

WRITER'S TOOLS

code.google.com/p/writertools

DRAFT

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Preface

About this user guide

Writer's User Guide designed to help you to get started with the Writer's Tools extension for OpenOffice.org.

Conventions used in this guide

Plain text – Indicates menu titles, menu items, buttons, and keyboard shortcuts such as Shift and Ctrl.

Italic text – Indicates books and other publications as well as certain menu items to avoid ambiguity.

Monospaced text – Indicates file extensions, commands, file names, and hyperlinks.

Underlined monospaced text – Indicates working hyperlinks.

`Code` – Indicates code examples, commands options, functions, HTML examples, and output from commands.

TIP – Tips and notes are set off by lines above and below.

Language and formats

The guide was written in US English, using the *Oxford Style Manual* and *Read Me First! A Style Guide for the Computer Industry* as main references. Since the guide caters for international readers, the metric system was chosen for all units of measurement.

Technical notes

This guide was written entirely in OpenOffice.org 2.1 (www.openoffice.org) running on Windows XP and Ubuntu (www.ubuntu.com). The Bitstream Vera Sans, Bitstream Vera Sans Mono, and COM4t Sans Medium (<http://com4t-fff.seesaa.net/>) fonts were used throughout the guide. Some screenshots were edited in The GIMP (www.gimp.org). The book's cover was designed using The GIMP and Inkscape (www.inkscape.org).

About the author

Dmitri Popov holds a degree in Russian language and computer linguistics. He has been working as a technical translator and freelancer contributor as well as teaching translation theory and Russian language. He has published over 500 articles covering productivity software, mobile computing, web applications, and other computer-related topics. His articles have appeared in Danish, British, US, German, and Russian magazines and websites.

About Writer's Tools

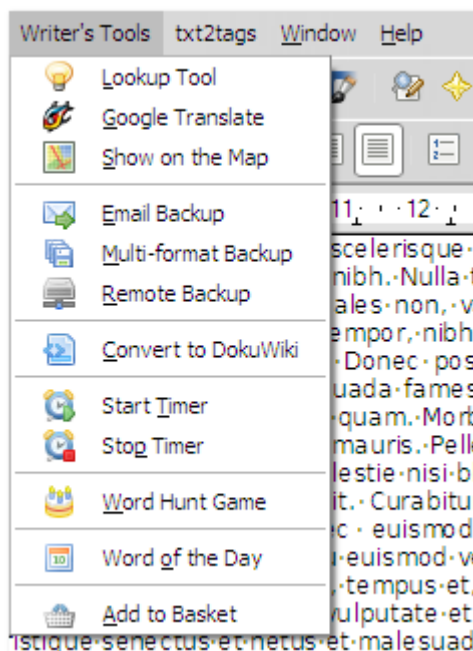


Figure 1: Writer's Tools

Writer's Tools is an OpenOffice.org extension that includes the following tools:

- **Lookup Tool** allows you to lookup the currently selected word in several online references, including Cambridge Dictionaries, WordNet, Ask Oxford, Google Define, and BEOLINGUS.
- **Google Translate** allows users to quickly translate selected text fragments between different languages using the Google Translate service.
- **Show on the Map** tool allows you to select a city, a street name, or a postal code and map it using the Multimaps service.
- **Email Backup** can be used to quickly send a backup copy of the currently opened document to a specified email address.

- **Multi-format Backup** saves the currently opened Writer document in the Word, RTF, and TXT formats. The backup files are stored in a separate folder with a date stamp. On Linux, the macro also archives the resulting folder using the tar utility.
- **Remote Backup** allows you to quickly save a backup copy of the current document on a FTP server.
- **Convert to DokuWiki** converts the current document into DokuWiki format.
- **Start/Stop Timer** tool can be used to keep tabs on time spent on the currently opened document and save the time data (the document name, used time, and date) in the accompanying WriterDB database.
- **Word Hunt Game** is a simple game, where you have to guess the word randomly picked by Writer.
- **Word of the Day** tool picks and displays a random word and its definition from the from the accompanying WriterDB database. As a writer, you may often come across a new word or an interesting expression. The WriterDB database allows you to store your language findings in one place, while the Word of the Day tool helps you to keep them active in your memory.
- **Add to Basket** tool copies the currently selected text fragment into the basket table in the WriterDB database. It's perfect for storing notes and text snippets.

License and download

The Writer's Tools extension is released under GNU GPL. Writer's Tools is very much a work in progress. Any ideas, improvements, suggestions, comments etc. are welcomed and can be sent to dmpop@openoffice.org. The latest stable release is available at writertools.googlecode.com

About Writer's Tools

The latest development release is available in the following SVN repository writertools.googlecode.com/svn/trunk/

Installing and Configuring Writer's Tools

To install the Writer's Tools extension, download the latest release. Unzip the downloaded file. Launch OpenOffice.org, and choose Tools -> Extension Manager (Package Manager in older versions of OpenOffice.org). Select the My Extensions section, and press the Add button. Select the downloaded extension (the WriterTools.oxt package), and press OK. Restart OpenOffice.org, and you should see the Writer's Tools menu in the Main toolbar.

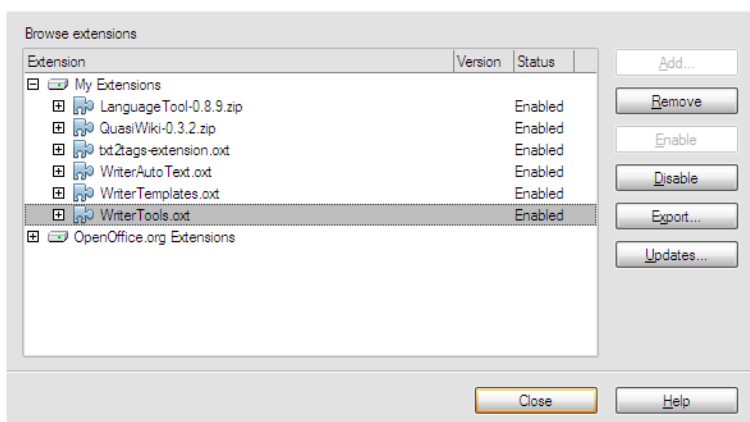


Figure 2: Installing Writer's Tools using the Extension Manager

Upgrading Writer's Tools

To upgrade the existing version of Writer's Tools, install the new version as described above. During installation, OpenOffice.org displays the warning message asking whether you want to install a newer version. Press OK, to overwrite the installed version with the new one.

Registering the WriterDB Database

The Timer Tool, Word of the Day, and Add to Basket tools rely on the WriterDB database that must be registered as an OpenOffice.org data source. To do this, launch OpenOffice.org and choose Tools -> Options. Select OpenOffice.org Base -> Databases and press the New button. Select the WriterDB database and give the new connection the "WriterDB" name as shown in the figure below:

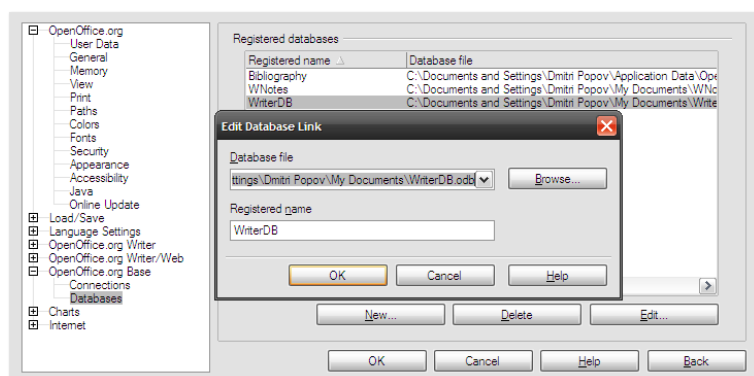


Figure 3: Registering the WriterDB database

Press OK -> OK, and you are done.

Changing the Default Browser

The Writer's Tools extension uses Firefox browser, and it expects to find it in the Program Files folder (on Windows). If you are using another browser or a non-US version of Windows, you have to update the default browser path. To do this, launch OpenOffice.org and choose Tools -> Macros -> Organize Macros -> OpenOffice.org Basic. Select then WriterTools -> Tools -> LookupTool as shown in Figure 4 and press the Edit button.

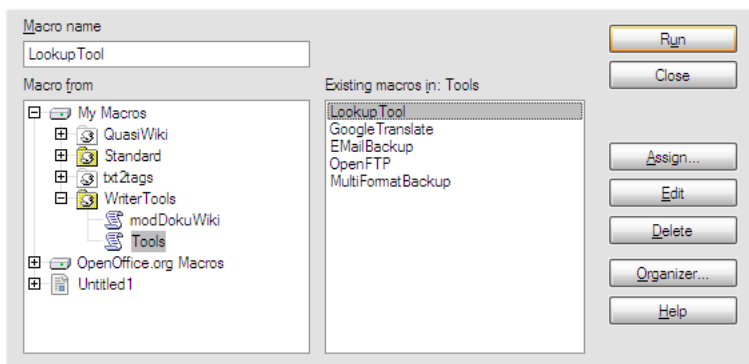


Figure 4: Opening the LookupTool macro

Replace all occurrences of the `"C:\Program Files\Mozilla Firefox\firefox.exe"` string with the correct path, for example:

`"C:\Program Files\Opera\opera.exe"`

`"C:\Programmer\Opera\opera.exe"`

Save the changes, and you are done.

Adding Email Address to the Email Backup Tool

Using the Email Backup command, you can email a backup copy of the current document to a specified email address. If you are using a specific email address for all your backups, you might want to add it to the command, so you don't have to type it every single time. To do this, launch OpenOffice.org and choose Tools -> Macros -> Organize Macros -> OpenOffice.org Basic. Select then WriterTools -> Tools -> EMailBackup and press the Edit button. Locate the following line:

```
MailAddress=InputBox("Email address")
```

and replace the `InputBox("Email address")` part with your actual email address, for example: `MailAddress="user@email.org"`

Adding FTP Address to the Remote Backup Tool

Using the Remote Backup command, you can upload a backup copy of the current document to a specified FTP server. If you are using a specific FTP address for all your backups, you might want to add it to the command, so you don't have to type it every single time. To do this, launch OpenOffice.org and choose Tools -> Macros -> Organize Macros -> OpenOffice.org Basic. Select then WriterTools -> Remote Backup -> SaveFTPDocument and press the Edit button. Locate the following code block:

```
ConnectionString=InputBox("Enter the FTP address", "Remote Backup" , "ftp://user:password@192.168.1.7/pub/")  
If ConnectionString="" then MsgBox ("The FTP address field is empty!", , "Attention!") : End
```

and replace it with:

```
ConnectionString="ftp://user:password@192.168.1.7/pub/"
```

where the string in the quotes should be the actual FTP address.

Editing the List of References in the Lookup Tool

You can easily edit the default references in the Lookup Tool and add the new ones, by modifying the LookupTool macro. To do this, launch OpenOffice.org and choose Tools -> Macros -> Organize Macros -> OpenOffice.org Basic. Select then WriterTools -> Tools -> LookupTool and press the Edit button. Locate the following code:

```
URLArray=Array("http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/",_  
"http://dictionary.cambridge.org/results.asp?searchword=",_
```

```
"http://www.google.com/search?q=define%3A",_
"http://wordnet.princeton.edu/perl/webwn?s=",_
"http://www.askoxford.com/results/?view=searchresults&freesea
ch=")
```

Let's say you want to add the Dictionary.com reference (dictionary.reference.com) to the Lookup Tool. First of all, do a simple search, and note the query URL. It should look something like this:

```
http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/{SEARCHTERM}
```

All you have to do is to add it to the URLArray as follows:

```
URLArray=Array("http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/",_
"http://dictionary.cambridge.org/results.asp?searchword=",_
"http://www.google.com/search?q=define%3A",_
"http://wordnet.princeton.edu/perl/webwn?s=",_
"http://www.askoxford.com/results/?view=searchresults&freesea
ch=",_
"http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/")
```

Next, you have to add the Dictionary.com entry to the drop-down list in the Lookup dialog. Click on the LookupDialog tab at the bottom of the OpenOffice.org Basic IDE, then double-click on the drop-down list (Figure 5). In the Properties window, add the Dictionary.com item in the List entries drop-down list (use Shift+Enter to add new line). Save the changes, and you are done.

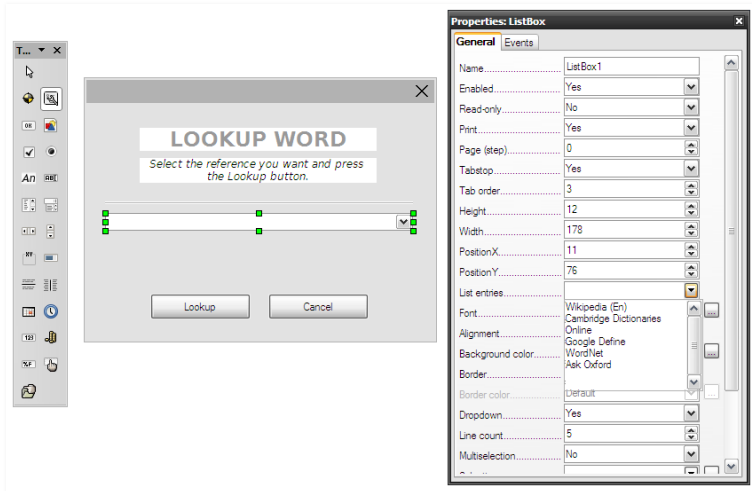


Figure 5: Editing the list of references

Tweaking the Word Hunt Game

Writer's Tools features a simple game, where Writer randomly picks one of five words and your task is to guess it. The default words are: apple, potato, carrot, cucumber, and orange. To change the default set, launch *OpenOffice.org* and choose *Tools -> Macros -> Organize Macros -> OpenOffice.org Basic*. Select then the *WordGame -> WordHunt* macro and press the Edit button. Locate the following code:

```
WordArray=Array("apple", "potato", "carrot", "cucumber",  
"orange")
```

Replace the words in the array with your own.

Importing data into the WriterDB database

The `wnotes` table in the WriterDB database contains a few sample records. However, in some cases, you'd want to import the existing data into the database. The following description shows how to import data from a Calc spreadsheet into WriterDB.

Since properly formatted source data can greatly simplify the import procedure, it's worth spending time on some preparatory work. First of all, you need to tweak the spreadsheets structure, so that it becomes identical to the structure of the `wnotes` table. Make sure that the first row contains the field names identical to those in the database table. Ideally, they should also be in the same order. Ensure that all the data bits is in the proper columns.

Now select the data in the sheet and copy it into the Clipboard (*Edit -> Copy* or *Ctrl+C*). Open the database, click on the *Tables* button, and select the `wnotes` table. Right-click on it and choose *Paste*. In the *Copy table* dialog window, type the exact name of the target table (`wnotes`) into the *Table name* field and select the *Attach data* option.

In the *Assign Columns* dialog window, check whether all the fields in the *Source table* window have been selected and aligned with the respective fields in the *Target table* window. To align the fields, use the blue *Up* and *Down* arrows. Finally, click *Create* to import the data.

About the Convert to DokuWiki tool

The Convert to DokuWiki tool is based on Ian Laurenson's DokuWiki macro (<http://homepages.paradise.net.nz/hillview/00o/>). The Convert to DokuWiki tool supports the following formatting options:

Character Formatting

Bold, italics, underline, strike-through, mono spaced fonts, superscript and subscript all get mapped to DokuWiki equivalents. Any other character formatting is lost.

Paragraph formatting

Outline levels Outline levels 1-5 get mapped the DokuWiki equivalents. Higher outline levels are ignored although if the style uses the above character formats they should get transferred across. Any formatting within an outline level 1-5 paragraph is ignored.

Bulleted and numbered lists Bulleted and numbered lists get transferred to the DokuWiki equivalent, with the level of the list determining the amount of indentation. As there is no choice of bullets or numbering schemes in DokuWiki the lists are very simple indeed.

Bottom border If a paragraph is formatted with a bottom border then a DokuWiki horizontal line will be inserted.

Frames which are anchored to or as characters

The name of the frame will be inserted into the DokuWiki command: `{{wiki:FrameName}}`, where FrameName is the name of the frame as

shown in the navigator. If the frame has no name then it is ignored. You will need to upload the graphic file manually, using your browser.

Tables

Simple tables should transfer OK. Where there is more than one paragraph in the cell, it is the alignment of the last paragraph that determines the alignment for the cell. Horizontally merged cells should work fine. The tables do not look pretty in the DokuWiki format but seem to render OK in DokuWiki itself.

Links

Hyperlinks should get transferred, but this feature needs improvement. Currently any formatting within a hyperlink will cause the hyperlink to be repeated in the DokuWiki document. So that it is possible to copy a rendered page from a DokuWiki site, any hyperlinks that have `doku.php?id=` in them will be treated as internal links. I don't check to convert double square brackets to literals so anything in double square brackets should simply go into the DokuWiki document – beware if you don't have your double square brackets matched the rendering will not work as expected.

Quotes

Smart quotes get converted to ordinary quotes.

Code

Any paragraphs with a style name that includes the text “code” will be enclosed with `<code xxx> ... </code>` tags, where xxx can correspond to one of the following language codes: actionscript, ada, apache, asm,

asp, bash, caddcl, cadlisp, c_mac, cpp, csharp, css, delphi, html4strict, javascript, java, lisp, lua, nsis, objc, oobas, pascal, perl, php-brief, php, python, qbasic, smarty, sql, vbnet, vb, visualfoxpro, xml, c. For example, paragraph style name `code_oobas` produces the tags `<code oobas> ... </code>`.

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