

Enhancing Performance: Async Dialogs

Vivekkumar Javiya

Associate Software Developer
vivek.javiya@collabora.com



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Introduction

- Welcome to today's presentation on enhancing performance with asynchronous dialogs.
- We'll delve into the challenges of collaborative dialog experiences and how async dialogs can solve this issue & Enhance Performance.



Collaborative Dialogs Challenge

- Scenario: Multiple users accessing the same dialog simultaneously.
- Issue: Flickering or changes not applied when users close the dialog in quick succession.
- Example:
 - User A opens dialog,
 - User B opens the same dialog,
 - User A does some action in dialog and clicks “OK”
 - User B does some action in dialog and clicks “OK”
 - Expected: changes were applied in both sessions, dialog is closed correctly
 - Wrong result: dialog doesn’t close but starts to flicker, changes are not applied



Solution : Async dialogs

- Allowing multiple users to work on the same dialog independently.
- Since the process of dialog is asynchronous, it naturally avoids blocking users to work on same dialogs, thereby indirectly enhancing performance.



Identify Asynchronous Dialogs?

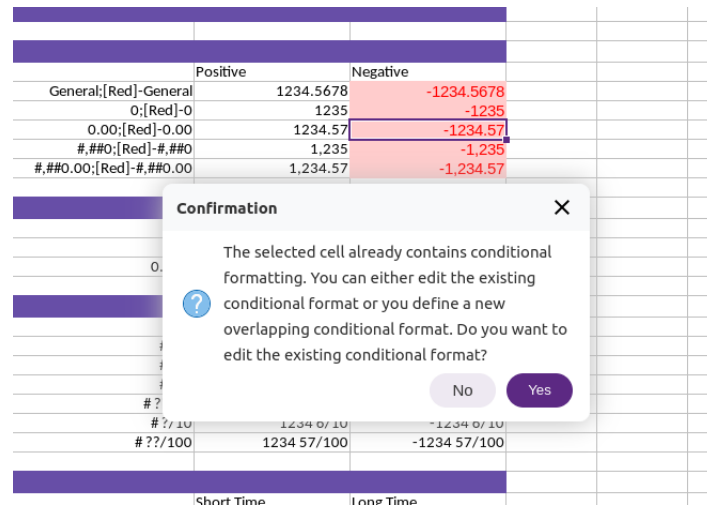
- Ideal way to open in multiple user/screens and test dialogs in parallel.
- Easiest method: In debug mode, display an additional dialog when a non-async dialog is opened, Special thanks to Michael Meeks for the patch!
- From flame graph analysis: It's worth checking the nature of long time-taking dialog boxes.





Find Code Pointers?

- Copy the dialog title string, typically defined in `sc/inc/globstr.hrc`, or utilize `git grep`.
- Ex:
``STR_EDIT_EXISTING_COND_FORMATS`` → `The selected cell already contains conditional....`
- Search using the macro of that string to easily locate dialogs in the codebase.





Converting Dialogs to Async - Code

```
// - Non Async Code:
std::unique_ptr<weld::MessageDialog> xQueryBox(.....);

if (xQueryBox->run() == RET_YES) {
    // bla bla bla
}
// Other Code

// -----

// - Converted Async code

tabnine: test | explain | document | ask
std::shared_ptr<weld::MessageDialog> xQueryBox(.....);

xQueryBox->runAsync(xQueryBox, [this, nIndex, nSlot, aPos, pTabViewShell] (int nResult) {
    if (nResult == RET_YES) {
        // bla bla bla
    }
    // Other dependent Code
});

// Other dependent Code
```



Converting Dialogs to Async - Code

- First, convert `unique_ptr` to `shared_ptr` if it does not already exist.
- Call the `runAsync` method with the appropriate callback lambda function. Worth checking `runAsync` method is static or class method.
- For some classes, we have a different method, `StartExecuteAsync`, instead of `runAsync`.
- The callback function should accept `nResult` parameter, which represents the response of the dialog action, Ex. `RET_YES` , `RET_NO`.



Converting Dialogs to Async - Code

- You can pass references and variables to a lambda function using a capture list, which can be mentioned in square brackets. `[...]`
- Capturing `this` keyword is often useful to access member variables and member functions of the current object within the lambda.
- It can take a longer time between dialog initialization and calling the callback (the user waits a few seconds). So, we should pass variables and references in the capture list accordingly.



Credits

- Tomaz (tomaz.vajngerl@collabora.com)
- Caolán (caolan.mcnamara@collabora.com)
- Szymon (szymon.klos@collabora.com)
- Pedro (pedro.silva@collabora.com)

Thank you!

By Vivekkumar Javiya



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hello@collaboraoffice.com
www.collaboraoffice.com