Multi-Page Floating Tables in Writer: A First Cut

Miklos Vajna
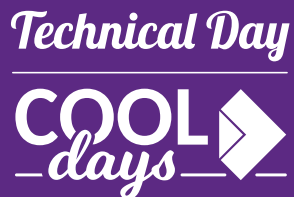Software Engineer
vmiklos@collabora.com
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Collabora Online

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

Results so far

Layout

He heard quiet steps behind him.¶	That didn't bode well.¶	Who could be following him this late at night and in this deadbeat part of town?¶
And at this particular moment, just after he pulled off the big time and was making off with the greenbacks.¶	Was there another crook who'd had the same idea, and was now watching him and waiting for a chance to grab the fruit of his labor?¶	Or did the steps behind him mean that one of many law officers in town was on to

		him and just waiting to pounce and snap those?¶	He tried to nervously tap his way along in the inky darkness
He nervously looked all around.¶	Suddenly he saw the alley.¶	Like lightning he darted off to the left.¶	

and suddenly stiffened: it was a dead-end, he would have to go back the way he had come. The steps got louder and louder, he saw the black outline of a figure coming around the corner. Is this the end of the line? he thought pressing himself back against the wall trying to make himself invisible in the dark,

User Interface

Importers, exporters

- DOCX (OOXML) import and export is implemented
  - Import is disabled by default, SW_FORCE_FLY_SPLIT=1 opts in
- ODT (ODF) import and export is implemented

floating			Search
Preference Name	**Property**	**Type**	**Value**
▼ org.openoffice.Office.Writer			
└ ▼ Filter			
└ ▼ Import			
└ DOCX	ImportFloatingTableAsSplitFly	boolean	false

How is this implemented?

Layout representation

| He heard quiet steps behind him.¶ | That didn't bode well.¶ | Who could be following him this late at night and in this deadbeat part of town?¶ | |
| And at this particular moment, just after he pulled off the big time and was making off with the greenbacks.¶ | Was there another crook who'd had the same idea, and was now watching him and waiting for a chance to grab the fruit of his labor?¶ | Or did the steps behind him mean that one of many law officers in town was on to | |

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1. At-paragraph anchored text frame
2. Frame height is automatic
3. Top left of anchor frames
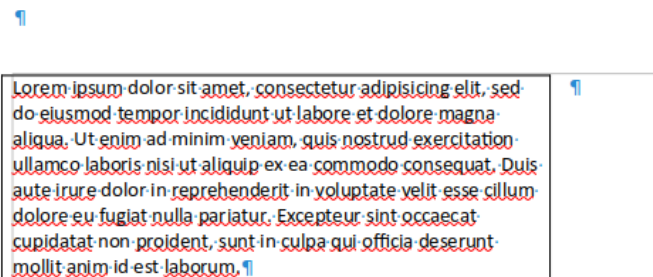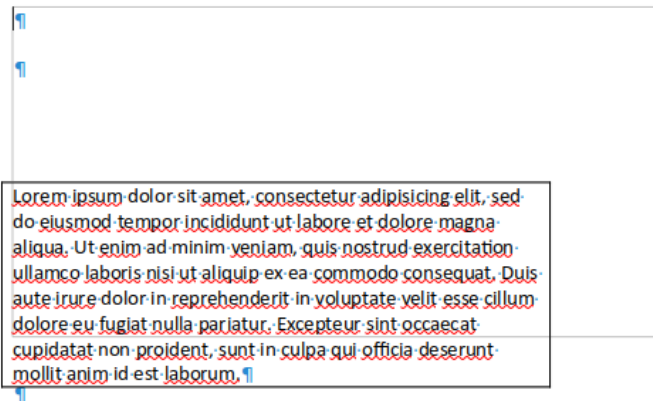4. Content flows around the frame on the last page
5. Vertical offset is only rendered on the first page

Legacy mode, for Word <= 2010

And then the usual steps

- Document model
- UNO API
- Filters
- Testing
- UI
- Documentation
- ODF specification

Summary

- Originally requested in 2013, multi-page floating tables are coming to Writer this year

    - COOL 23.05 / LibreOffice (perhaps) 7.6

- Status: ~25% done, but you can already opt in to try it out

- How it interacts with headers/footers, orphan/widow control, minimal row height, compatibility modes, change tracking, etc. – is complex, but we're working on it

- Defaulting to the way today's Word (>= 2013) does it, but also have a legacy mode for older documents