Content controls in Writer Part 2: Half a Year Later

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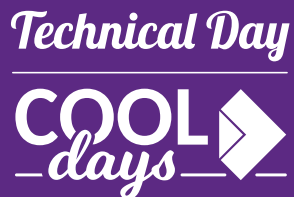
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Collabora Online

Technical Day COOL days

LibreOffice Technology

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

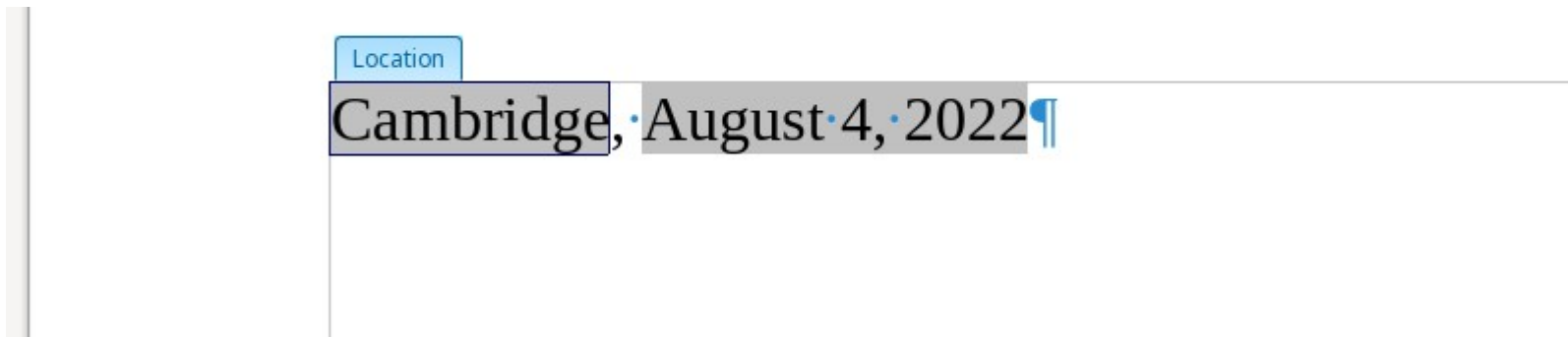 - Have a set of properties on them (no field instruction / result)

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

Aliases & tags

- Alias / title is a human-readable identifier, it appears when you enter the content control:

Location

Cambridge, August·4, 2022¶

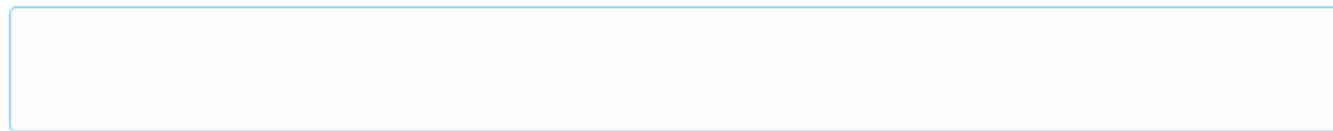- Tag is the same, but machine-readable

Emit only one PDF widget for portions

- Writer's rich content vs PDF's widget rectangle

  - Inherent conflict, Word resolves this by plain text export

  - Can we do better?

Editable in read-only sections

- Read-only sections to lock down by default
  - But then content controls should be probably an exception
- Also custom characters / emojis in checkbox content controls:

Adminitrative Tasks

- ⬜ Task 1
- ☑️ Task 2
- ⬜ Task 3
- ☑️ Task 4

Discuss and find common ground

- 🤝 Issue 3000
- 🎯 Issue 4044
- 🤝 Proposa xyz
- 🎯 Isuee 4

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UNO manager for content controls

- Building block for VBA
  - Similar to e.g. Footnotes


```
5   Sub Main
6
7   GlobalScope.BasicLibraries.LoadLibrary("XrayTool")
8
9→  xray ThisComponent.ContentControls
10
11  End Sub
12
```

BASIC runtime error.
Property or method not found: ContentControls.
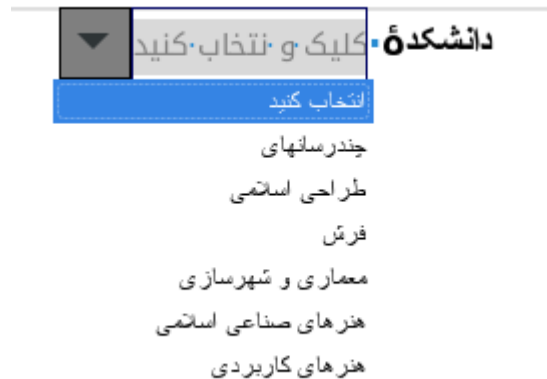
OK
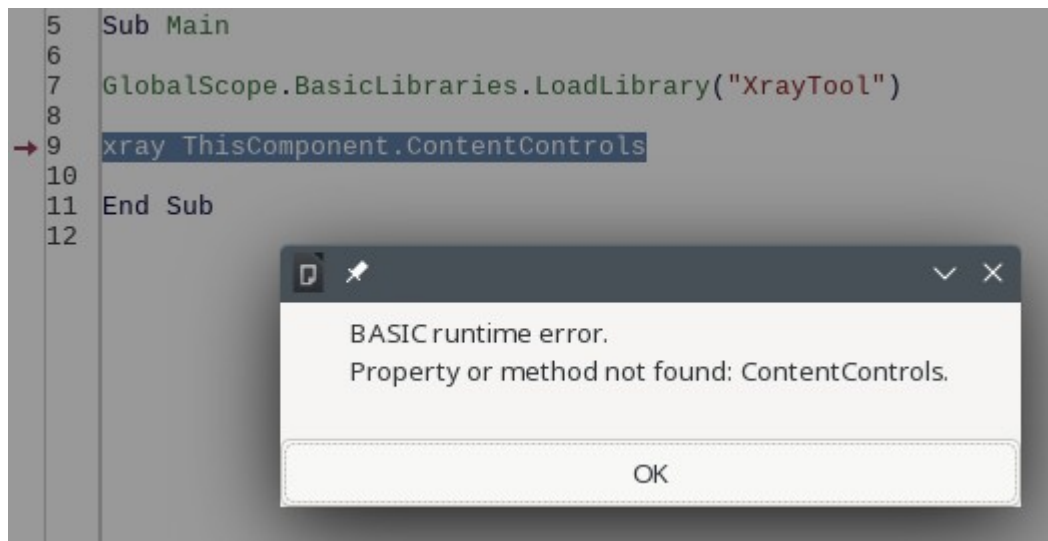
Dropdown with no list items

- By explicitly tracking combox and dropdown state

    - Previously: has list items?

    - Now: is combobox? Is dropdown?

    - Allows having no list items:

Drop-down with no items: Choose an item.
No Item specified

Fix RTL render of dropdowns

- SwContentControlButton needs improving:

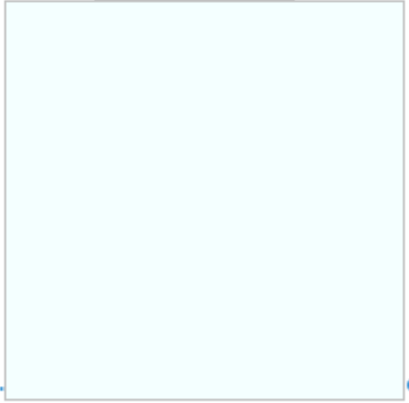 - Positioning

  - Rendering

  - Hit-testing

Summary

- Lots of polish since COOL Days 2022:
  - Maps to Word's primary way of form creation (since 2007): structured document tags
  - ODF can now represent these, exports to PDF
  - Various types
  - More properties, editing improvements, better filters, scriptability

Your name: Click here to enter text¶
☐ I like filling forms¶
Favorite color: Choose an item¶

Picture: ¶
Date: Choose a date¶
Plain text: Click here to enter text¶