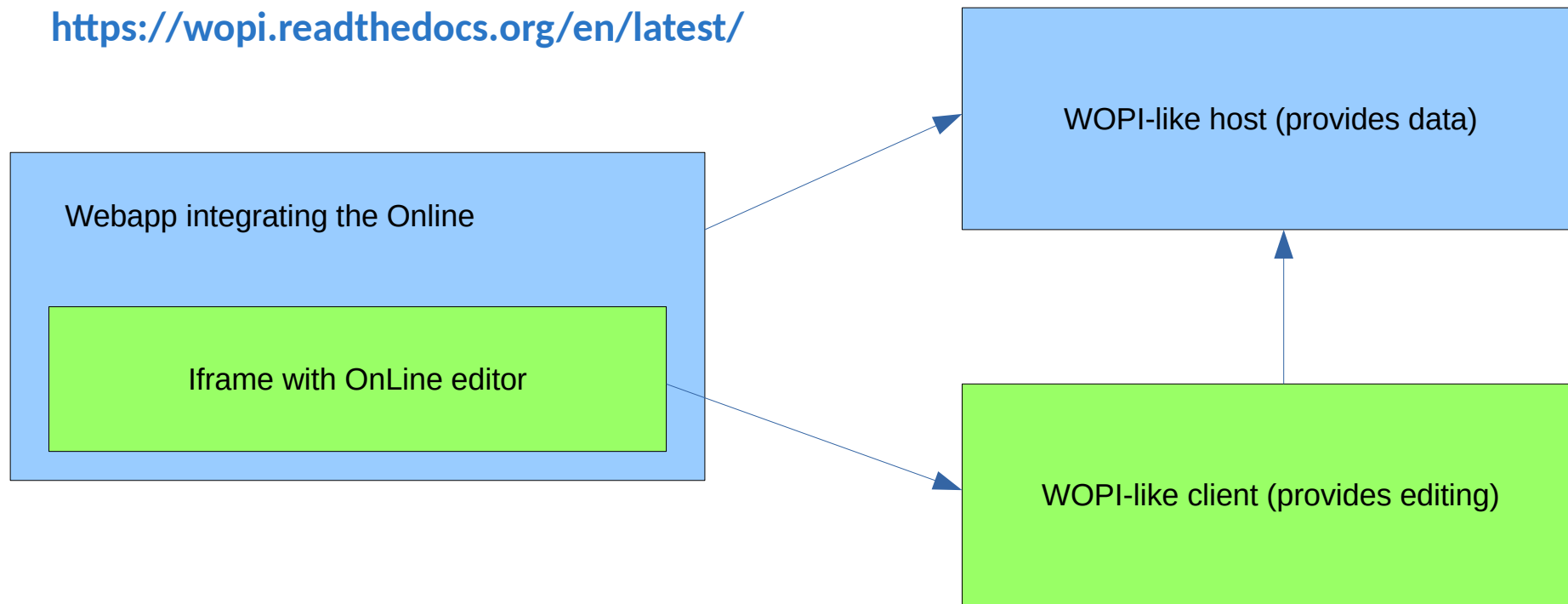
Launch one of these in your browser: ...

File access & Auth like WOPI



The Online uses a WOPI-like protocol

<https://wopi.readthedocs.org/en/latest/>





REST endpoints

To download the file:

- GET `https://<WOPI host URL>/<...>/wopi*/files/<id>/contents?access_token=<token>`

Upload back:

- POST `https://<WOPI host URL>/<...>/wopi*/files/<id>/contents?access_token=<token>`

CheckFileInfo to provide information about the file:

- `https://<WOPI host URL>/<...>/wopi*/files/<id>?access_token=<token>`



Security token

To be able to access files securely, an authentication token has to be passed to the Online

- From the Online point of view, it can be any random number / string that will be passed as part of the URL when accessing the document storage

Should be generated according to the user who is logged in + the document

- But don't make it possible to guess the token!
- The ideal is to maintain a list on the server + have a random number (mapped to the element in the list) as the token



JavaScript part – embedding the iframe

The Connector connects to the discovery service

- To get the information about how to initiate the iframe, the 1st call has to be an access to a “discovery” xml
 - In theory, different document types can be served by different servers

Then create the iframe that contains the Online

- Has to be provided with the access token via a POST request
- And then only gets called back when the document is closed again



Recommended steps

- Add WOPI REST endpoints to your web service, for the moment returning only a “Hello World” message.
- Implement the CheckFileInfo endpoint
- Now you can see a constructed document containing just “Hello World” in the Online in a simple HTML page:
 - ```
<html><body>
 <form action="WOPISrc=https://<WOPI host URL>/<...>/wopi/files/<id>" enctype="multipart/form-data" method="post">
 <input name="access_token" value="test" type="hidden"/>
 <input type="submit" value="Load Collabora Online"/>
 </form></body></html>
```
- In your webapp, create an iframe that embeds the Online
- Implement the real access\_token handling
- Update the REST endpoints to actually load real data
- Implement the PutFile endpoint to really save the data

**PostMessage magic ...**



# Tweak loolwsd.xml

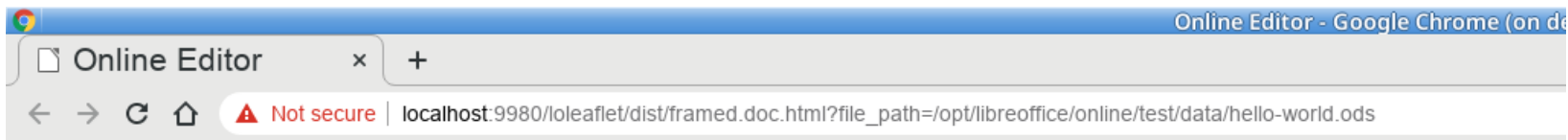
```
<net desc="Network settings">

 <frame_ancestors desc="Specify who is allowed to
 embed the LO Online iframe (loolwsd and WOPI host
 are always allowed). Separate multiple hosts
 by space.">localhost:*</frame_ancestors>
```

A little inelegant, but tests cross-site-scripting bits by default.

postMessage:

[https://localhost:9980/loleaflet/dist/framed.doc.html?file\\_path=../../hello-world.ods](https://localhost:9980/loleaflet/dist/framed.doc.html?file_path=../../hello-world.ods)



# Play with postMessage control ...

## Demo ...

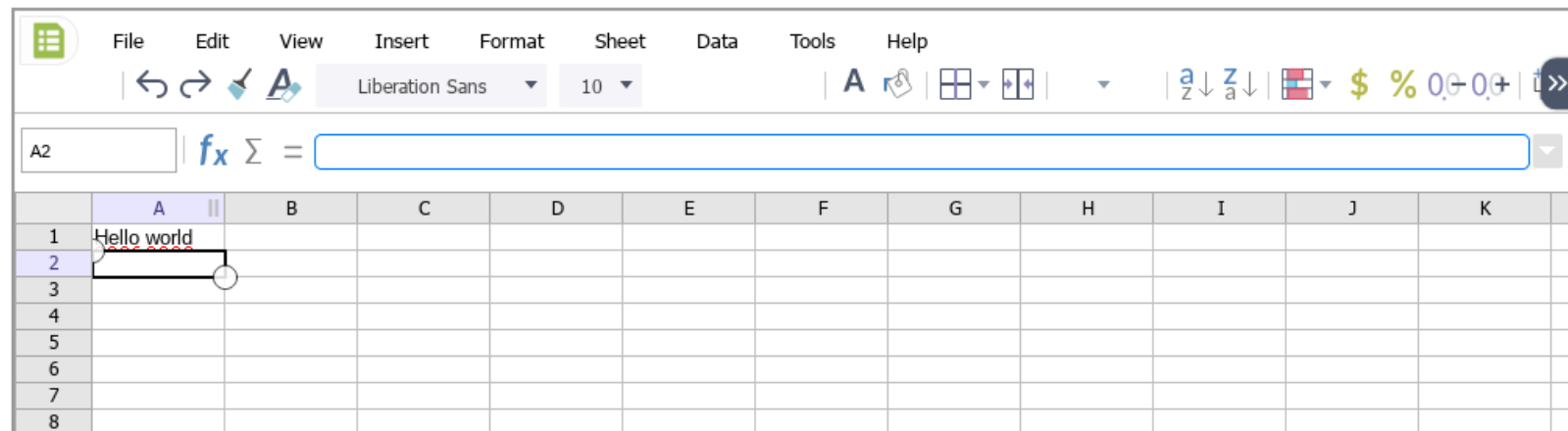
**Modified Status: Saved**

**UI modification**



**Document frame**

If the frame fails to load click [here and accept security bits](#)

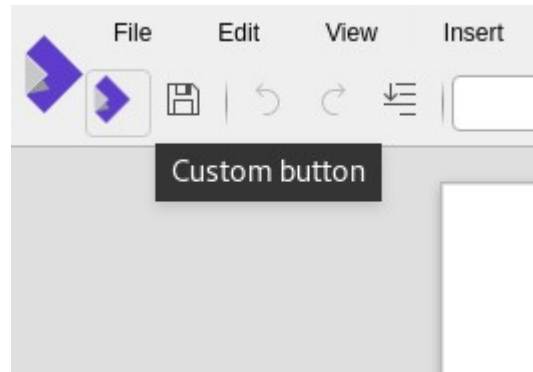




# Extending without Touching the Online Code

**Sometimes the functionality is too specific to the integration via `postMessage`**

- It's possible to add a button to the toolbar via a message
- And react on the user pressing it
- See [loleaflet/reference.html](https://loleaflet.com/reference.html)





## postMessage API

**For signalling from the iFrame back to the parent frame.**

- You can use this after all the JS is loaded – which is signalled by App\_LoadingStatus with Status “Frame\_Ready”. When that happens, the parent has to send Host\_PostmessageReady.
- Then for inserting a button, the host can use Insert\_Button
- Each time the button is pressed, the host receives a message Button\_Clicked with the id of the button.



# CheckFileInfo extensions – to enable or disable features

Most of them were added thanks to a customer request:

- **HidePrintOption, HideSaveOption, HideExportOption:** Hide the appropriate options in the file menubar
- **DisableExport:** Disables export functionality in backend. If set to true, HideExportOption is assumed to be true
- **DisableCopy:** Disables copying from the document in libreoffice online backend. Pasting into the document would still be possible. However, it is still possible to do an "internal" cut/copy/paste.
- **DisableInactiveMessages:** Disables displaying of the explanation text on the overlay when the document becomes inactive or killed. With this, the JS integration must provide the user with appropriate message when it gets Session\_Closed or User\_Idle postMessage's.
- **DownloadAsPostMessage:** Indicate that the integration wants to handle the downloading of pdf for printing or svg for slideshows or experted document, because it cannot rely on browser's support for downloading.
  - When this is set to true, the user's eg. Print action will trigger a postMessage called Download\_As, with the following JSON in the Values:
- **EnableOwnerTermination:** If set to true, it allows the document owner (the one with OwnerId =UserId) to send a 'closedocument' message (see protocol.txt)
- **UserExtraInfo:** JSON object that contains additional info about the user, namely the avatar image.
  - Example: 'UserExtraInfo' => [ 'avatar' => 'http://url/to/user/avatar', 'mail' => 'user@server.com' ]
  - Note: There is strict Content Security Policy that restricts image resources (img-src), therefore the avatar URL must not violate the CSP, otherwise it will show as broken images.
- **WatermarkText:** If set to a non-empty string, is used for rendering a watermark-like text on each tile of the document

# Examples:

*give in to peer pressure: all your friends have !*



# Alfresco

## Alfresco connector available thanks to Arawa

- Introduced by Philippe Hemmel at this conference
- Implemented in Java
- To match their integration needs, Collabora has implemented support for monitoring the loolwsd health
  - Several Online nodes can connect to one central place that collects the state

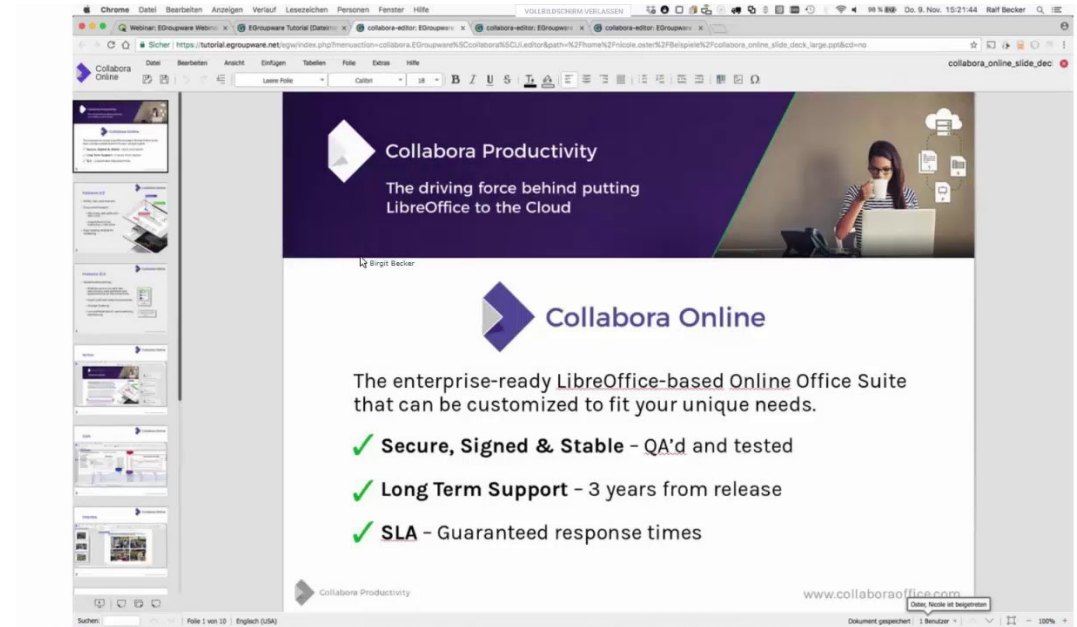




# EGroupware

Connector available thanks to eGroupware from their repository

- <https://github.com/EGroupware/collabora>
- Implemented in PHP + JavaScript
- To match their integration needs, we have
  - Improved the printing in Firefox
  - Updated dockerfiles

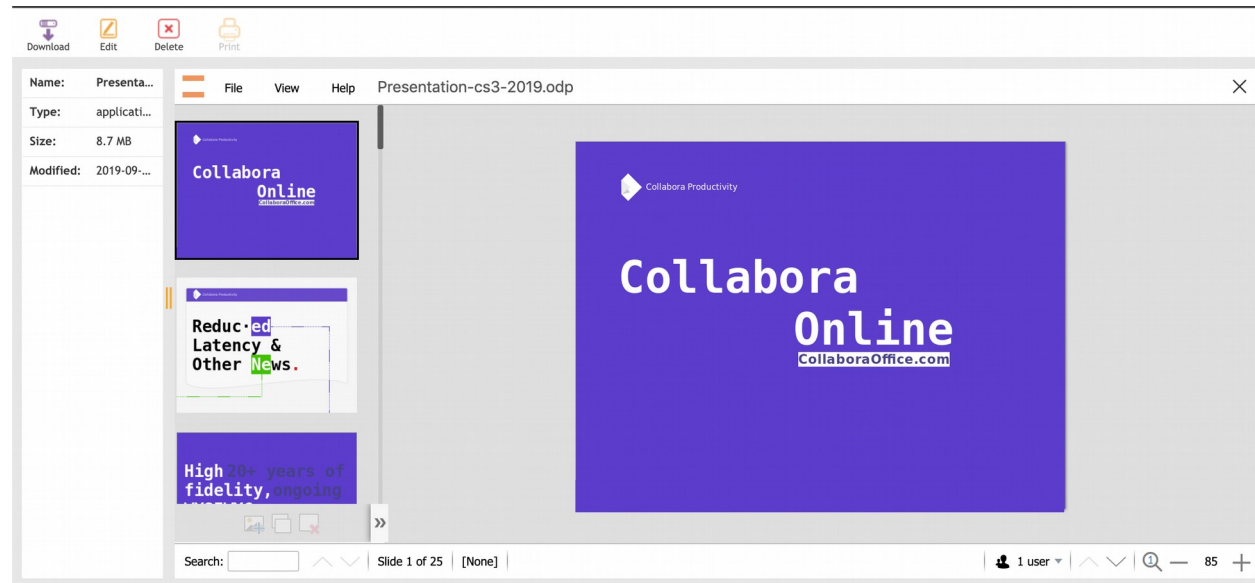




# Kolab

Connector available thanks to Kolab themselves.

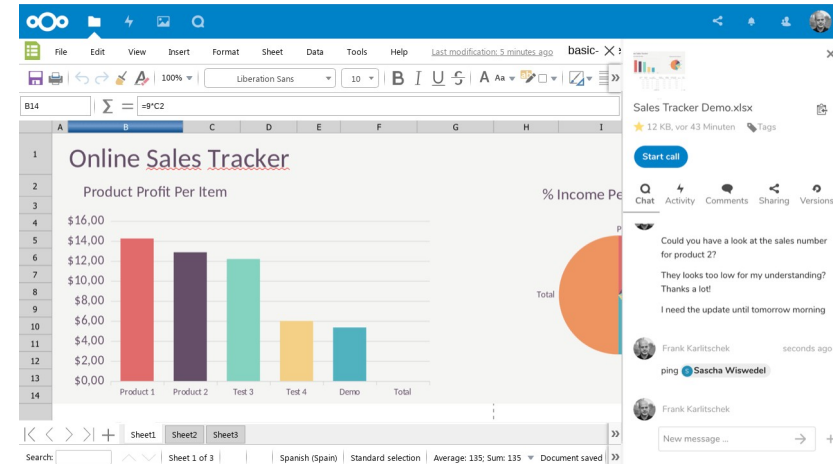
- <https://git.kolab.org/source/wopi/>
- To match their integration, we had to expose various functionality via postMessage
  - Like closing all the views from the master view, downloading or printing



# Nextcloud

Connector originally developed by Collabora, but now with features from Nextcloud

- <https://github.com/nextcloud/richdocuments>
- Implemented in PHP and JavaScript
- Many features in the Online were implemented to match the Nextcloud's integration needs, like:
  - Specification of avatars in CheckFileInfo
  - Support for templates – TemplateSource in CheckFileInfo
  - /hosting/capabilities – for early check of whether a particular version supports some features or not
  - And many more...

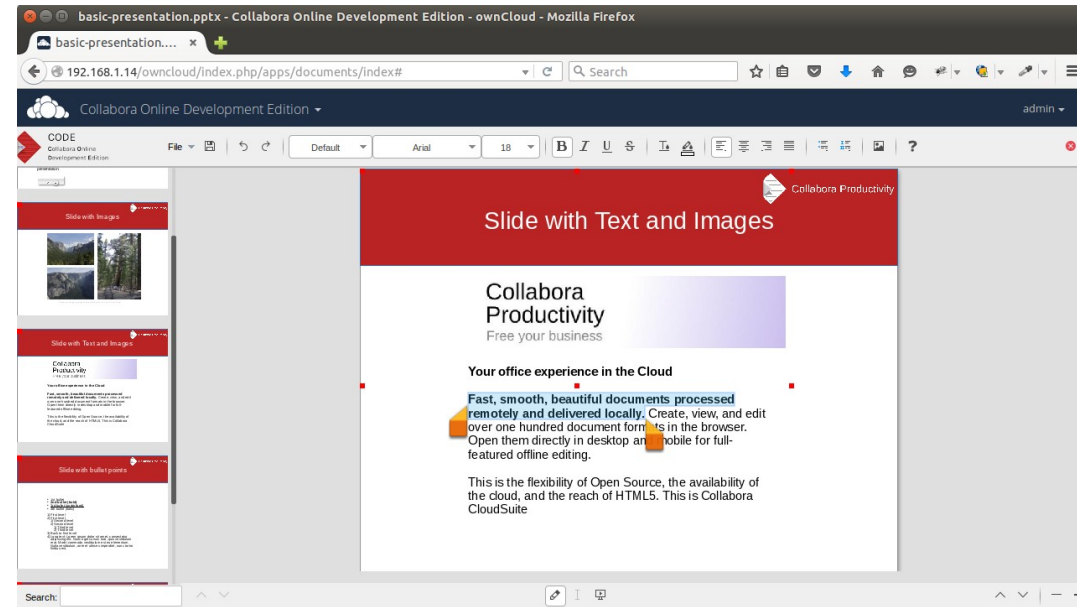




# ownCloud

Originally implemented by Collabora, now with features from ownCloud.

- <https://github.com/owncloud/richdocuments>
- Implemented in PHP and JavaScript
- To match their integration needs, we are improving Watermarking substantially
  - So that each user in a document can have a different, dedicated watermark

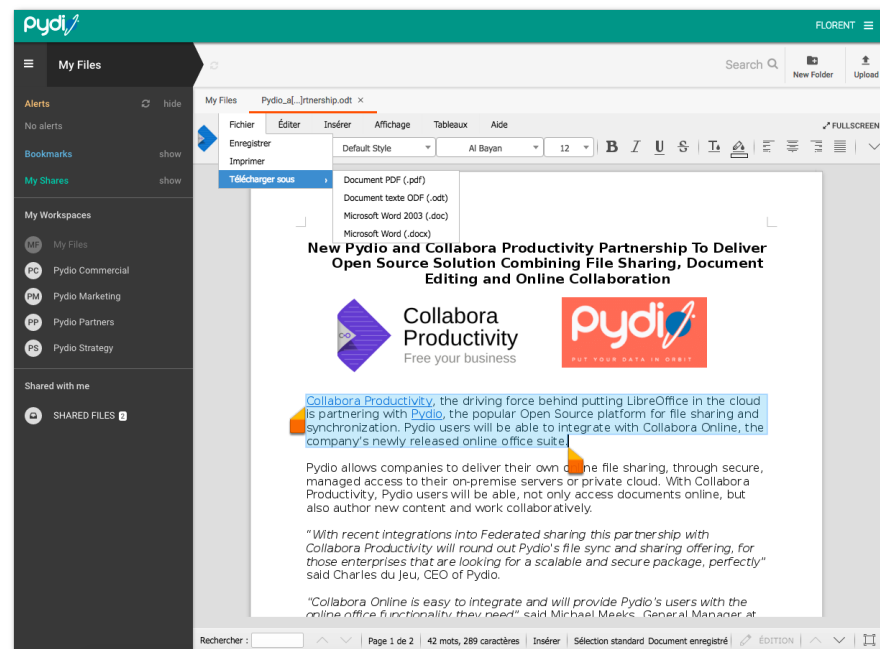




# Pydio

## Available thanks to Pydio

- <https://github.com/pydio/pydio-core/tree/develop/core/src/plugins/editor.libreoffice>
- Implemented in PHP and JavaScript
- To match their integration needs, we had to extend what characters can be used in the access\_token





# Roove

## Connector implemented by SoftDistribution

- For their integration, we had to improve Save as and full-screen handling of presentations.



# Mattermost

The screenshot shows a Mattermost interface with a document viewer open. The document is titled "some text.txt" and contains a bar chart with the title "Title". The chart has three columns: Column 1 (blue), Column 2 (red), and Column 3 (yellow). The y-axis ranges from 0 to 12. The chart data is as follows:

Category	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
1	9	3	4
2	2	9	10
3	3	1	4
4	4	9	6

The document viewer also shows a search bar, page information (Page 1 of 1, 3 words, 14 characters), and a footer indicating it is powered by Collabora Online.

I love to help people do this  
*just contact me*

# Implemented for Collabora Online 4.2 *(due ~Feb)*

*shipping in CODE now*

▼ +

## Documents + Spreadsheets + Slides

- ## Powerful WYSIWYG rendering

**On-premise** Integration with your EFSS.

## Architecture – a bet on CPU threads & network ...

collabora online.com



★ Entrance: Fly In

Category: Entrance

Basic

Appear

Fly In

Effect:	Venetian Blinds
---------	-----------------

## Box

## Checkerboard

Circle

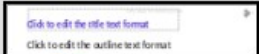
Start: On click

Direction: From bottom

Duration:	0.50 sec
-----------	----------

Delay: 0.0 sec





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# Cleaner theming: status bar

## ***How can I check spelling in my language?***

Choose menu **Tools** → **Languages** and select the language for the whole document or for the selected text and for the current paragraph.

## ***How can I remove the red wavy lines in my document?***

Choose menu **Tools** and uncheck **Automatic Spell Checking**.

## ***What is the blue wavy underline in some words in the text?***

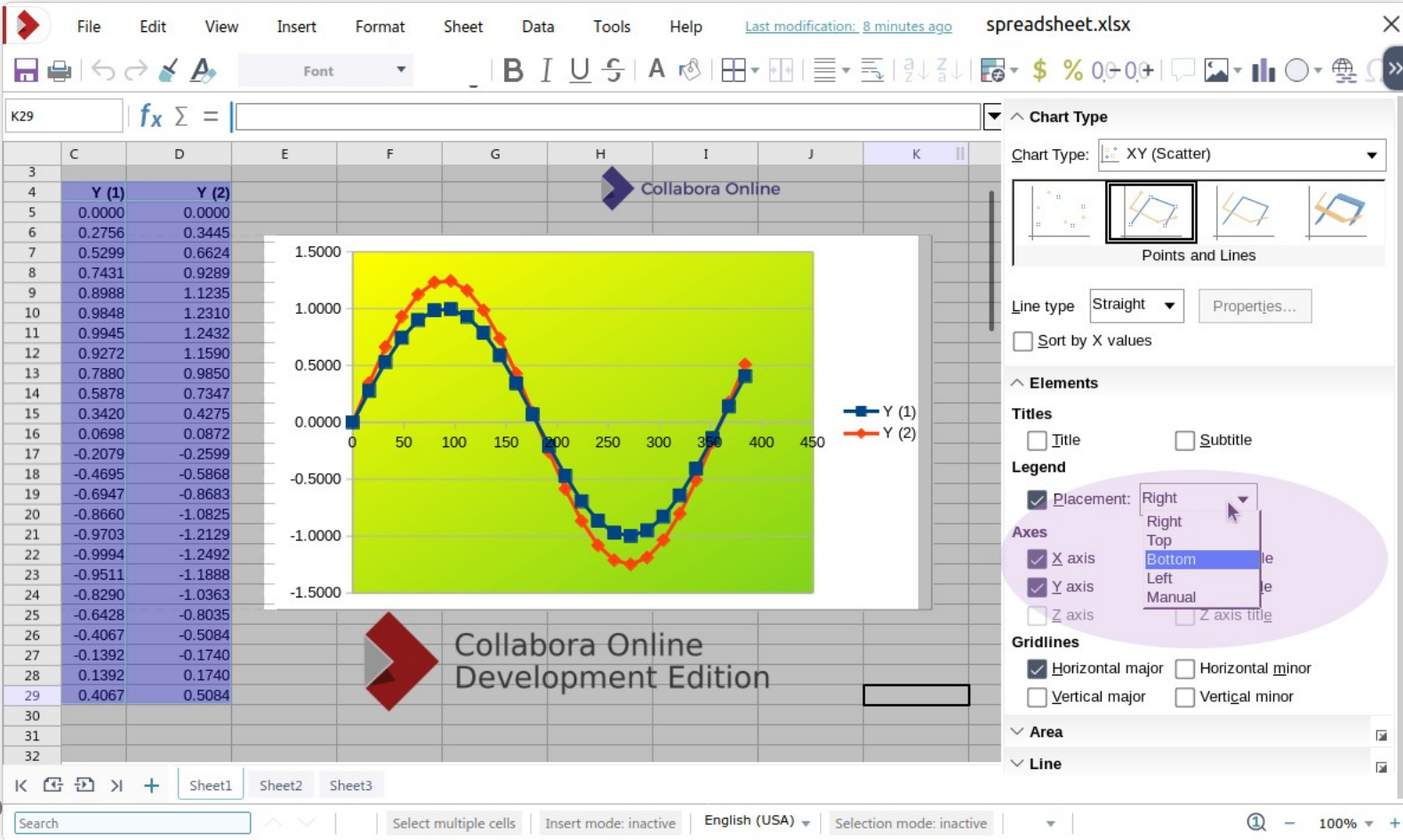
Grammar errors in the text is marked with the blue wavy underline. Click on the right mouse button to open a menu with suggestions to correct the grammar errors. Select the right suggestion to change the text.

## ***Is here a thesaurus?***

Yes. Click in the word you want and choose **Tools** → **Thesaurus**. A dialog opens with suggestions for replacements.

- None (Do not check spelling)
- English (UK)
- English (USA)**
- French (France)
- German (Germany)
- Italian (Italy)
- Italian (Switzerland)
- Portuguese (Brazil)
- Portuguese (Portugal)
- Russian
- Spanish (Spain)
- Reset to Default Language

# Chart OLE editing highlight & Chart Sidebar



N

Goal

11,000 w

8000 w

150 w

01/05/16

English (U

FileEditViewInsertFormatSheetDataToolsHelp

Last modification: 1 minutes agospreadsheet.xlsx

Font

B I U

fx Σ =

=IF(A4+B4>5,CONCATENATE(IF(D4="M","mr ","mrs "),F4,IF(G4>"",CONCATENATE(" ",G4," "),"")),"")

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	n1	n2	opgev	M/V	Firstname	Voorletter	extr name	Family name	NameForAddress
2	3	4	M	V	John	J.	de	Wouder	mr C. de Wouder
3	3	4	V	V	Josina	J.	van der	Koop	mrs J. van der Koop

Collabora Online Development Edition

FUNCTION WIZARD

Functions

Structure

CONCATENATE

Function result

"mrs J. van der Koop"

Combines several text items into one.

Text1 (required)

Text for the concatenation.

Text1 IF(D4="M", "mr ", "mrs ")

Text2 F4

Text3 IF(G4>"",CONCATENATE(" ",G4," "),")

Text4 H4

Formula

Result

"mrs J. van der Koop"

=IF(A4+B4>5,CONCATENATE(IF(D4="M", "mr ", "mrs "),F4,IF(G4>"",CONCATENATE(" ",G4," "),") ,H4),"false")

☐ Array

Help

< Back

Next >

OK

Cancel

col

Search

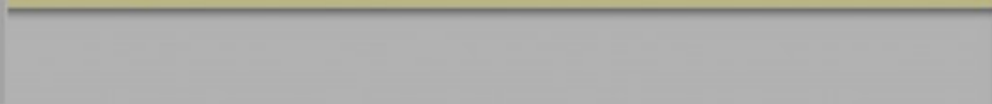
Select multiple cells

Insert mode: inactive

Selection mode: inactive

60

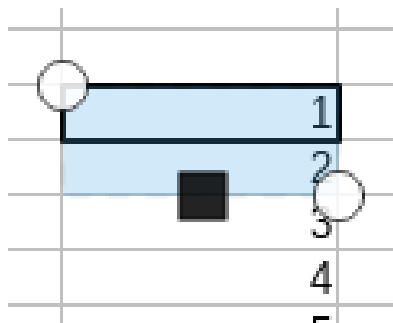
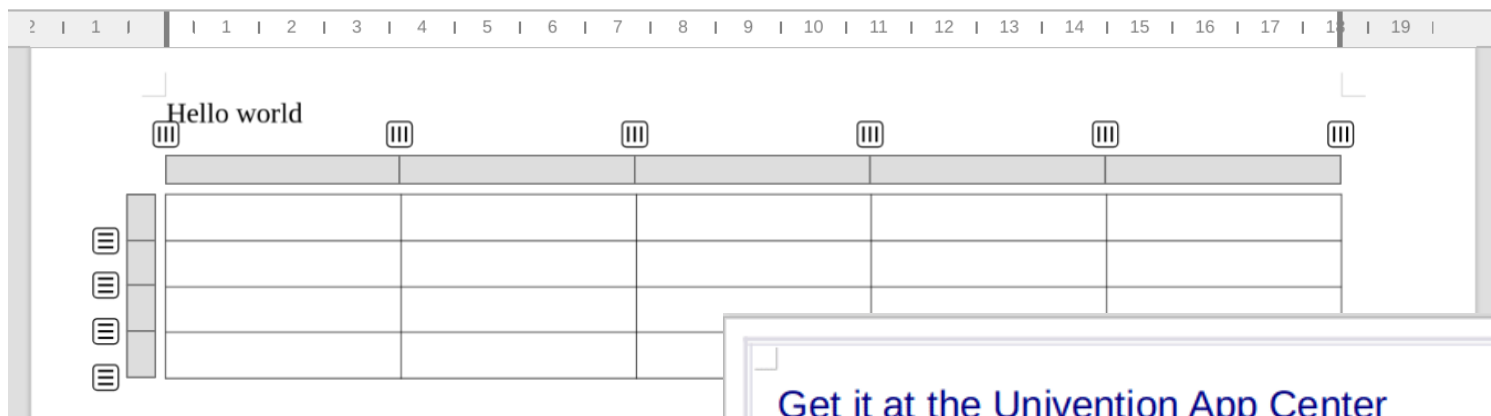
- Game of Online is the desktop client
- It is possible to write features & functions on available
- High amount of client-server communication
- 100+ languages in interface and logic approach
- Benefiting from enhancements in the Web
- At cost of full overhead
- Creating benefits in enhancements  
e.g. performance and debugging



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# Many more wins: eg. touch resizing handles, URL popup



## Get it at the Univention App Center

The easiest way to install CODE for a quick tryout is to download it as a virtual appliance from the Univention App Center. This appliance contains the Collabora Online Development Edition, and the additional software you need to get you up and running in minutes. You can choose between two types of integration, **CODE + Nextcloud** or **CODE + ownCloud**. Each appliance is available in four formats: KVM, Virtu, https://hub.docker.com/r/collabora/code/ and VMware ESXi.

## Grab CODE docker image from Docker Hub

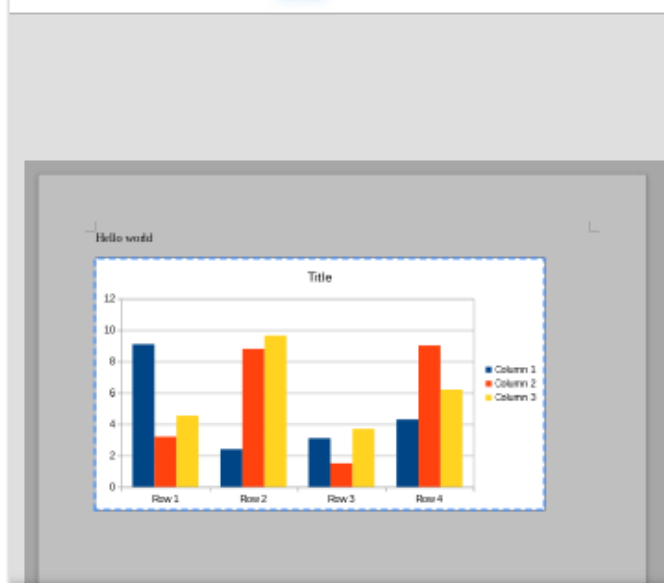
The collabora/code Docker image can be installed to any x86-64 host (e.g. on Linux and Windows 10), and it is fully configurable. For more information about setup and configuration for deployment, please read the CODE Docker page. If you want to try it out quickly, you can set up CODE docker image with file sharing integration in less than 5 minutes in a very basic way, following these instructions: quick tryout with ownCloud or quick tryout with Nextcloud.

# Collabora Online Mobile

*with a Nextcloud customer*





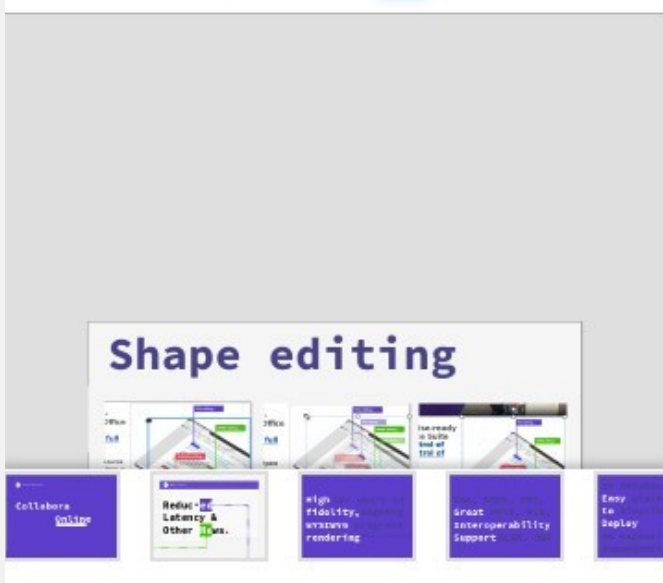


### Chart Type

Chart Type:

Column

3D Look ☐



### Slide Layouts

Slide

Layouts

Grid of slide layout templates.



### Slide Format

Slide

Layouts

Format:

Screen 4:3

Orientation:

Landscape

Background:



Download as



File



PDF Document (.pdf)

Download as



ODF text document (.odt)

Edit



Word 2003 Document (.doc)

Track Changes



Word Document (.docx)

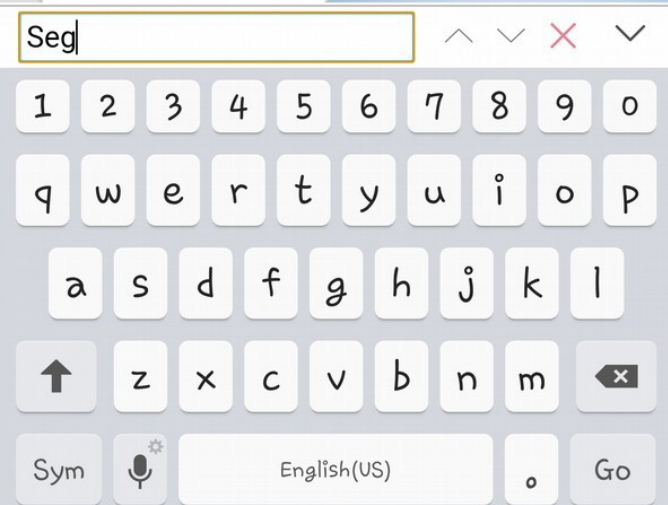
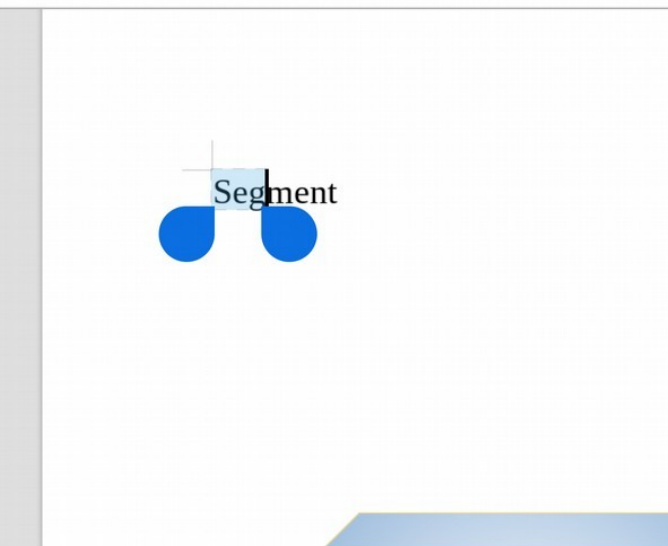
View

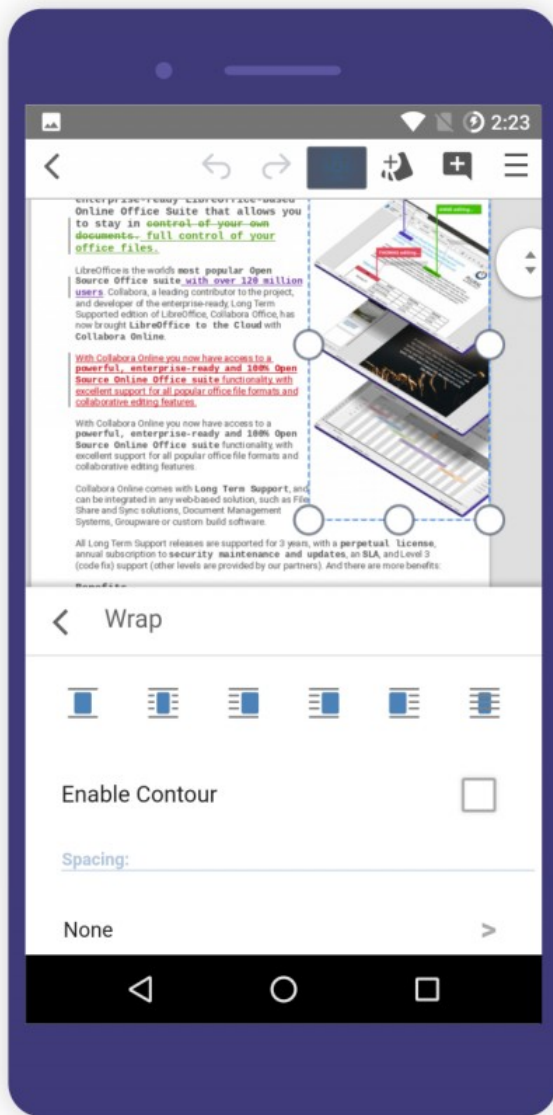


Rich Text (.rtf)

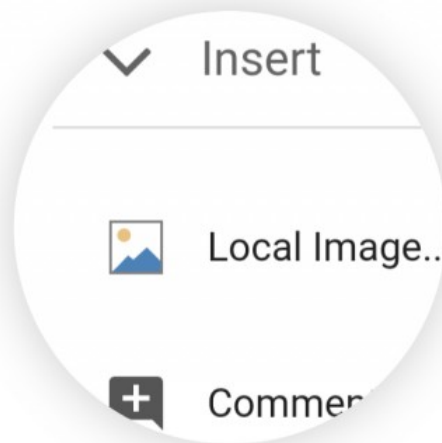


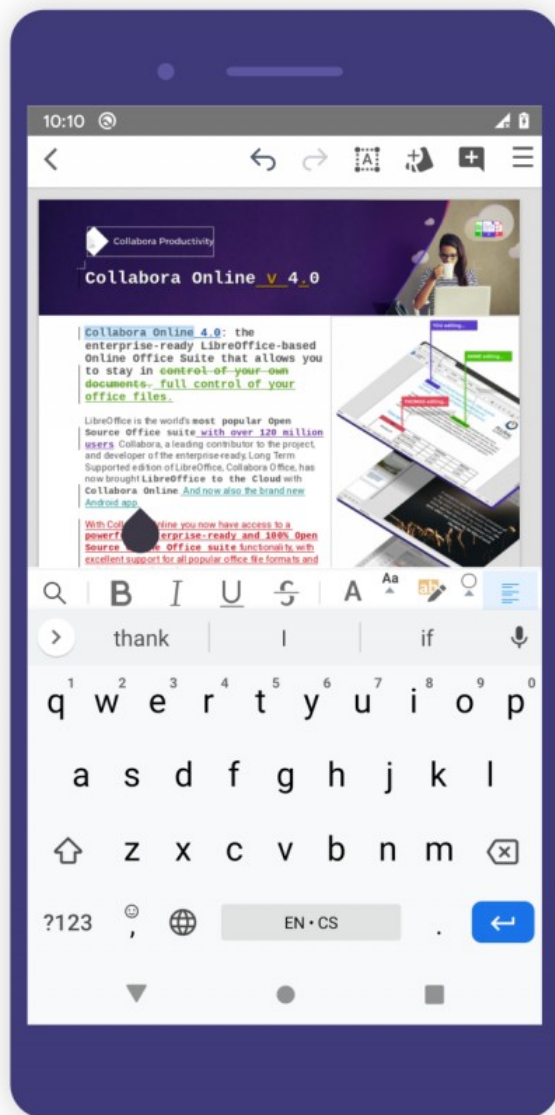
About





collabora or

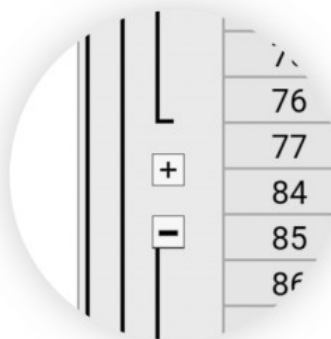
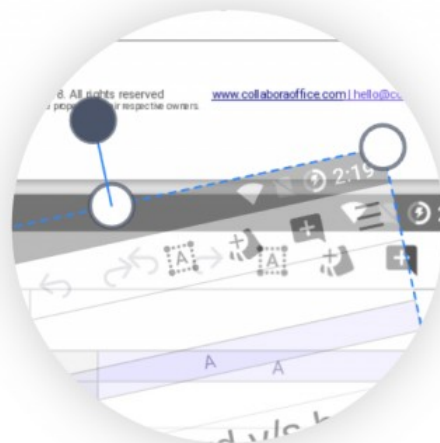
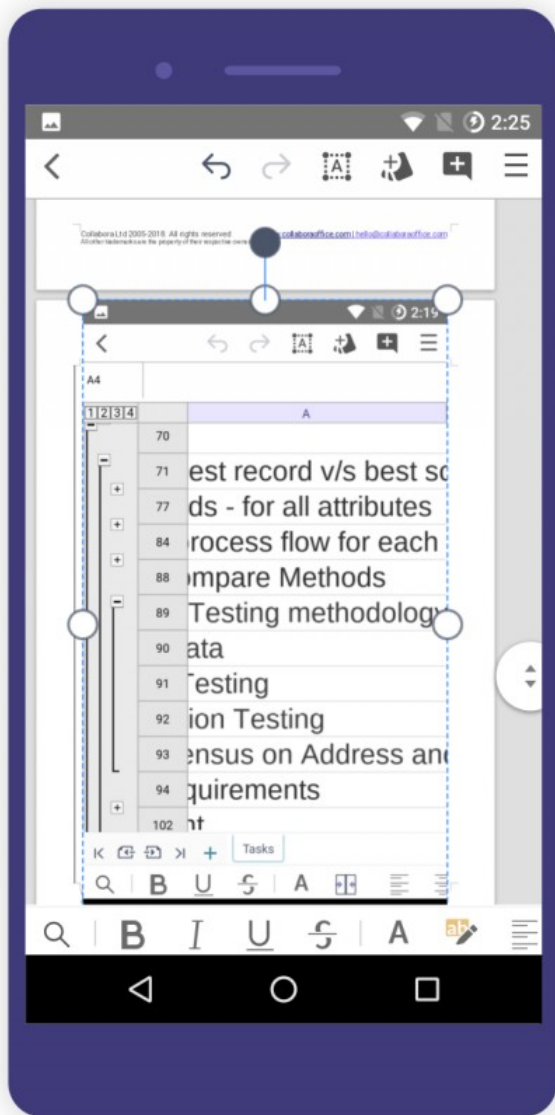




collabora or

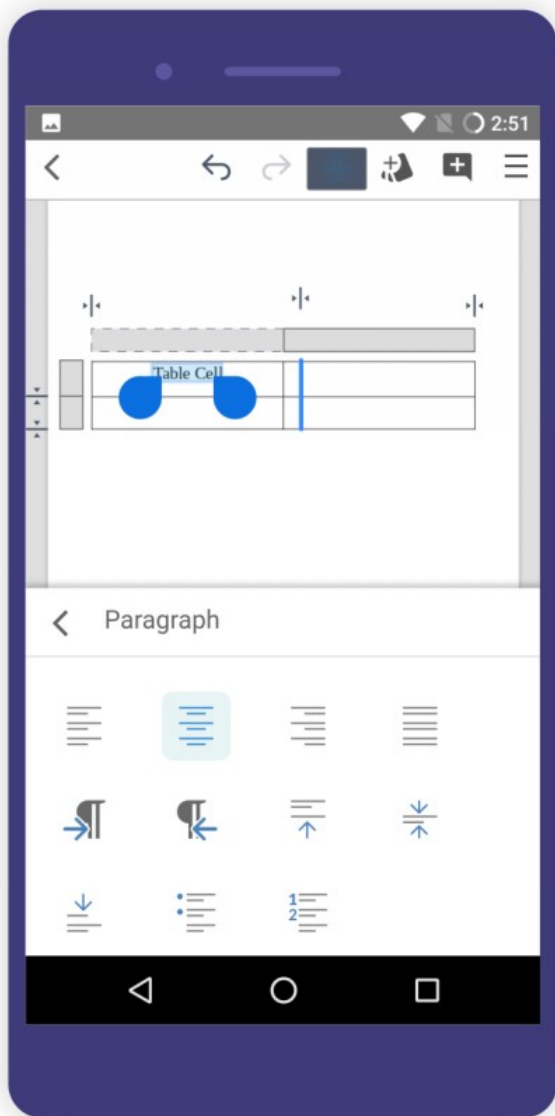


Collabora Office



Collabora Office

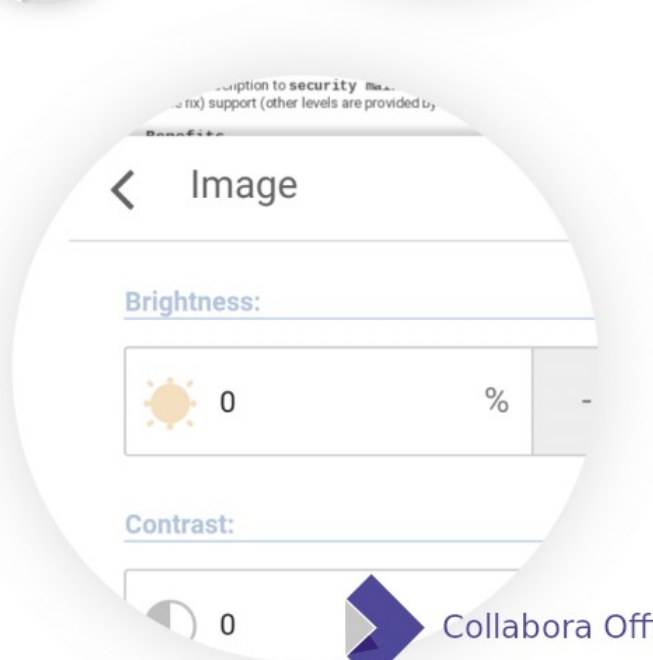
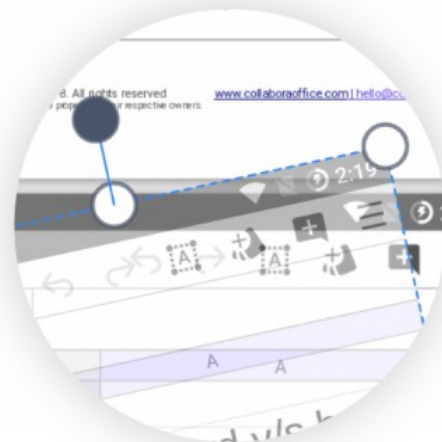
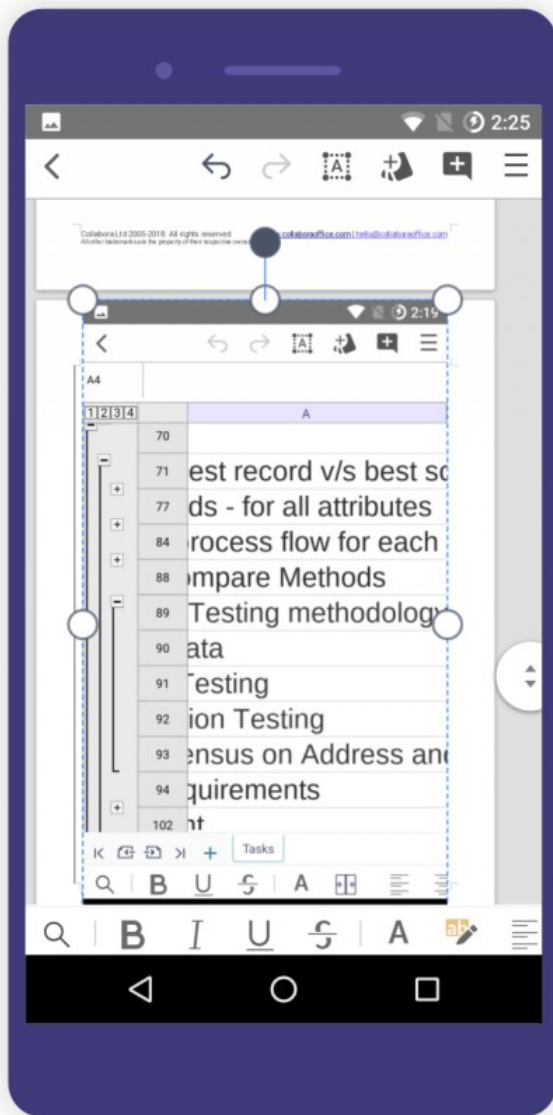




Collabora Office



collabora or



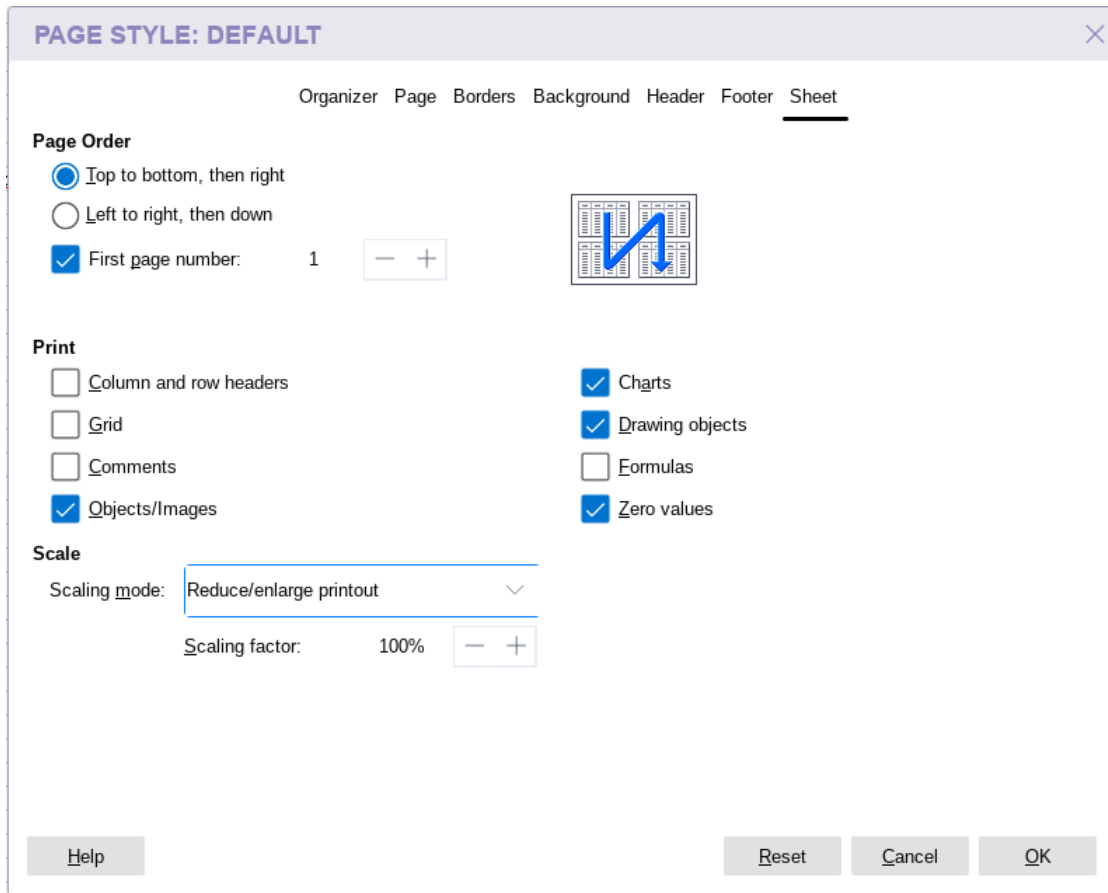
Collabora Office



# Online / Widget theming implementation ...

## Custom look & feel

- Custom SVG branding of individual widgets
- Building on native widget framework.
- ~easy to re-use for other platforms (volunteer?)





# Native iOS version for tablets ...

## Co-Developed with Adfinis

- A great partner !

19.16 Tue 10 Sep 4G 75 %

File Edit View Insert Format Table Tools Help

Karla 10.5 B I U A Aa

### Enterprise Product Overview

Collabora Online is a software component (what is that?) (just asking haha) which can be integrated into your web application and enables scaleable viewing and collaborative editing of office chhfhfhfhfhfhfhfhfh in dozens of file formats. Collabora Online provides unparalleled file format support, collaborative editing and rendering capabilities.

#### Key Feature Summary

- View and collaboratively edit text documents, spreadsheets, presentations & more
- Interoperability with Microsoft formats: DOCX, DOC, RTF, XLSX, XLS, PPTX, PPT
- Native Open Document formats ODT, ODS, ODP
- Import filters/viewers for PDF, Visio, Keynote, Numbers, Pages
- Localization
  - Collabora Online is fully translated for these language codes: en-US, fr, it, de, es, pt, pt-BR, ja, ko and contains significant translation for 27 other languages
- Basic editing features
  - Download as PDF, Open-Document or MS Office format
  - Undo / redo & document repair
  - Rich character & paragraph formatting
  - Insert charts, tables, images, comments




image positioning

- Rich page styling, including columns
- red-lining / change-tracking

- Spell-checking & Thesaurus
- Enterprise features
  - Text Documents
    - What You See Is What You Get (WYSIWYG) editing.
    - Easy to visualize document headers, footers,

Text Body

Character

Karla 10.5

B I U A Aa

Paragraph

Spacing: Indent:

0.00 cr 1.27 cr

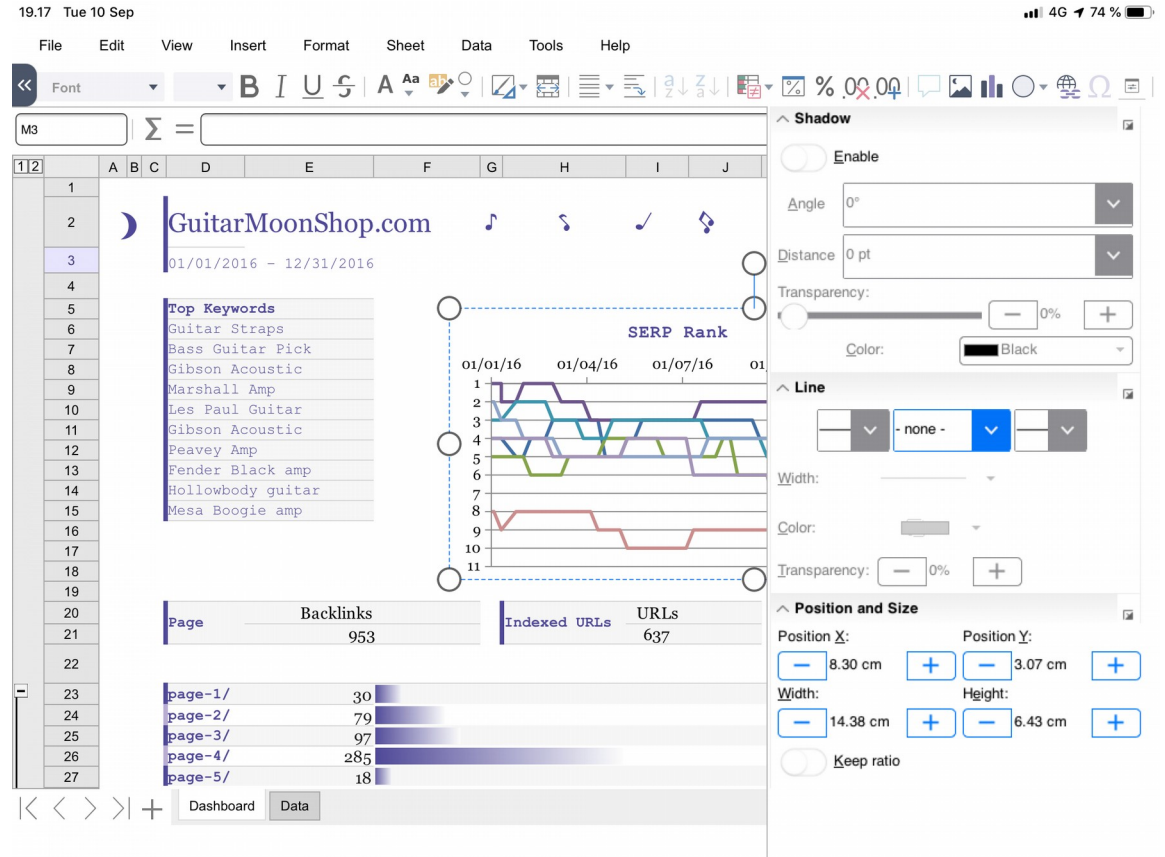
0.25 cr 0.00 cr

-0.64 cr

# Native iOS version for tablets ... with Adfinis

## Co-Developed with Adfinis

- A great partner !

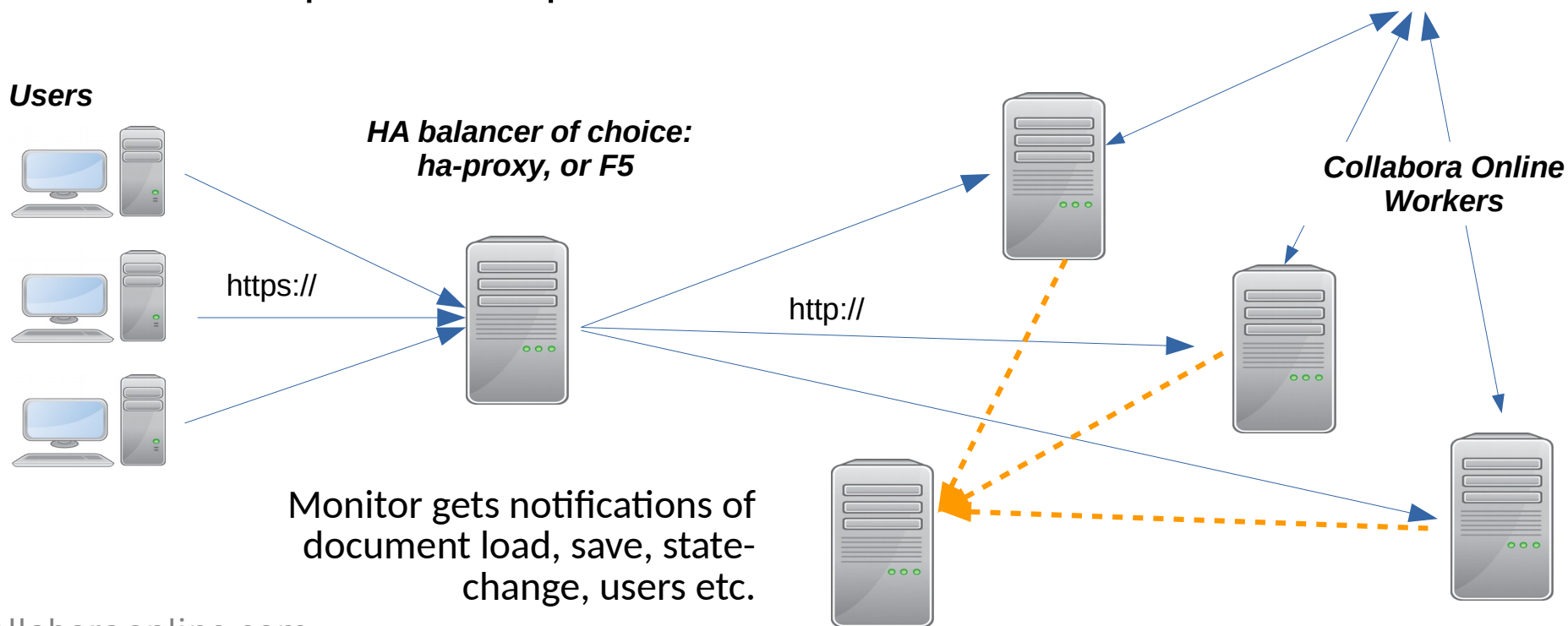




# Monitoring APIs:

Either **poll** each server: new Prometheus text-based format compatible end-point thanks to 1&1

**EFFS Data Store  
via WOPI-like API**





# The pieces you can't see

## Integration improvements

- Masses of new extensible API to embed Online into your application

## Performance

- Loading time, dialog rendering time
- Improved PDF rendering
- Unipoll – code simplification.
- Profiling infrastructure

## UX / infra changes

- Rich Copy/Paste support
- Many new dialogs converted to async
- Multi-window focus re-work.

## Security & Anonymization

- Anonymized logging
- 3<sup>rd</sup> party penetration testing

**And much much more ...**

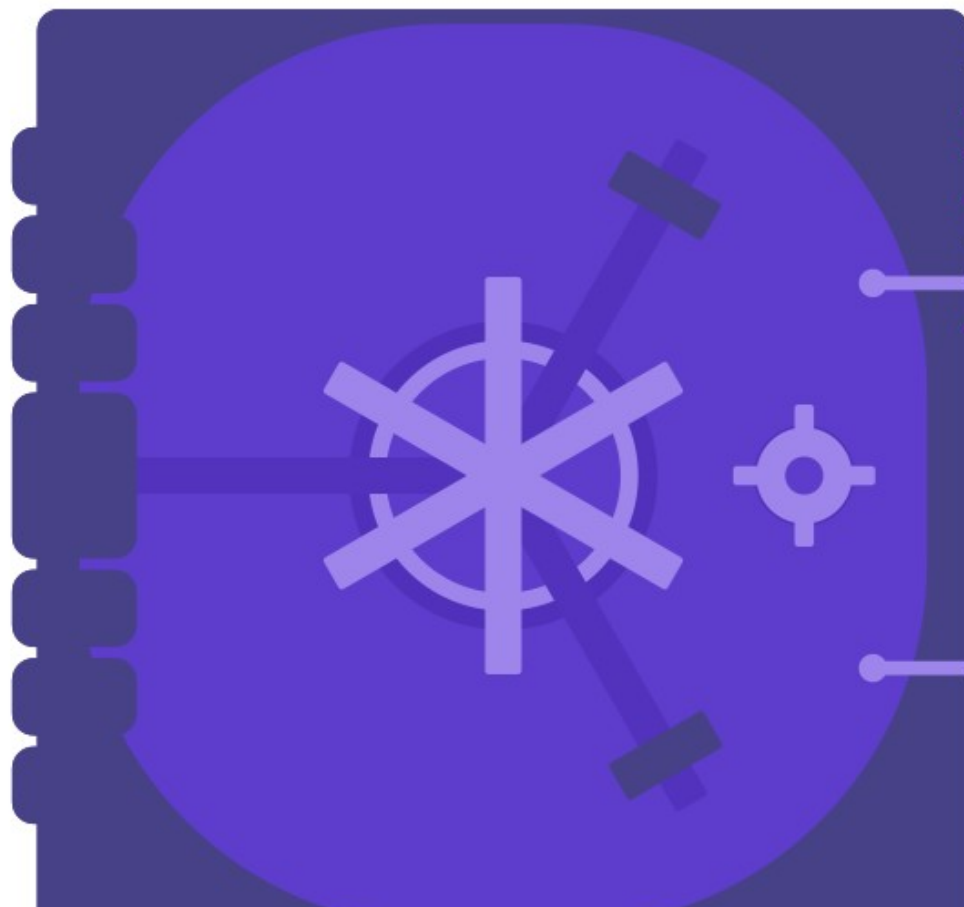
# Deployment & HA

*some distinctives*



# Digital Sovereignty

*or :don't let your document data out of your site [sic]*



on your premise / Private network

Virtual machine / Docker container

Seccomp-bpf ~no sys-calls

Extremely sparse filesystem

Chroot per document

Systematic load crash testing

Industry beating coverity score

LibreOfficeKit

rendering instance

Document data is held in your server room.

Not sent to every single device to be controlled by the browser + JS + local debugger.

C'bra sends pixels to clients.



# Real Secure View: send only watermarked pixels ...

## ☒ Enable Secure View

Set default share permissions for all users (available for shares without edit permission)

☐ can print/export

☒ Secure View (with watermarks)

Set watermark text for Secure View. To include the user email address dynamically, use the {viewer-email} variable. Click outside the text field to save.

Strictly confidential. Only for {viewer-email}

## Granular permissions

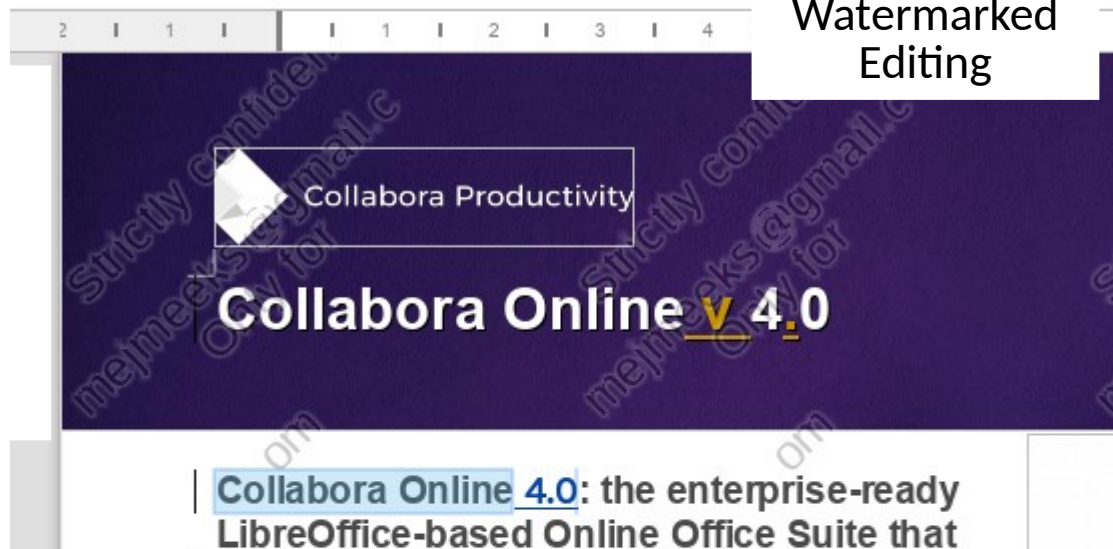
- Edit, Print, Share, Download
- Watermarked PDFs if print allowed.

collaboraonline.com

**Simple, Elegant, Federated**  
**No central points of failure:**  
corporate or technical

*for ownCloud*

Watermarked  
Editing



# Simplicity & Scalability

## Large deployments / HA pieces

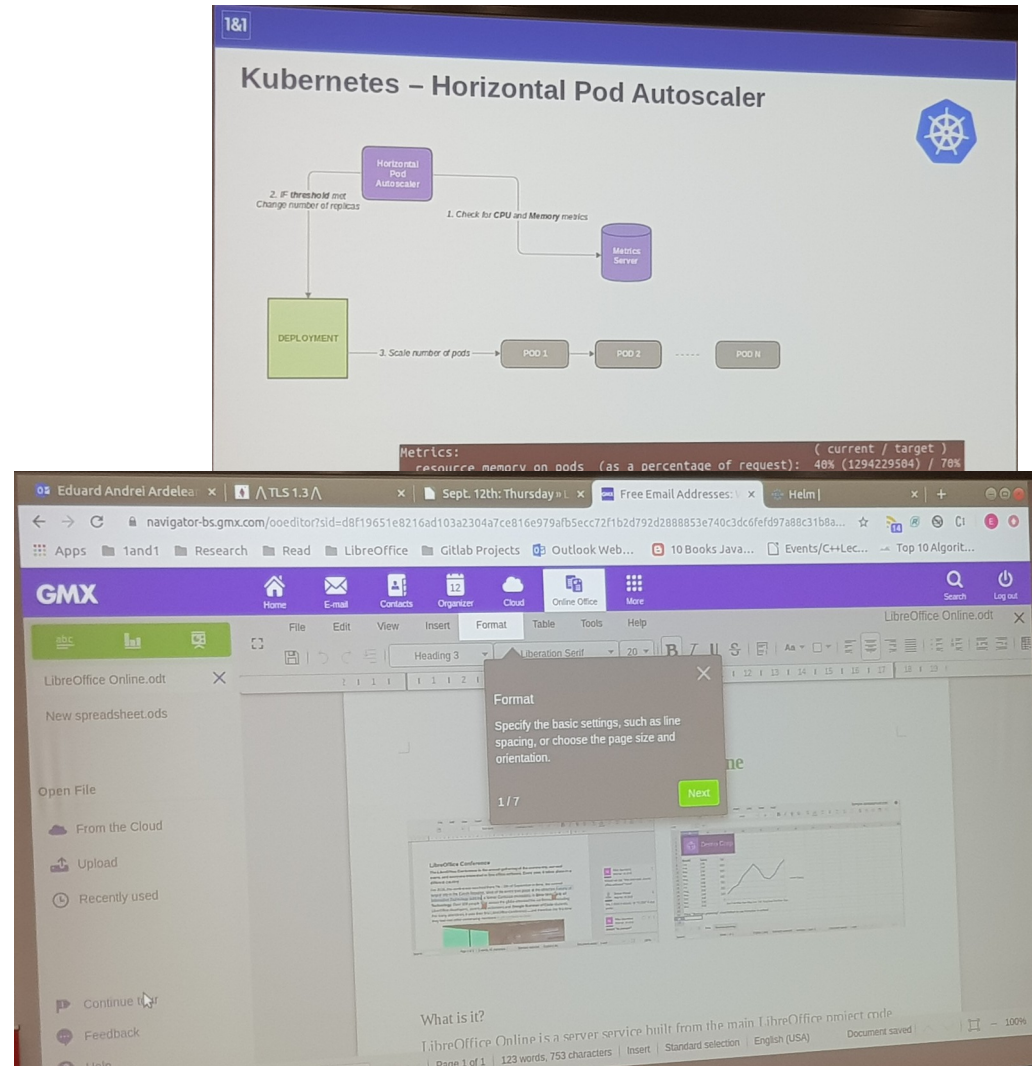
- Scales with the network.

## Simple architecture:

- No new HA Database
- No new message-bus
- No shared data storage

## eg. 1&1 / GMX

- ~millions of users with access



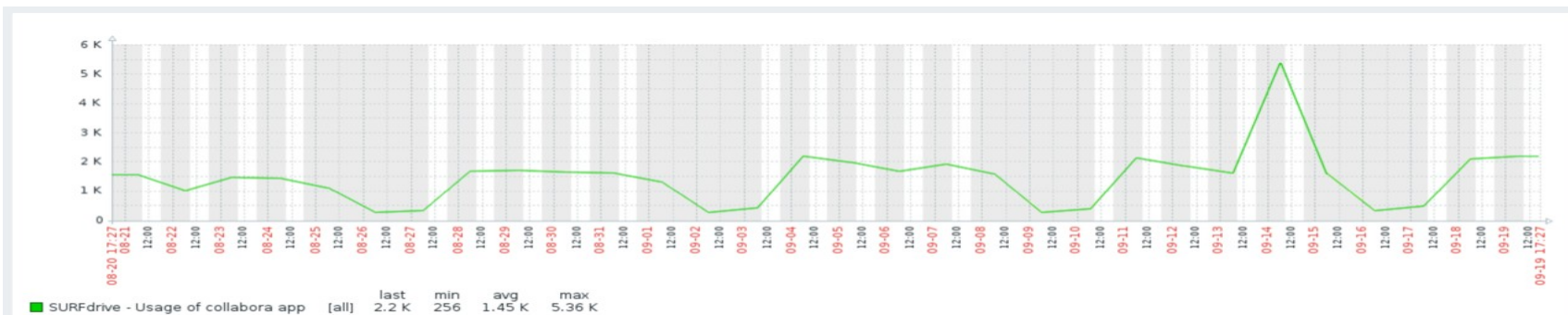
# Collaboration Protocol

- **Not** composable operations: CompSci → get all excited about this.
- Real-world use-cases:
  - 90% of the time → “One user working alone on the authoritative document”
  - ~10% of the time → “Lots of users in a call, co-editing / scoring / minuting”
  - ~0% of the time → conflicting edits with undo/redo on the same document
- Conflicts fundamentally not computer-resolvable always
  - Better to back-off & show the user
- Bring all the keystrokes & mouse movements
  - Into the same process – same memory space – same CPU

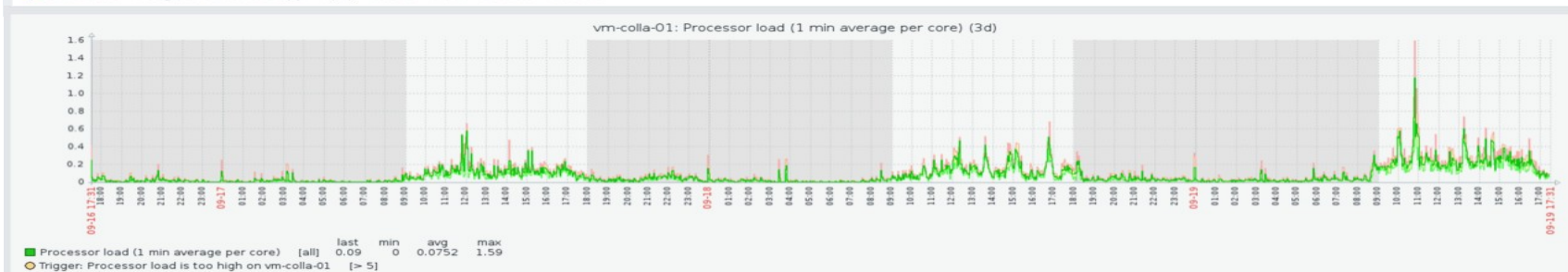


# Real world: ~45k users – Collabora Online – SURFdrive

Usage



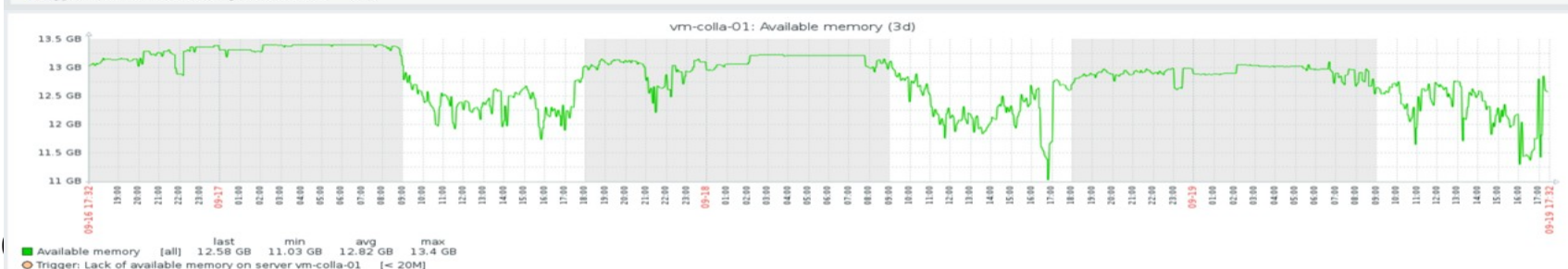
CPU



Free  
RAM:  
13.5Gb

→

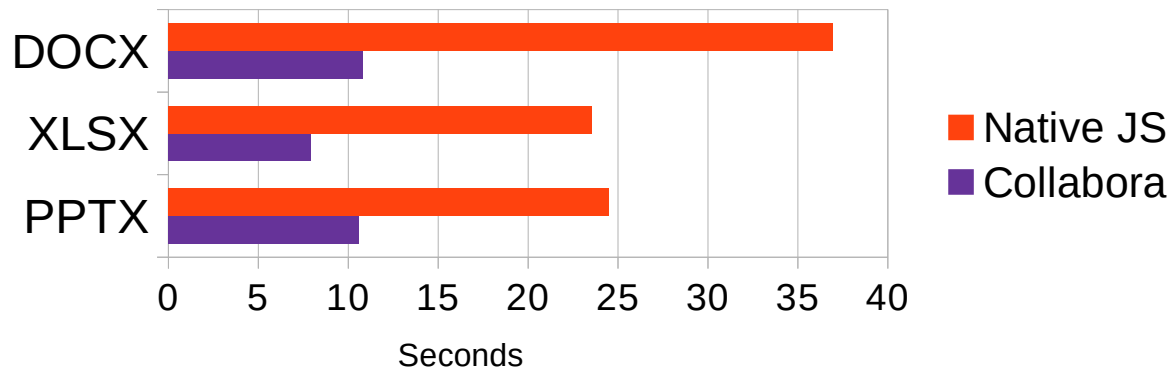
11Gb





# Mobile: do the work on battery, or in the data-center ?

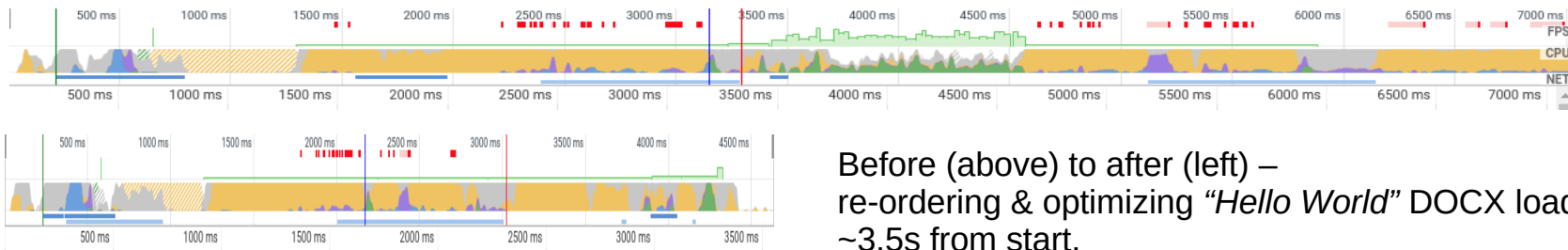
## Time to load & render blank files - Galaxy S4



First cut pre-optimized numbers

With data: larger spreadsheets  
10x faster → 1000X faster.

Threaded, GPU accelerated  
spreadsheet core





# Conclusions

- Our mission applied
- Easy to deploy & scale
- Easy to integrate
- Gorgeous, interoperable Document collaboration
- Architected for Digital Sovereignty
- Rapid improvement
- Backed by large, diverse community & Berlin based Stiftung.
- Built with LibreOffice ...
- Contact me:  
[michael.meeks@collabora.com](mailto:michael.meeks@collabora.com)

*Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock for ever! I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And though this body has been destroyed yet in my flesh I will see God, I myself will see him, with my own eyes - I and not another. How my heart yearns within me. - Job 19: 23-27*