

SDTL spreadsheet demo

Read me file:

The following zip folder contains this read me file and a spreadsheets project.ods file which can be opened by open office application.

What does this application do ?

There are student names and email's and on the same row are their scores in the entire semester in the first sheet of the project workbook. When you click on the respective send grade to button beside the email address field. The score of the student gets emailed to the student as an spreadsheet attachment to that email address of his/her. The format of data that is sent to student is in sheet 2 of the project work book.

The disadvantage is for each of the student you have to press a different button.

If you want to add additional students the same format of entry has to be maintained. Then just add another button of send to and email address and other information. In the module just make a copy of the generic macro sub sendgrade# and only change the rownum variable which should be equal to row number where the student info has been inserted. The click button event of that respective student will have to be enabled to pick this newly created sendgrade macro.

The things that could not be accomplished were could not set up a dynamic path to have the student spread sheets made in the same folder since OO basic does not seem to have a way to get current working directory.

<http://api.openoffice.org/docs/common/ref/com/sun/star/system/module-ix.html>

Also had to use spreadsheet as an attachment instead of filling the grade in the email body since complete control over email seems to be only with the microsoft outlook email client. Others do not seem to offer this facility. Also OO basic also seems to fail on that account. Their interfaces did not show any way of manipulating the email body.

<http://api.openoffice.org/docs/common/ref/com/sun/star/system/XSimpleMailMessage.html>

So had to go the attachment way.

How to view the project.

This application is made for linux OS but can be made to run on windows by uncommenting line 175 and commenting line 174. Along with that some paths that have unix specific formats will have to be changed to windows specific to run in windows. The windows one have been commented out in this section.

A email client should be set up on the machine to run this I ran this application on windows with windows live mail and on ubuntu 9.10 on evolution mail and in both the cases it worked.

Some limitations of working in calc:

I had to hard code the path where I had kept the grade file and similarly the student spread sheet that is created also stored on the same folder. If you are working on a different machine you will have to change the paths manually for that in the macro. It was not possible to do it here since the open office UNO did not seem to provide a interface to get

the present working directory.

<http://api.openoffice.org/docs/common/ref/com/sun/star/system/module-ix.html>

Also the grades are sent in spreadsheet attachment. That spreadsheet is made and stored in the same directory as this project folder (path hard coded) and with the name as first name of student underscore second name underscore grade_sheet.

To view how the button click works you have to look at the macros. Open the project spreadsheet and go to Tools > Macros > Organise Macros > Openoffice.org Basic and a window pops up. In the window click on project.ods then on the standard library and then on email_grades module. Then click edit. The open office basic editor ide will open and with it the entire code.

One last thing your email client may ask for permission to send the file as attachment in a pop up box instead of just sending the thing across.

Reference:

Alexander Bain, Mark. Learn OpenOffice.org Spreadsheet Macro Programming: OOoBasic and Calc Automation: A Fast and Friendly Tutorial to Writing Macros and Spreadsheet Applications. Packt Publishing. © 2006.

The email subroutine which does the function of sending mail as attachment was ripped off from this book.