

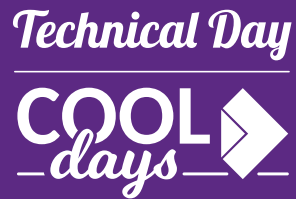
Enabling JS Dialogs for Collabora Online

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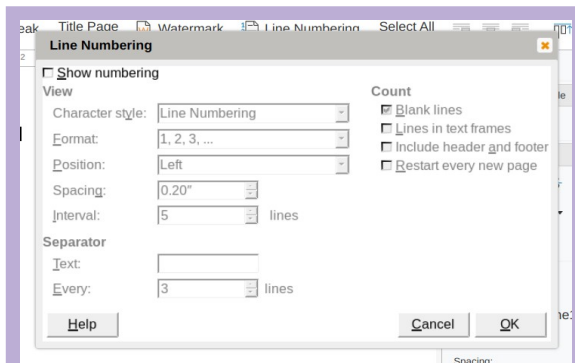
Collabora
Online



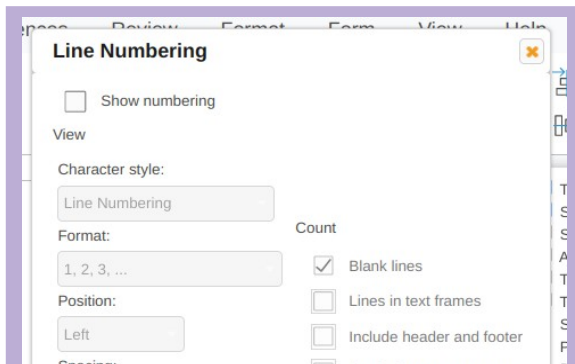


What are JSDialogs?

- JSDialogs are a way to render Collabora Online's dialogs in a browser rather than on the server
- Previous (tunneled) dialogs rendered on the Collabora server and displayed using a HTML canvas, JSDialogs send JSON to the client which is rendered by it into HTML



No JSDialogs (tunneled)



Using JSDialogs



Why are JSDialogs better?

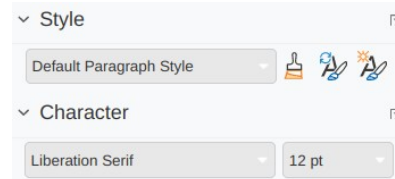
- Less server overhead (no need to render the dialog on the server)
- Less network overhead (only small updates need to be sent over the network)
- Better for accessibility (e.g. screen readers are able to read JSDialogs better)
- More consistent with the rest of the UI (e.g. the toolbar UI)

```
1679273315724 INCOMING cool.html?file_path=_hello-world.odt:344  
: jsdialog: { "json_type": "dialog", "action": "update", "id": 7,  
"control": { "id": "negnumred", "type": "checkbox", "text":  
"-Negative numbers red", "enabled": true, "text": "-Negative  
numbers red", "checked": true}}
```

```
Speak (C) category=nav "List with 11 items"  
Speak (Q) category=nav "Percent"  
Speak (Q) category=nav "List item"
```

Test 1

Test 1





How do you convert a tunneled dialog?

Find the UI file

Dialogs are built with a .ui file in core, find which file it is. Grep can be a useful tool for this...

Find where it's used

Search for the last part of the file name (e.g. "dropcapspage.ui").

Make it runAsync

Most dialogs use Execute rather than runAsync which causes a bug when >1 person is using it at once

Add it to the enabled.cxx file

In vcl/jsdialog there's a file that controls if a dialog is a jsdialog. Add your dialog to the list in the file

Test and make a gerrit change

Collabora core uses gerrit to host its git repo, you'll need a gerrit.libreoffice.org account to submit your change



Other tips

- The SAL_JSDIALOG_ENABLE variable can be used in testing as a substitute for editing vcl/jsdialog/enabled.cxx

```
SAL_JSDIALOG_ENABLE=modules/swriter/ui/tablecolumnpage.ui make run
```

- Remember to test if changes apply when you expect them to with multiple collabora instances. It's possible for a dialog to work perfectly fine until you try working collaboratively
- You can find code pointers by searching gerrit for JSDialog and looking at the changes: Szymon Kłos in particular has enabled a lot of dialogs. Some dialogs, e.g. tabbed dialogs, may be more difficult so looking at what's come before is really useful!

Thank you!

By Skyler

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