Interoperable Calc Hyperlinks

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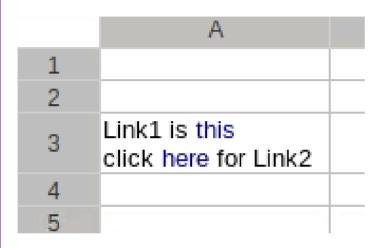
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LibreOffice Technology

Technical Day
COOL days

Hyperlink: Calc vs Excel

Calc:

Any text can be hyperlink

⬇

can have many hyperlinks / cell

Excel:

Whole cell will be the hyperlink

⬇

max 1 hyperlink / cell

File format is the problem

.ods:

```
<table:table-cell table:style-name="ce1" office:value-type="string" calcext:value-type="string">
    <text:p>Link1 is <text:a xlink:href="http://wronglink.wronglink/" xlink:type="simple">this</text:a>
    </text:p>
    <text:p>click <text:a xlink:href="http://wronglink2.wronglink/" xlink:type="simple">here</text:a> fo
</table:table-cell>
```

Hyperlinks stored in the text.

.xlsx:

```
<sheetData>
    <row r="3" spans="1:1" xl4ac:dyDescent="0.25">
        <c r="A3" s="1" t="s">
            <v>0</v>
        </c>
    </row>
</sheetData>
<hyperlinks>
    <hyperlink ref="A3" r:id="rId1"/>
</hyperlinks>
```

Hyperlinks stored separately from the text.
For position it store only a cell address.

Calc is better. Is this a problem?

How users will see it:

Insert 2 hyperlink in a cell

⬇

Save as .xlsx, and Reopen.

⬇

Lost hyperlinks. It must be a bug.

The problem is not the save, but the edit.
Why can we create something that we cannot save.

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Solution 1. try

**Do not allow to create multi hyperlinks
(insert hyperlink always overwrites the whole cell)**

- Predict when user wants to save as MS format?
  → If Ms file format is opened.

- What if the user creates a new document or opens an .odt,
  but wants to save as .xlsx

- Warning "use .ods" won't be enough.
  Would we ask to save as destination format before editing?

Solution 2. try

Created an option: user can if he wants it, or not

- Tools → Options → LibreOfficeDev Calc → Compatibility → Hyperlinks

- If set, insert hyperlink will work like in excel. (only in MS file) (overwrite other link)

- It is hard to find / memorize

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Final changes in COOL

Made it less confusing (hope it is more user friendly)

- The option is always set to true

- Made it to work with .ods formats as well

- It still can open/display/save cells with multiple hyperlinks
  but insert hyperlink will always make the whole cell text as link.

- Copy paste text with link trick still work, but be careful.

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Thank you!

By Attila Szűcs

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