

Re-Designed Post Message Harness

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Technical Day
COOL
days





The post message test harness

For testing post message:

- Provide an easy to send “post message” to COOL.
- A development and test feature.

PostMessage test harness

Run python scripts

InsertText.py: inserts text into the document

Type your text and press Insert text

Insert text

Capitalize.py: capitalize selected text in the document

Capitalize selected text

Various other messages to post

Save	Close
Fullscreen	Start presentation
Export as HTML	Export as PDF with Notify set
Get export formats	
Hide Save Commands	Show Save Commands
Hide Print Commands	Show Print Commands
Disable default save action	Enable default save action
Hint that there is an onscreen keyboard	Hint that there is not an onscreen keyboard

New Access-Token

123456789AA

Reset Access-Token

User State

Get User State

State: unknown Elapsed: 0 sec.

Send a message

Message:

Values:

This is the JSON format 'Values'.

()

Execute

Modified Status: Saved

UI modification

Hide Menubar	Insert custom button	Compact Toolbar	Collapse Tabbed Toolbar	Hide Status Bar	Hide Ruler
Show Menubar	Tabbed Toolbar	Extend Tabbed Toolbar	Show Status Bar	Show Ruler	

Send UNO Commands

Send Bold UNO Command (an example without args)

Send InsertBookmark UNO Command (an example with args)

Document type

Writer Calc Impress Draw

Document frame

If the frame fails to load click [here and accept security bits](#)

If the frame still fails to load ensure you have localhost:* included in your net.frame_ancestors in coolwsd.xml

File Home Insert Layout Data Review Format View Help



The post message test harness

This harness allows:

- Running the COOL frame.
- Sending the various postmessage command by clicking on buttons:
 - Specific commands.
 - Arbitrary messages.
- Allows testing python scripts.
- Etc.

A useful tool for development



Before

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Hint that there is an onscreen keyboard

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Reset Access-Token

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Hide Menubar Show Menubar Insert custom button

Compact Toolbar Tabbed Toolbar Collapse Tabbed Toolbar Extend Tabbed Toolbar

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Document frame

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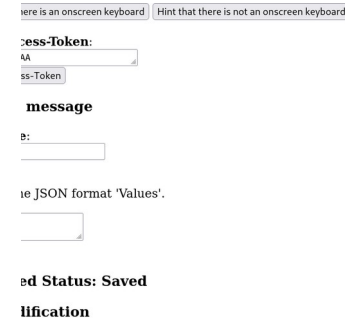
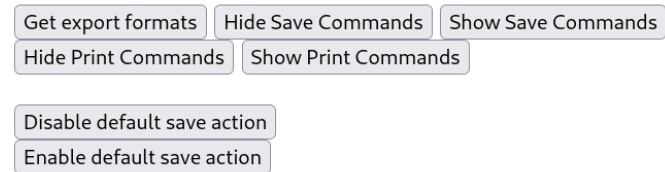
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Land of confusion

The UI is confusing:

- Random groups of buttons
 - Not evenly aligned.
 - Nor separated.
- Lot of white space make the screen real estate usage suboptimal.





“Redesign”

Let's improve this:

- Group buttons together.
- Align buttons and groups.
- Use the space better: two columns grid can work.
- The overall visual aspect is cleaner.



Method

Reorganise the DOM and style

- Reorganise the various item by grouping into `<div>`.
- Use CSS classes for layout.
 - `vbox` and `hbox`: vertical and horizontal box using CSS flexbox.
 - `grid`: widget grid using CSS grid.
 - Use an empty `<div>` for a placeholder.
 - `framed`: add a frame border.
 - `spaced`: space items.
- An approach similar to how some UI toolkits work.



After

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UI modification

Hide Menubar

Insert custom button

Compact Toolbar

Collapse Tabbed Toolbar

Show Menubar

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Send UNO Commands

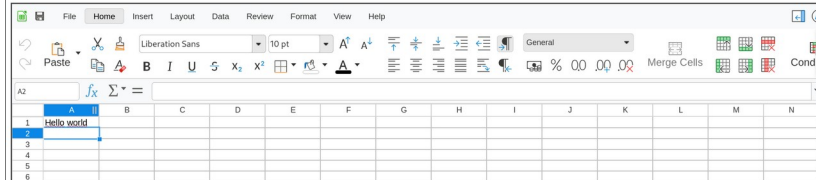
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Conclusion




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- Low effort.
- Using concepts familiar to developers when they need to add something.
- Clarity brings a big improvement for the target users (developers).



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Thank you!

By Hubert Figuière



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