
IMPROVING TOOLBARS IN LIBREOFFICE

CURRENT CHALLENGES, FUTURE OUTLOOK

SAMUEL MEHRBRODT, CIB LABS
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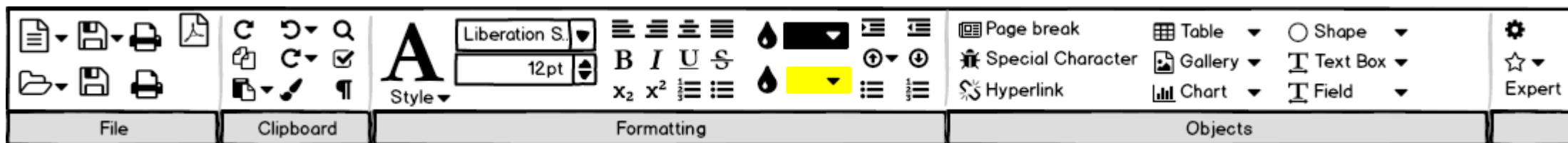


HUMAN INTERFACE GUIDELINES

- Common goal: ***Simple for beginners and powerful for experts.***
 - From: *Document Foundation design wiki*:
 - A *tool bar* is a graphical presentation of commands optimized for fast access.
 - A good menu bar is a comprehensive catalog of all the available top-level commands, whereas a good tool bar gives quick, convenient access to frequently used commands.
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CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION I.

- **PROBLEM:** Inflexible layout
 - Single row of widgets
 - No real grouping of widgets
 - Impossible to combine icon vs. text-only vs. icons+text elements in 1 toolbar
- **SOLUTION:** use .ui files to configure toolbars
 - More flexible layout, easier grouping of elements
 - Mockup (by Heiko Tietze):

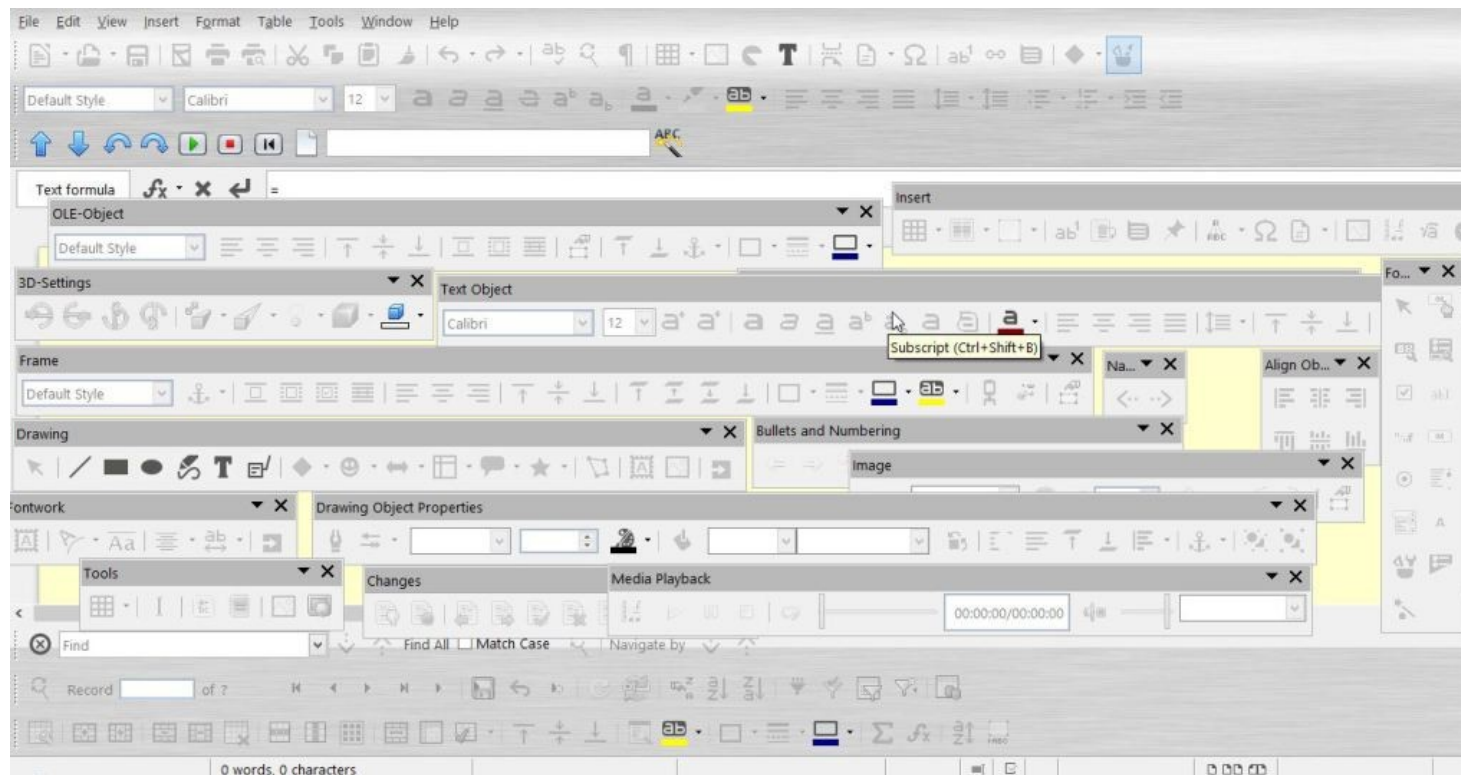


CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION II.

- **SOLUTION** (cont'd): Show/hide toolbars depending on context
 - Much like in sidebar
 - Working with text => show text formatting options
 - Working with images => show image options
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CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION III.

- **PROBLEM:** Too many toolbars
 - „When you make all your LibreOffice toolbars available at once, it's hard to find a space to write in“ – Andy Brandt



CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION IV.

- **PROBLEM** (cont'd): Too many toolbars
 - 39 toolbars in Writer only
 - 2 shown by default
 - The rest pops up depending on context
 - Extensions can come with their own toolbars
 - **SOLUTION:** Tabs for different toolbars
 - Increased visibility of toolbars hidden deep in View → Toolbar
 - Extensions toolbars won't clutter current UI
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CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION V.

- How it looks in Zoho Office

The screenshot displays the Zoho Office interface for a document titled "What You Need to Know to Be a Successful Digital Nomad". The document content includes a title, a paragraph with tracked changes (e.g., "the a", "suddenly", "around"), a comment from Darice, and another paragraph starting with "Like when the clock struck 12 and Cinderella's the carriage turned back to a pumpkin, the". The right sidebar shows a comment history with entries from Emily and Garry.

What You Need to Know to Be a Successful Digital Nomad

A bright sunny day and clear blue sea greet me as I sit down to write my blog. Sipping the a blue mojito, my head is swirling with endless thoughts and ideas waiting to materialize on paper. Caught up in the moment, suddenly I suddenly feel a tap on my shoulders. I turn around to find my boss staring at me. What in the world is he doing here?

Darice

I blink...

Like when the clock struck 12 and Cinderella's the carriage turned back to a pumpkin, the

ALL COMMENTS

Emily
10:26 pm Apr 21,2015
I really like this part! The tone is great. :)

Garry
10:26 pm Apr 21,2015
should this be "code" rather than "codes"?

Darice
10:26 pm Apr 21,2015
This needs some clarification/rewording. I think the referent of "one" is a bit unclear, too.

Emily

NEW TOOLBARS: WORK DONE SO FAR

- Lots of clean-up in framework toolbar managements code
 - Parts of it moved to vcl
 - Not really feasible to have existing code load .ui files (spaghetti)
 - The Plan: reuse parts of sidebar code
 - to load multiple .ui files
 - to implement context sensitivity
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OPEN ISSUES AND THOUGHTS

- Should new toolbars be customizable?
 - How far?
 - How should sidebar and toolbar play together?
 - They should complement, not compete with each other
 - Toolbar provides access to the most used commands, sidebar to more advanced options
 - Sidebar better for long lists (styles, slide transitions)
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THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, RANTS, ... ?

(PERHAPS ALSO SOME ANSWERS)