



Catch 1904

Tim Nott gets caught up in **frustrating files, lineless lines** and still finds time to answer your queries.

This month I thought it was about time for a thorough clean-up of the machine that writes this column. So having backed up everything I thought I might need, I re-installed Windows 98 and MS Office 2000 on to a clean hard disk, selecting only the components of the latter that I really needed.

Despite forgoing the delights of Outlook, PowerPoint and Access, Office still took absolutely ages to stagger off the CD on to my hard disk. But worse was to come, in the shape of a little error message that popped up, saying 'Error 1904. Module C:\Program Files\Common Files\Microsoft Shared\VBA\VBA6\VBE6.DLL failed to register. HRESULT -2147024894. Contact your support personnel.' No, I didn't know what that meant either and since clicking on Retry produced nothing but the same message, I hit the Skip button and continued.

The significance became clear when I went to run a macro in Word. A flurry of error messages informed me that Word had committed a variety of illegal acts, couldn't initialise the VBA environment and would close down. Fortunately, it didn't deliver on the last threat and I was able to continue and save my work.

The problem persisted after re-booting, to the extent that creating

FIG 1

The textbox format macro

```
Sub Texty()  
On Error GoTo Whoops  
Selection.Style = ✓  
ActiveDocument.Styles("Textbox")  
Selection.ShapeRange.Fill.Visible = msoFalse  
Selection.ShapeRange.Line.Visible = msoFalse  
Exit Sub  
Whoops:  
MsgBox ("That is not a text box")  
End Sub
```

(Key: **✓** code string continues)

any new document with an Autonew macro in the template produced the same rash of errors. Now, Office 2000 has this rather fine feature called 'Detect and Repair'. So I did. And it didn't. Back came that good old error 1904.

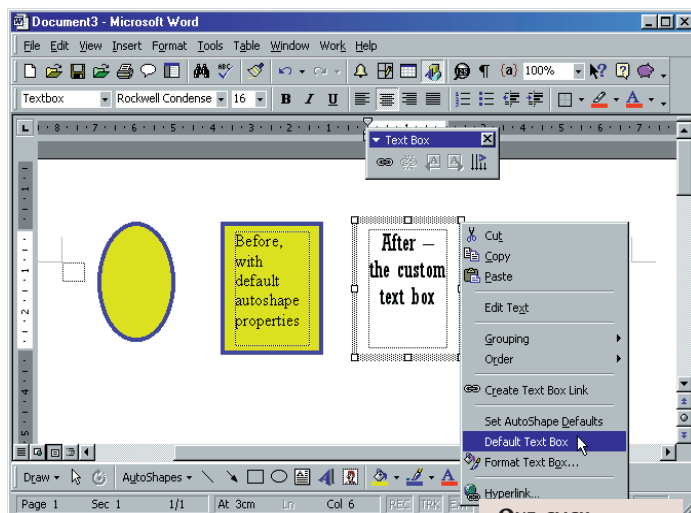
After a lot of web- (and soul-) searching, I found comfort in the fact that I was not alone – other users had posted this problem in news-groups – and there was a fix on the Microsoft Knowledge Base, which showed how to register the file manually. This, however didn't work, and donning my scruffy old DOS anorak and using the FC command revealed that the copy of VBE6.DLL on my hard disk differed from that on the CD. It seems it had been corrupted during copying.

So, step one was to delete the corrupt VBE6.DLL from the hard

disk and replace it with a fresh copy from the CD. The next step was to use the Knowledge Base tip to register the file manually. Go to Windows 'Start, Run...' and type in RegSvr32 followed by a space, then the

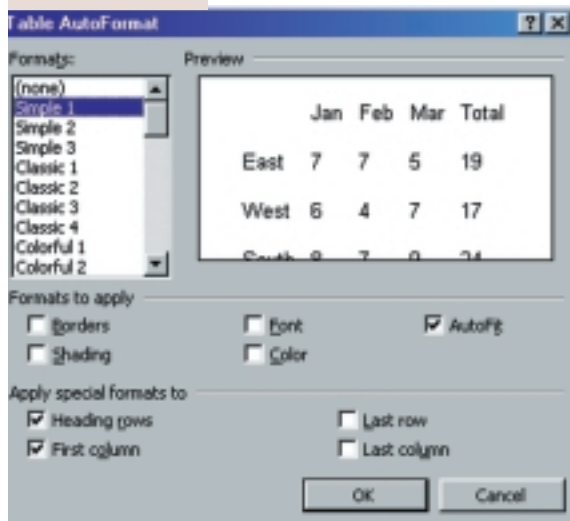
path and name of the file.

Unless you really love typing, the easiest



**ONE-CLICK
CUSTOMISATION
OF TEXT BOXES**

TABLES À LA CARTE WITH NO BORDERS



way to do this is to

navigate to the VBA6 folder mentioned above in Windows Explorer, and drag the VBE6.DLL file into the 'Run' box. This, happily, did the trick, but I'm still wondering why this particular file should be so accident-prone on installation.

■ Bordering on the insane

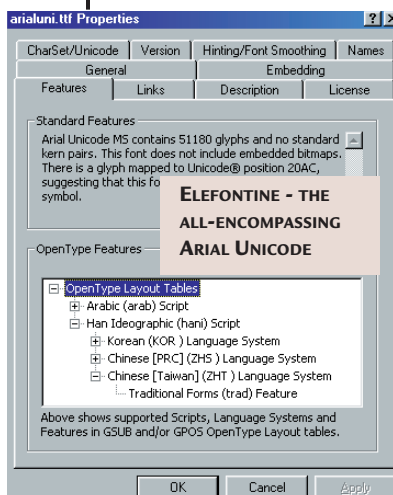
Last May I mentioned a workaround for Word 2000's irritating habit of assuming you want borders on every table you create. To recap, the trick is to go to the Table, Insert Table... dialog, then hit the Autoformat button. Select any style, except '(none)', then turn off the borders and any other options you may not want. OK out of the Autoformat dialog, then make sure you have the 'Set as default...'

Questions & answers

Q Is there a font that contains the entire Unicode character set? Or is this impractical?

ROB PALMER

a Yes – *Arial Unicode MS ships with Office 2000*



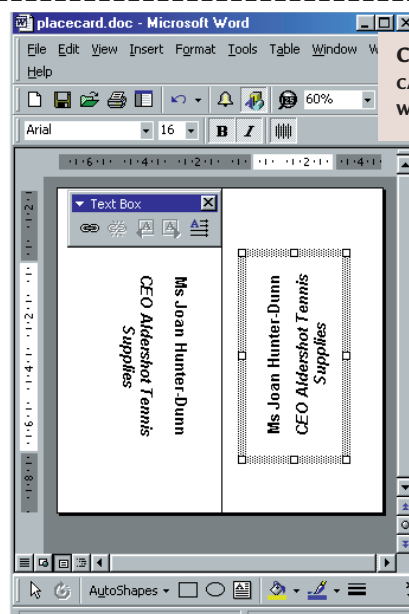
and contains 51,180 glyphs, covering all code points in Unicode Standard 2.0. It weighs in at 23MB, which

probably answers your second question as well.

Q I want to print some fold-over cards giving the name and job title of participants at a seminar. The same text needs to be printed on both faces of the 'tent', which means one lot must be upside down. How can I do this in Word? I can turn text in boxes through 90 degrees but not 180, and I'd prefer to do the job with one print run.

ANGELA LLOYD

a *Two methods spring to mind. First, using WordArt with the plainest formatting (top left sample in the preview box) gives you text that can be rotated through any angle. A rather more elegant method, which was suggested by our NT correspondent, Andrew Ward, is to create the card on its side. Create and fill the first text box, then copy and paste it. Turn the text in the left-hand box through 90 degrees*



clockwise, (Format, Text Direction), and that in the right-hand box 90 degrees anticlockwise.

Q I've created a macro in WordPerfect 8: how can I get it on to a toolbar? All I seem able to do is to get a button that lists all the macros.

RICHARD FIENNES

CAMP IT UP WITH TENT CARDS – ALL DONE WITH TEXT BOXES

a *Right-click on a blank part of the toolbar and select Edit. From the Macros tab in the ensuing dialog, choose Add Macro, and then select your macro from the browser.*

Q How can I find out the ASCII code of a character in

a Word document?

NIGEL CORNWELL

a *This quick and dirty little piece of VBA will return the ASCII code of the character to the right of the cursor:*

```
Sub Ascwhat()  
MsgBox Asc(Selection)  
End Sub
```

option ticked before leaving the Insert Table dialog.

There's a similar irritation with text boxes – by default, Word assumes you want a thin line around these. This isn't quite like the rest of Word's borders – it's referred to as 'Line' in the right-click, Format, dialog box, and the 'No line' option is under 'Color'. In any case, the cure is easier – set the line and shading of any text box to the desired default, then right-click and 'Set Autoshape defaults'. Bingo – all your new text boxes will be like the one selected.

Problem solved? Not really, because only the border, fill, text direction, wrap and a few other settings are saved – not text formatting or alignment. Second, the default is only saved for the current document. Third – and this is the really good bit – the default applies to all shapes that you subsequently draw. So, if you've set your text boxes up with no line, then anything else you draw will have no

line. Even your lines will have no line, which though admirably Euclidean in concept, makes them rather pointless on screen or in print. It also makes the things almost impossible to find.

So, a better way is via a macro. The macro is the easy bit, as I took the coarse coder's approach of recording it then stripping out all the excess baggage. You can see the result in **Fig 1**: this applies the paragraph style 'Textbox', which I had previously defined, then removes any line and fill. With a degree of sophistication unusual in my macros, I've included an error-handling routine.

The next part is to get the macro where we need it. One good place is the Text Box toolbar. Note that this is a shy little fellow, and is only available from the View, Toolbars menu when you have a text box selected. From Tools, Customise, Commands scroll down the categories for Macros and then select the new macro from the list to the right.

Drag it onto the Text Box toolbar: you can then right-click on it to change the button name and/or icon.

An even better place for it, in my view, is the right-button or context menu for text boxes. With the Customise box open, click on the Toolbars tab and then tick the Shortcut Menus box. A toolbar with three menu headings appears – go to Draw, Shapes and the context menu will stay open, letting you go back to Customise, Commands, in order to drag your macro on to the context menu. Finally, on the issue of visibility, you can still see empty, unlined, unfilled text boxes by ticking Text Boundaries under Tools, Options, View.

PCW CONTACTS

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