



Content Controls in Writer

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Productivity

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About Miklos

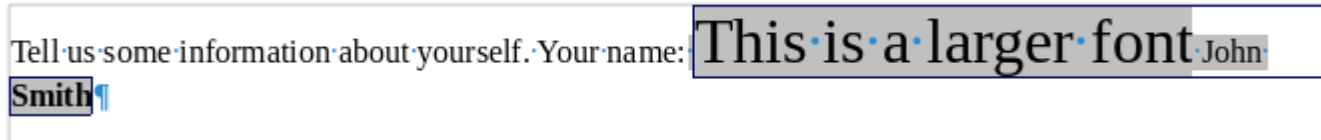
- From Hungary
- More details:
<https://www.collaboraoffice.com/about-us/>
- Google Summer of Code 2010 / 2011
 - Rewrite of the Writer RTF import/export
- Then a full-time LibreOffice developer for SUSE
- Now a contractor at Collabora



(Rich Text) Content Controls

Like an input field, but can have rich content

- Similar to inline SDT in Word
- Can cover multiple text portions, but not paragraphs (unlike fieldmarks)
- Support nesting
- Have a set of properties on them (no field instruction / result)
 - Is the current content a placeholder?



Tell us some information about yourself. Your name: **This is a larger font** John

Smith

The image shows a screenshot of a web form. The first part of the form is a text input field with the placeholder text "Tell us some information about yourself. Your name:". The input field contains the text "This is a larger font" in a large, bold, black font, followed by the text "John" in a smaller, regular black font. Below the input field, there is a small, square button with the text "Smith" in a bold, black font. The entire form is enclosed in a light gray border.

Check Box

Constrain: toggle between two characters

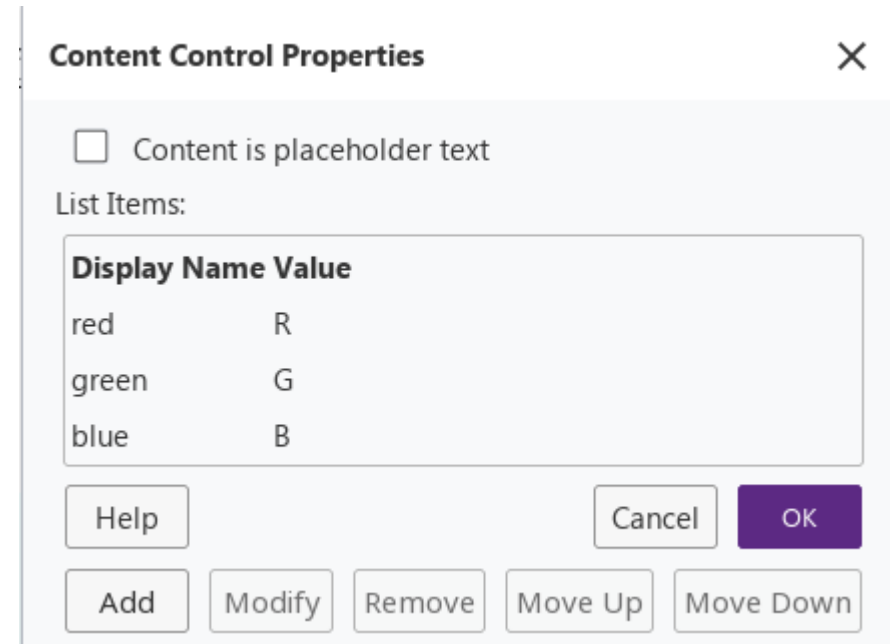
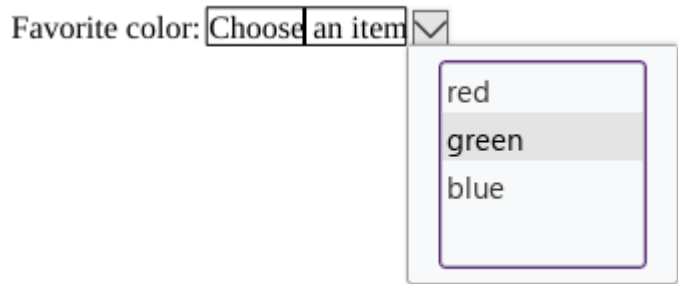
- Toggle the state on pressing space / click, otherwise read-only
- Usable defaults for the two characters



Dropdown List Box

List of items, select one

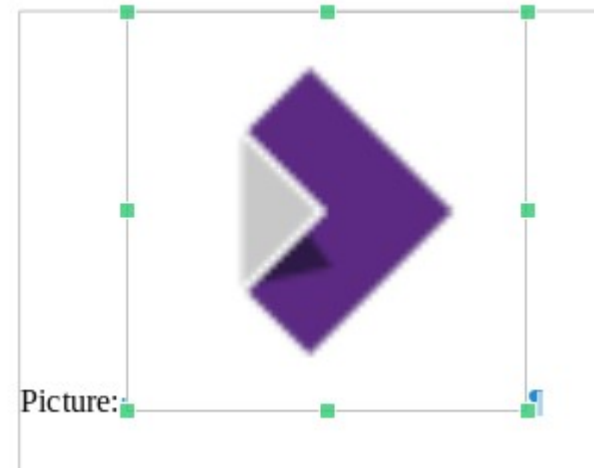
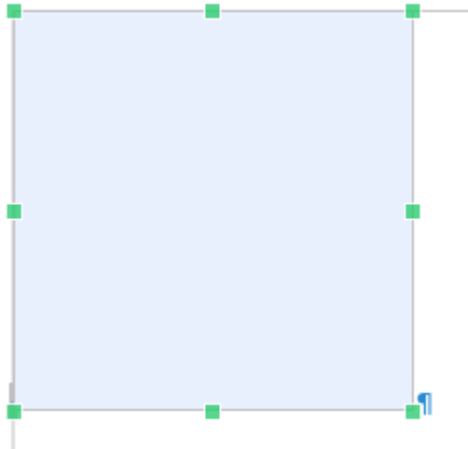
- One item is a pair of value and display text
- No free-form user input



Picture

Placeholder bitmap, already formatted for you


- Replace with real content on click



Date

Date picker popup when filling in

- Can specify a language
- Can specify a date format

Date: 

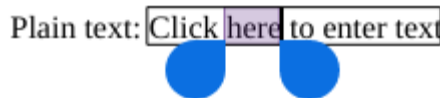
< **September 2022** >

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Plain Text

Enforce consistent character properties

- Really similar to input field
- UI expands formatting range to content control start/end if needed



Combo Box

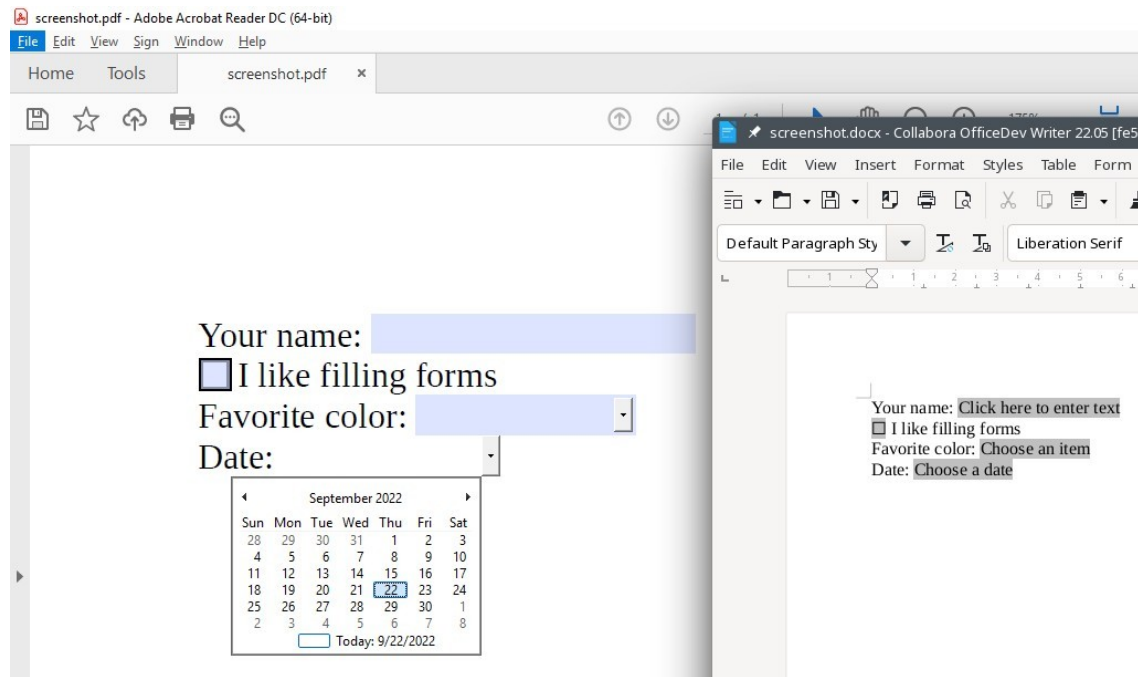
Similar to drop-down

- But do accept free-form user input



PDF Export

Turn a document with content controls into a fillable PDF form



Thanks

Collabora is an open source consulting and product company

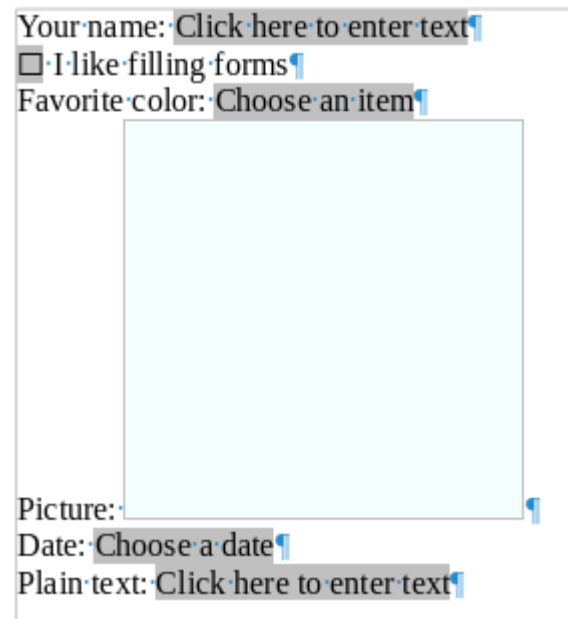
- What we do and share with the community has to be paid by someone
- This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 871498



Summary

Content controls are a new way to create fillable forms in Writer

- Maps to Word's primary way of form creation (since 2007): structured document tags
- ODF can now represent these
- Exports to PDF
- Various types: rich text, checkbox, drop-down, picture, date, plain text, combo box



The screenshot displays a form with several content controls in LibreOffice Writer. At the top, there is a text label 'Your name:' followed by a text input field containing the placeholder text 'Click here to enter text'. Below this is a checkbox control with the label 'I like filling forms'. Underneath the checkbox is another text label 'Favorite color:' followed by a text input field with the placeholder 'Choose an item'. A large, empty rectangular text area is positioned below the 'Favorite color:' field. At the bottom of the form, there are three more controls: a 'Picture:' label with a corresponding image placeholder, a 'Date:' label with a 'Choose a date' dropdown menu, and a 'Plain text:' label with a 'Click here to enter text' input field.