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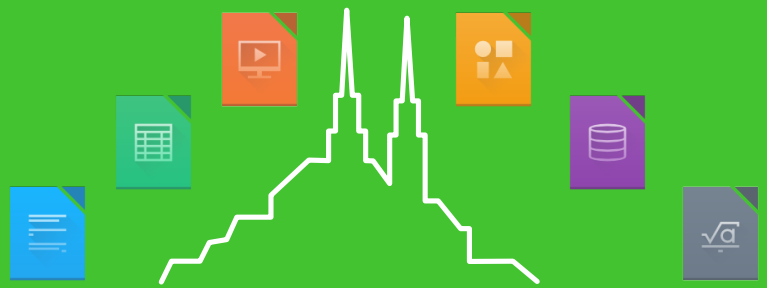
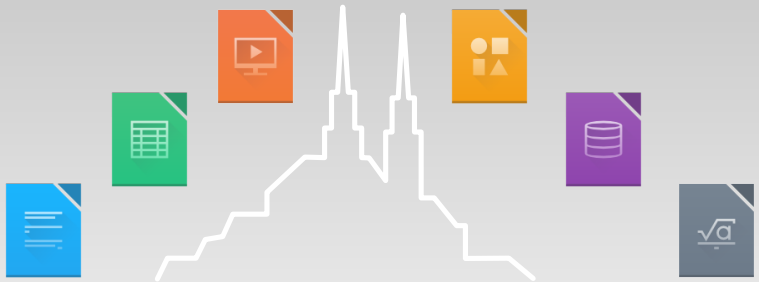


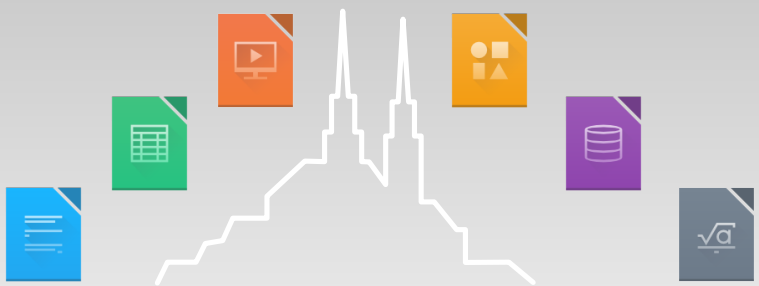
Something About LibreOffice Macros

- Franklin Weng
- Sep. 8, 2016

Before the story begins...



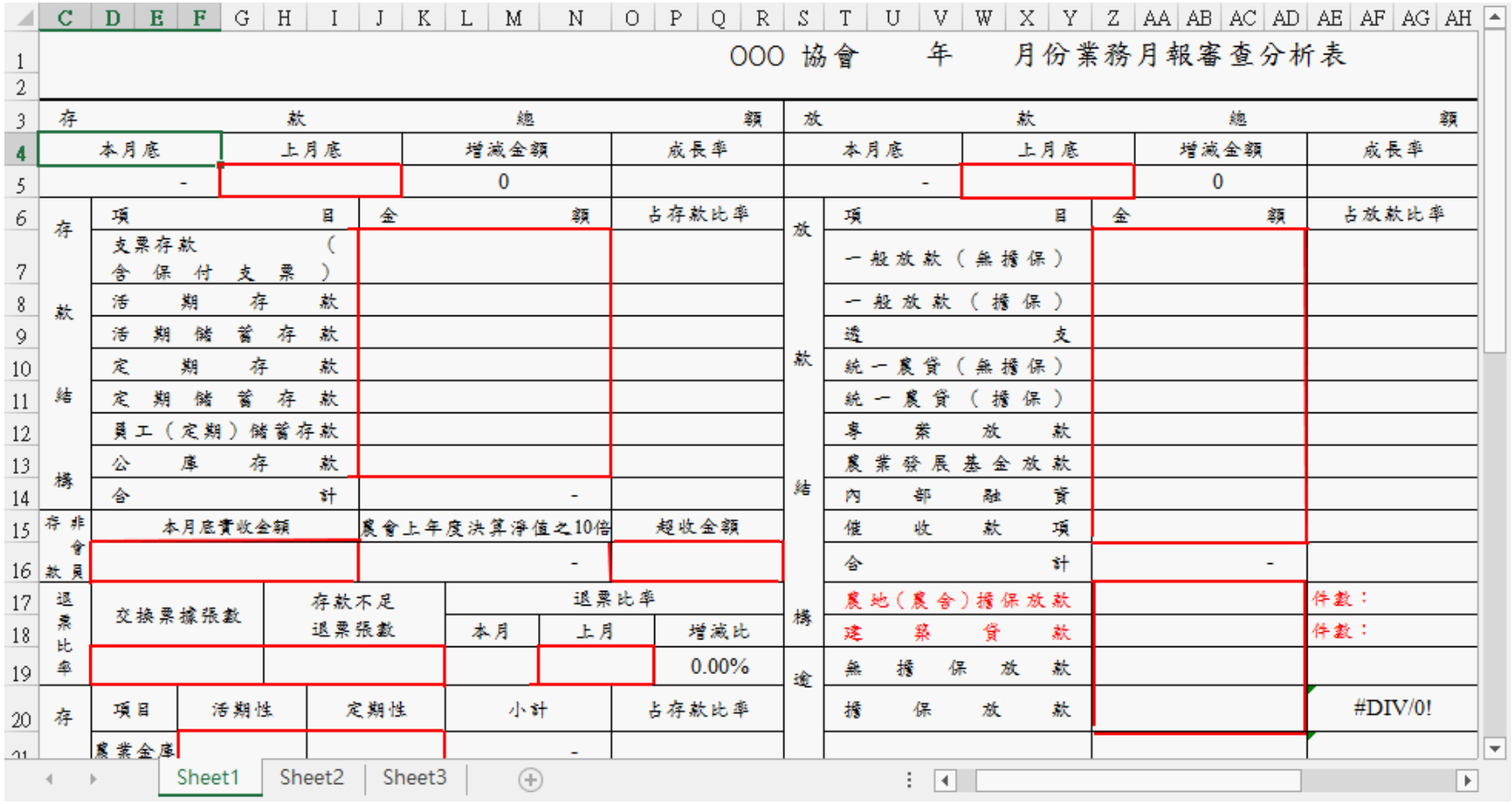
- This session is NOT a technical speech.
- It is a true story about my experiences.
- In this story I'm not criticizing anyone or anything. I'm just telling you what I experienced, and hope that we can do something to make it better.



Story Background...

In Taiwan

- People have been deeply bound to Microsoft [95, 98, NT, Office*, Server*, …] for more than 20 years.
- People can use Microsoft Office in many, many ***incredible*** (**Notice: "incredible" sometimes can be pronounced as "ridiculous" as well**) ways.
- Here are some examples...



OOO 協會　　年　　月份業務月報審查分析表

存款總額			
本月底	上月底	增減金額	成長率
-		0	

存款結構	項目	金額	占存款比率
存款結構	支票存款（含保付支票）		
存款結構	活期存款		
存款結構	活期儲蓄存款		
存款結構	定期存款		
存款結構	定期儲蓄存款		
存款結構	員工（定期）儲蓄存款		
存款結構	公庫存款		
存款結構	合計	-	

非會員存款	本月底實收金額	農會上年度決算淨值之10倍	超收金額
非會員存款		-	

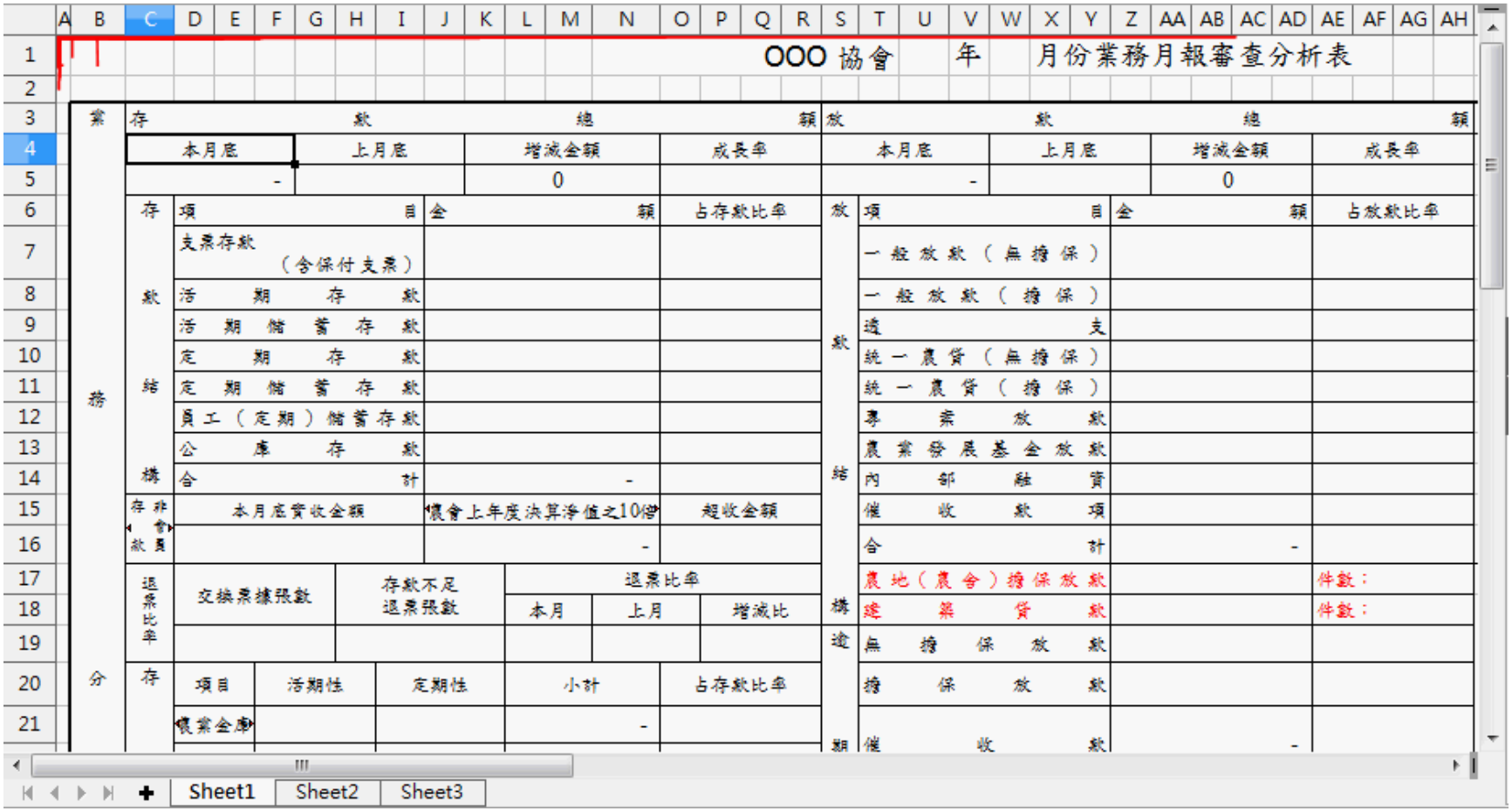
退票比率	交換票據張數	存款不足退票張數	退票比率 本月	上月	增減比
退票比率					0.00%

存款結構	項目	活期性	定期性	小計	占存款比率
存款結構	農業金庫			-	

放款總額			
本月底	上月底	增減金額	成長率
-		0	

放款結構	項目	金額	占放款比率
放款結構	一般放款（無擔保）		
放款結構	一般放款（擔保）		
放款結構	透支		
放款結構	統一農貸（無擔保）		
放款結構	統一農貸（擔保）		
放款結構	專業放款		
放款結構	農業發展基金放款		
放款結構	內部融資		
放款結構	催收款項		
放款結構	合計	-	
放款結構	農地（農舍）擔保放款		件數：
放款結構	建築貸款		件數：
逾放	無擔保放款		
逾放	擔保放款		#DIV/0!

Sheet1 Sheet2 Sheet3



OOO 協會　　年　　月份業務月報審查分析表

業務分析	存款總額				放款總額			
	本月底	上月底	增減金額	成長率	本月底	上月底	增減金額	成長率
	-		0		-		0	

存款結構	項目	金額	占存款比率
	支票存款（含保付支票）		
	活期存款		
	活期儲蓄存款		
	定期存款		
	定期儲蓄存款		
	員工（定期）儲蓄存款		
	公庫存款		
	合計	-	

非會員存款	本月底貸收金額	農會上年度決算淨值之10倍	超收金額
		-	

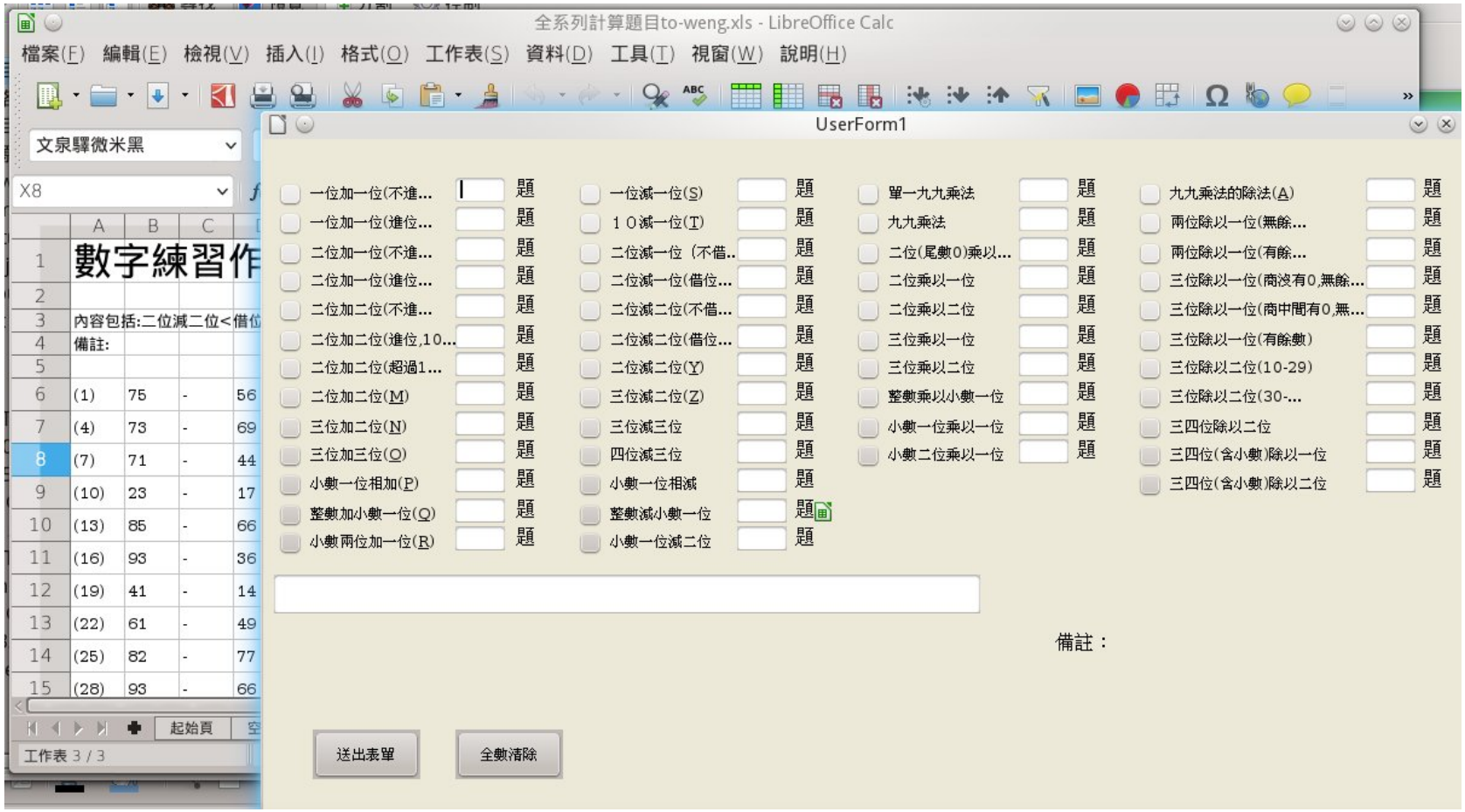
退票比率	交換票據張數	存款不足退票張數	退票比率 本月	上月	增減比

存款結構	項目	活期性	定期性	小計	占存款比率
	農業金庫			-	

放款結構	項目	金額	占放款比率
	一般放款（無擔保）		
	一般放款（擔保）		
	透支		
	統一農貸（無擔保）		
	統一農貸（擔保）		
	專案放款		
	農業發展基金放款		
	內部融資		
	催收款項		
	合計	-	
	農地（農舍）擔保放款		件數：
	建築貸款		件數：
	無擔保放款		
	擔保放款		

逾期	催收	-	

Sheet1　Sheet2　Sheet3


全系列計算題目to-weng.xls - LibreOffice Calc
檔案(F) 編輯(E) 檢視(V) 插入(I) 格式(O) 工作表(S) 資料(D) 工具(T) 視窗(W) 說明(H)
文泉驛微米黑
X8
數字練習作
內容包括:二位減二位<借位
備註:
起始頁
工作表 3 / 3
UserForm1
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二位加二位(不進...
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二位加二位(M)
三位加二位(N)
三位加三位(O)
小數一位相加(P)
整數加小數一位(Q)
小數兩位加一位(R)
一位減一位(S)
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二位減一位（不借...
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三位減三位
四位減三位
小數一位相減
整數減小數一位
小數一位減二位
單一九九乘法
九九乘法
二位(尾數0)乘以...
二位乘以一位
二位乘以二位
三位乘以一位
三位乘以二位
整數乘以小數一位
小數一位乘以一位
小數二位乘以一位
九九乘法的除法(A)
兩位除以一位(無餘...
兩位除以一位(有餘...
三位除以一位(商沒有0,無餘...
三位除以一位(商中間有0,無...
三位除以一位(有餘數)
三位除以二位(10-29)
三位除以二位(30-...
三四位除以二位
三四位(含小數)除以一位
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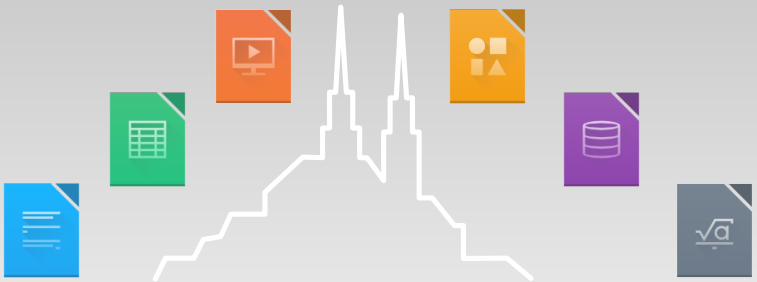
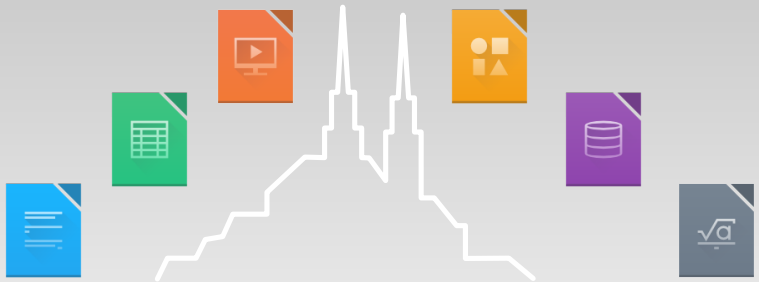
備註：
送出表單
全數清除

The Story Begins...



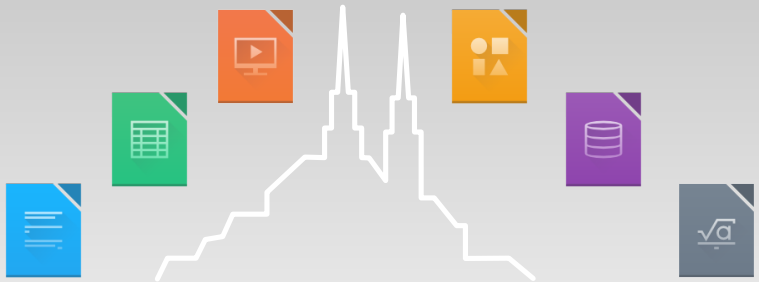
- Taiwan has launched a three-year project to migrate ODF/LibreOffice in all the governments.
- Currently, almost all the training courses are for Writer, Calc and Impress.
- However, there are two important demands but not satisfied yet:
  1. Microsoft Access to LibreOffice Base
  2. Microsoft Office Macros to LibreOffice Macros

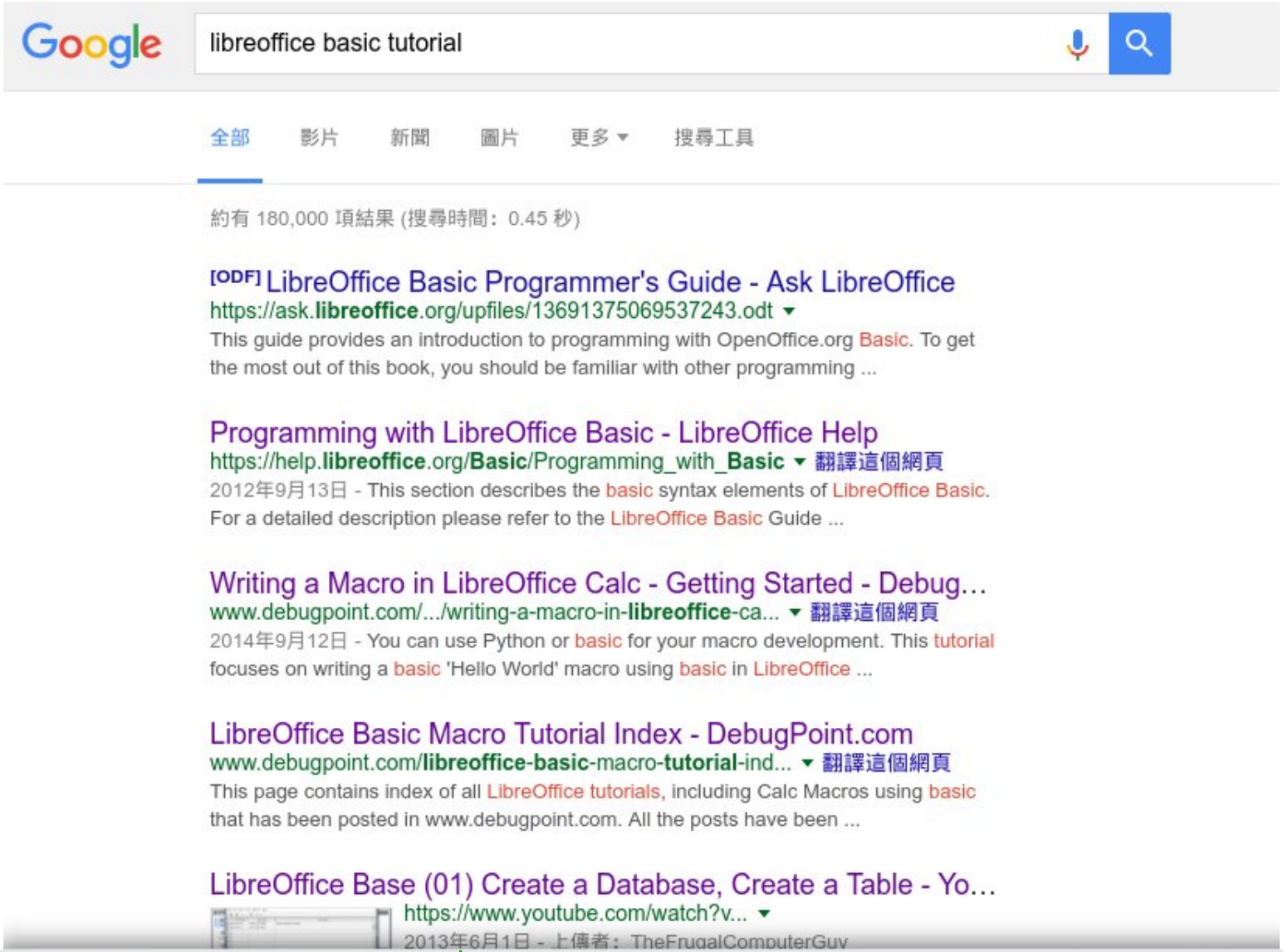
One day...



- Someone asked me if I can teach writing macros with LibreOffice Basic.
- I used to write code with Basic (on APPLE II) / Pascal / C / C++ / Perl / PHP / Bash / Csh / …… , but *not a single line* of LibreOffice Basic (and Visual Basic).
- "How hard can it be?"

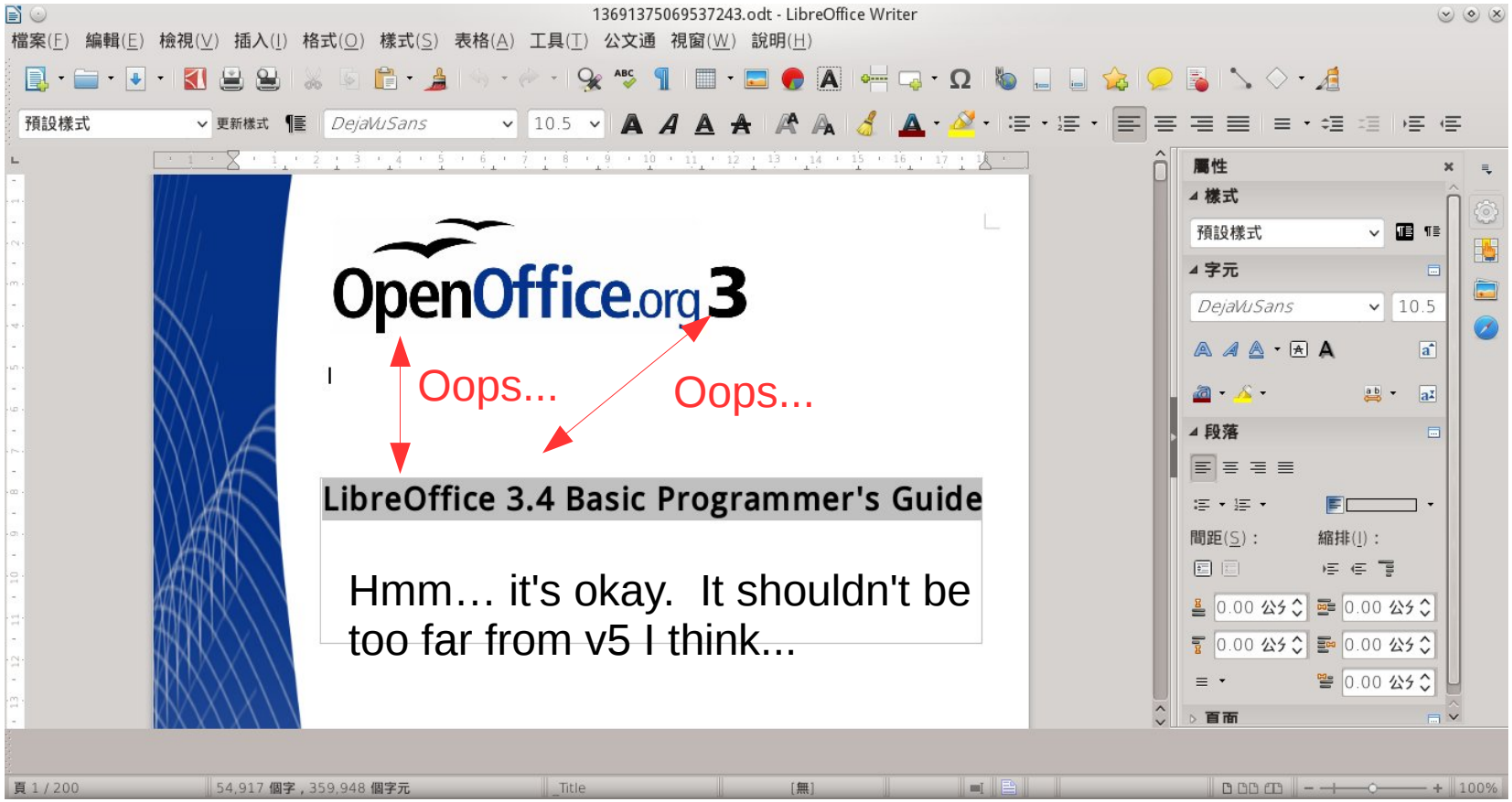
So Many Materials, How Hard Can It Be?



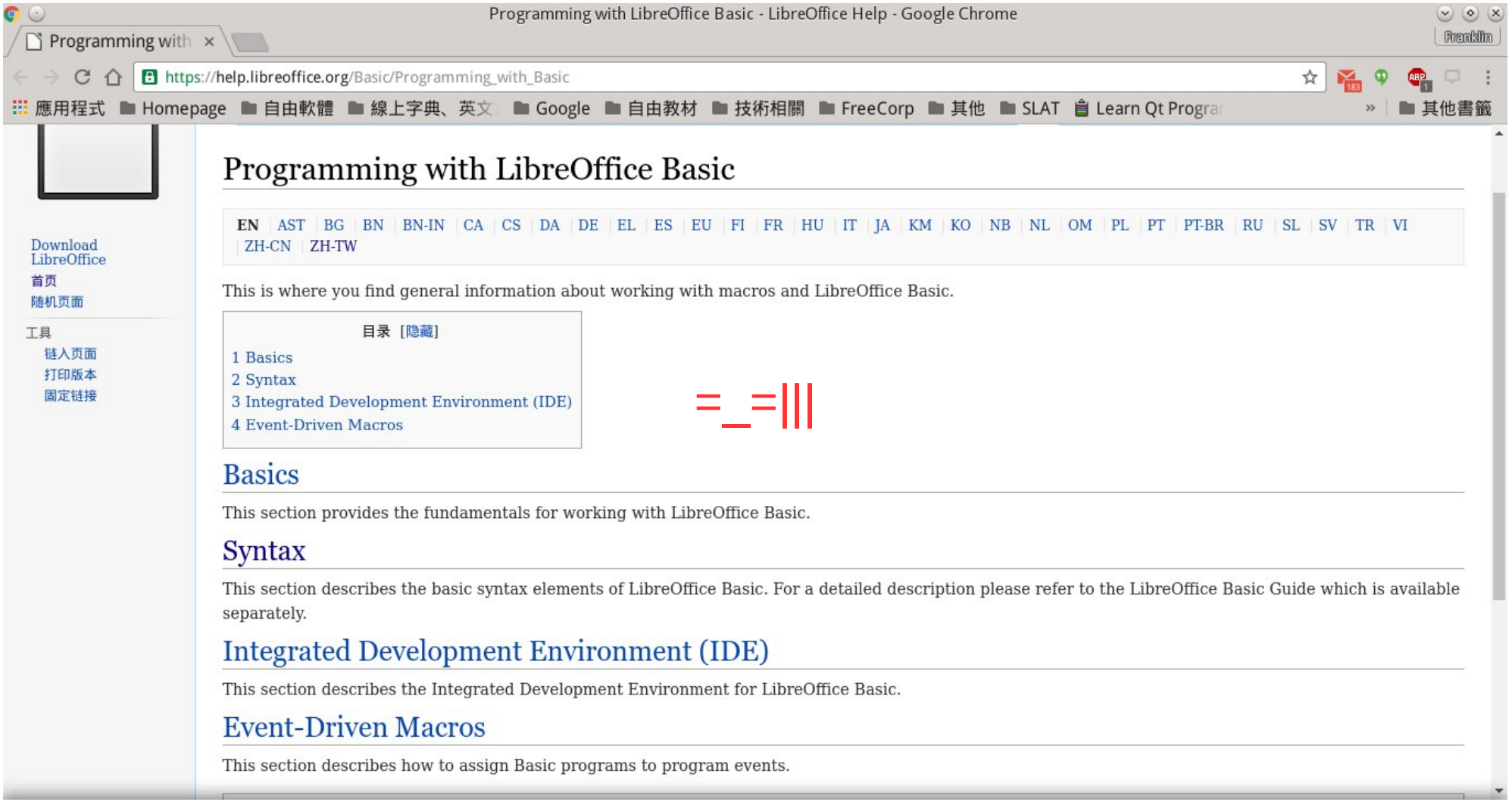


Then I Found...

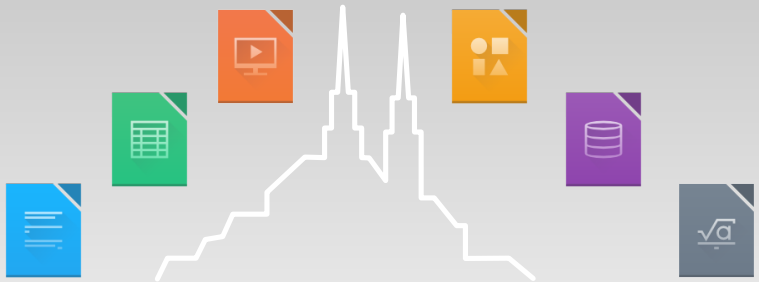
- The first document…
  - An ODT file of LibreOffice Basic Guide



I went on searching...

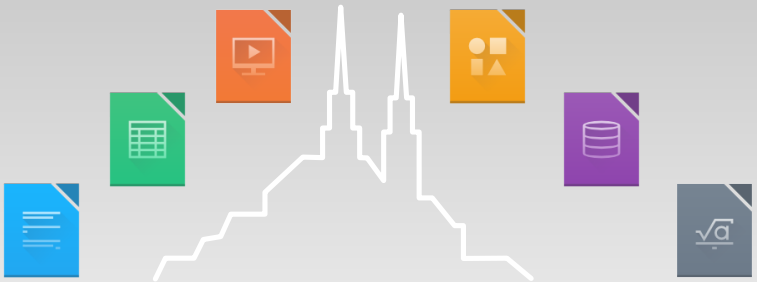


Something useful...



- Open Office Basic Programming Guide
  - Looked nice. But the last update time was Jan. 2013. Well, okay.
- LibreOffice Basic Help
  - Dialog? It seemed not what I want.
- Writing a Macro in LibreOffice Calc -- Getting Started
  - That's it! A basic "Hello World" macro, which filled "Hello World" into a cell in Calc! I finally found it!
- Then… How to write a "Hello World" macro in Writer?
  - No, not `MsgBox "Hello World!" '.

I Started to Feel Frustrated, So I Called For Help...

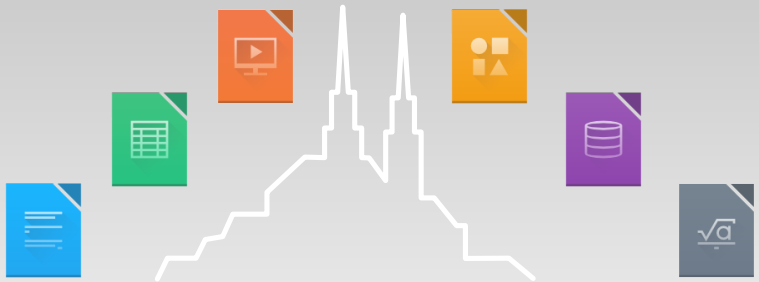


- I called a friend who are *very* familiar with Microsoft Office macros and Open Office as well.
- He gave me an one-line example of LibreOffice Basic running on Writer:

```
ThisComponent.getText.String=”Hello World!”
```

- *ThisComponent.getText*? Ah, it worked, and that's interesting.
- Then he gave me a good document:
  - Useful Macro Information for Open Office

XRayTool

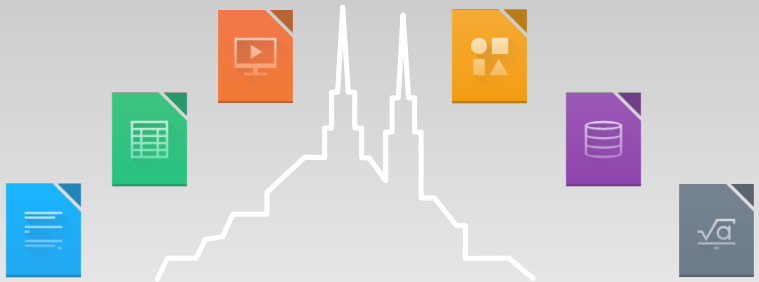


- Then he told me to find and download XRayTool.
  - Bernard Marcelly web site
- I downloaded XRayTool and installed. Then no surprise…
  - Failed to run... Orz
- After a few debugging, I found the problem --
  - `StarDesktop` seems no longer a static global object.
  - I added the following code and it worked:

```
Dim StarDesktop As Object
StarDesktop =
createUnoService("com.sun.star.frame.Desktop")
```

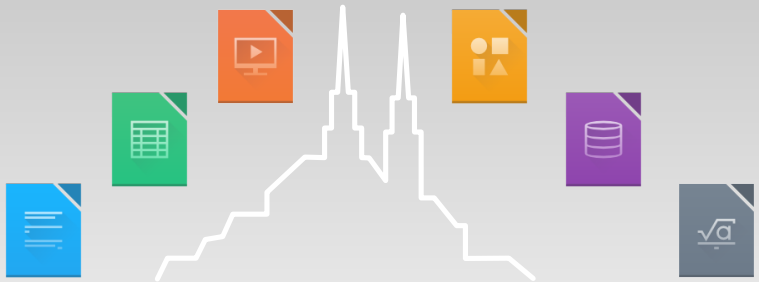
- New XRayTool URL: `http://goo.gl/z68Veb`

After studying for some days...



- With the help of my friend, XRayTool, and some old documents, I started to understand a bit of the structure of the API.
- However, something was still not run as expected, like the status bar.
- Besides, so far I still didn't find a way to write a "Hello World" macro running on Impress, displaying the universal string on a slide.

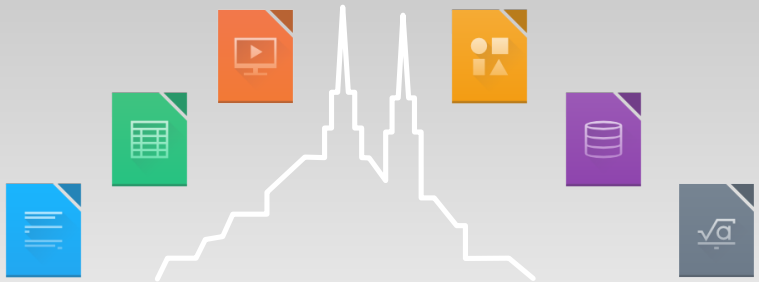
What I Wish to Have



- A tutorial from the easiest "Hello World" to look deeply into the UNO.

- LibreOffice 5.1 Getting Started mentioned macros in Chapter 13 too. It's new and good, just that in the part of introducing LibreOffice Basic I still feel it running "too fast".

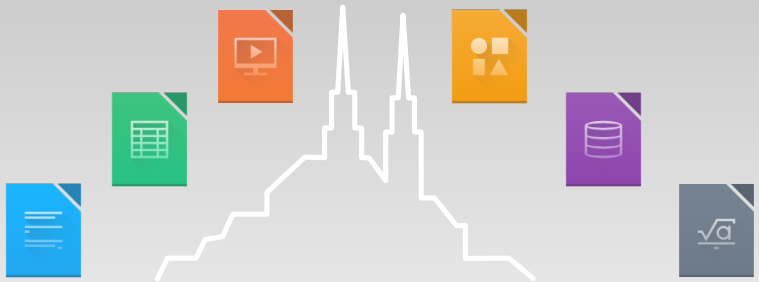
What I'm Doing Now



- Now I'm writing a tutorial for LibreOffice Macros
  - From the simplest "Hello World" Basic program running on Writer, Calc and Impress and compare their differences.
  - Several common examples to tell users how to write macros in different applications.
  - How to rewrite the Microsoft Office macros in both Basic and Python.

- But…
  - Yes, it's written in Traditional Chinese.
  - Progress: less than 10%… (sigh
  - URL: https://goo.gl/ZcA9Pn

Conclusion



- Macro is an essential part for migrating LibreOffice in Taiwan.
- The current documents are old ones, and not easy and simple enough for users with little programming experiences, (or experienced programmers without any experience of Visual Basic like me…)
- It's been a long time without new tutorials or documents for LibreOffice macros until LibreOffice 5.1 Getting Started published, though it's somehow still a bit "running to fast."
- I'd like to change this so that we can promote LibreOffice more smoothly and deeply.

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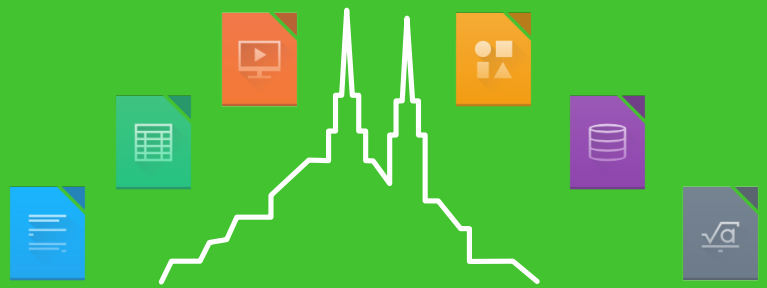

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~~for using this template!~~
for coming to this session.

Anyone wants to join me?

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