



OpenOffice.org

Conference 2008 Beijing

世界开源大会

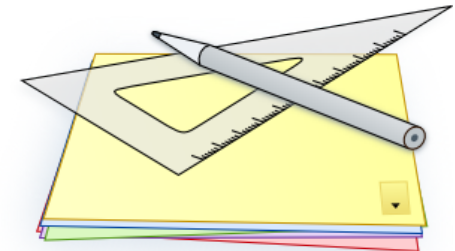
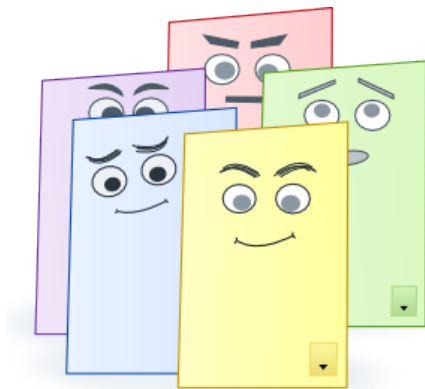
Making the New Notes

Community • Cooperation • Concepts

Christoph Noack OpenOffice.org User Experience
Max Odendahl OpenOffice.org Development
Christian Jansen Sun Microsystems

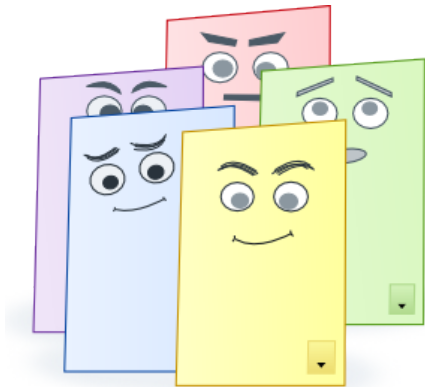
Making the New Notes

Community Cooperation Concepts



Making the New Notes

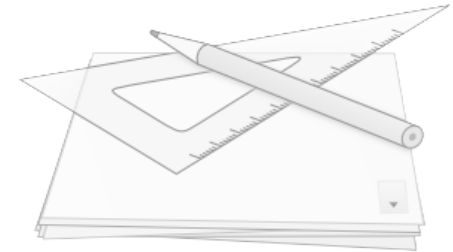
Community



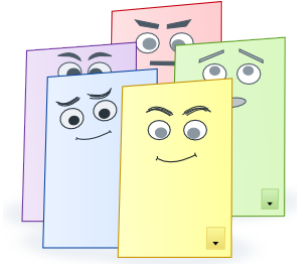
Cooperation



Concepts



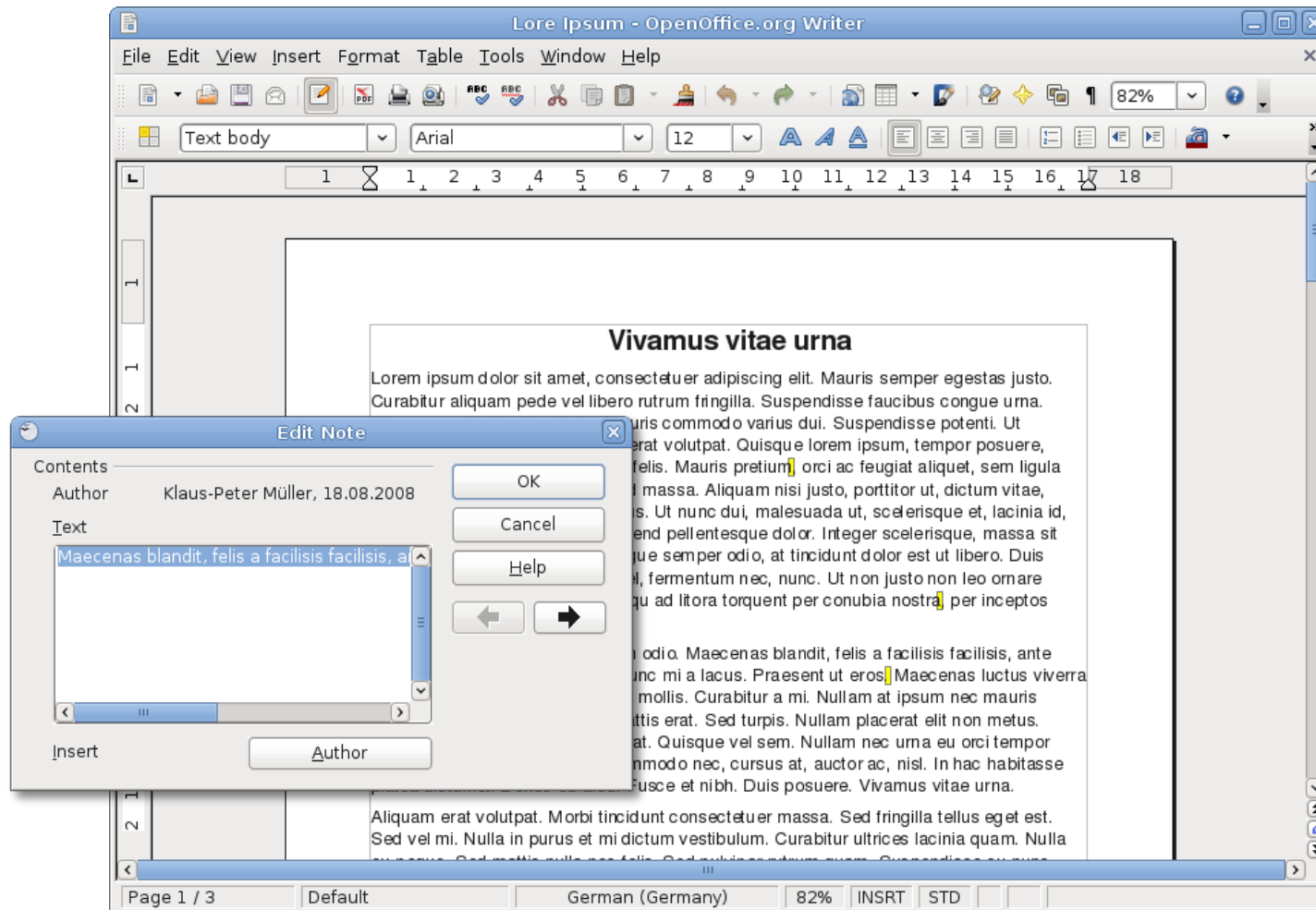
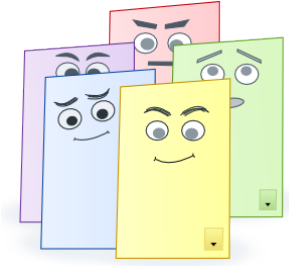
Introduction to Notes2



- Notes2 is an activity to improve the existing notes functionality in OpenOffice.org Writer
- Notes2 has been developed with major community involvement
- Notes2 solved about 100 issue tracker entries
- Notes2 has been rewarded in the “OpenOffice.org Community Innovation Program Awards” (Technical, Core)
- First results are contained in OpenOffice.org 3.0

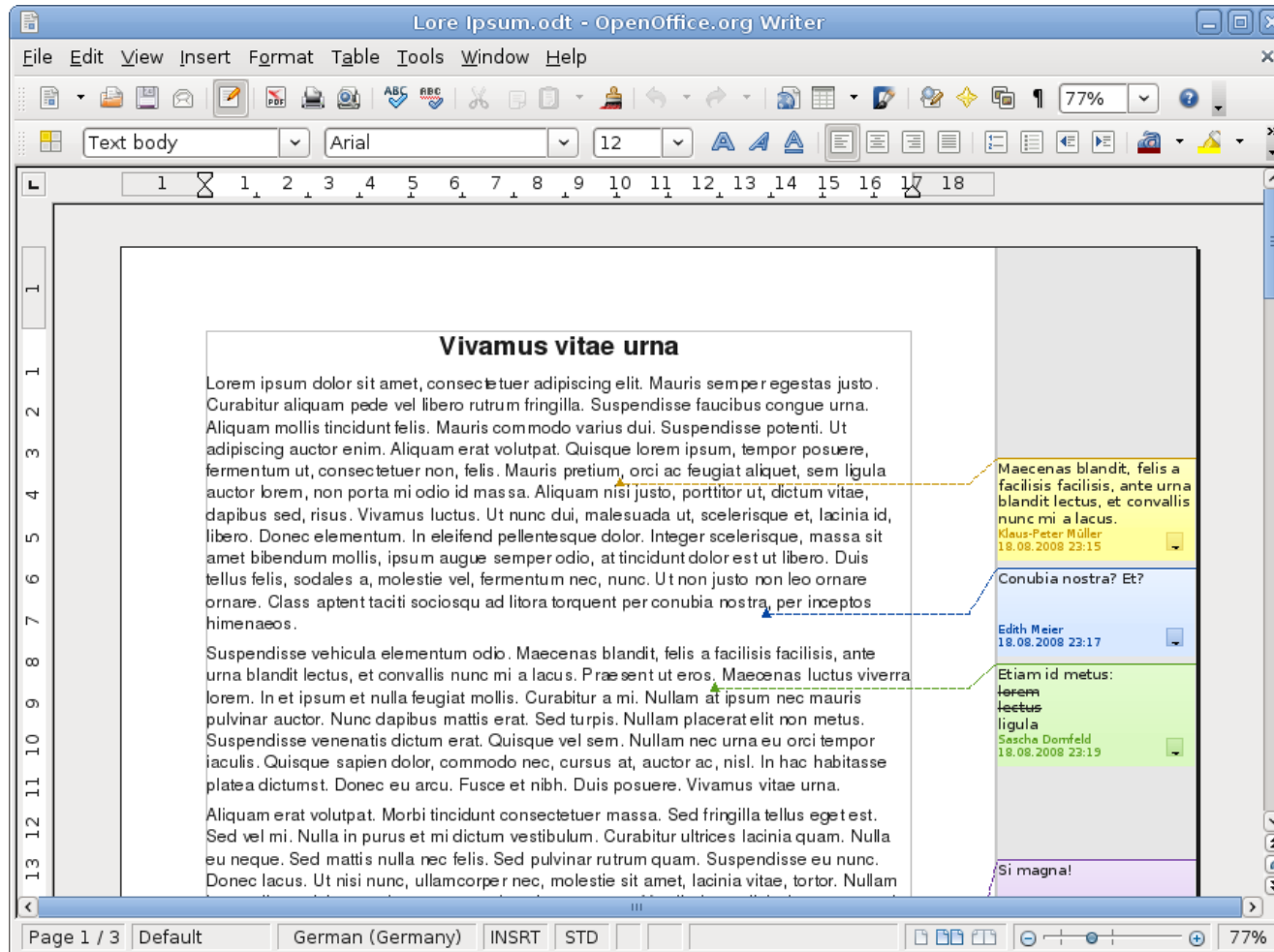
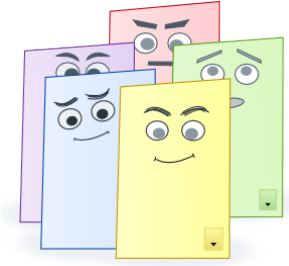
Question: Do you remember the past?

Notes in Previous Versions



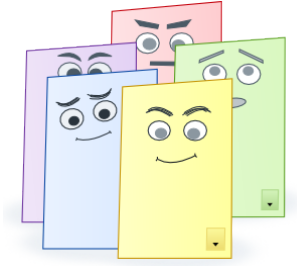
Result: 

Notes in OpenOffice.org 3.0



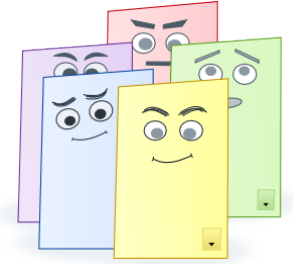
Result: 😊

Start of the Activity



-
- 06/2002** Issue 6193 requests improvements for the notes handling in Writer
-
- 03/2007** Mathias Bauer proposes to start an activity within Google Summer of Code
-
- Max Odendahl applies for the GSOC and gets accepted (Student of Computer Sciences)
-
- 04/2007** Christoph Noack joins the team after being asked by the User Experience project lead (UX community member)
-
- 05/2007** An implementation team is made up (i-Team “Notes2”)
-

The Implementation Team



User Experience



Christoph
Noack
Community

Development



Max
Odendahl
Community

Quality Assurance



Éric Savary
Sun
Microsystems

Mentor



Christian
Jansen
Sun
Microsystems

Mentor



Mathias
Bauer
Sun
Microsystems

Documentation



Uwe Fischer
Sun
Microsystems

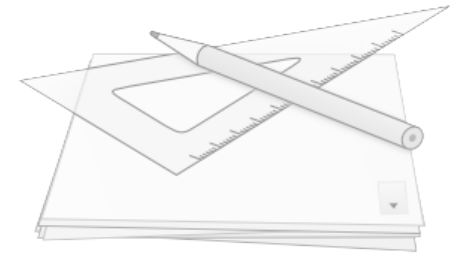
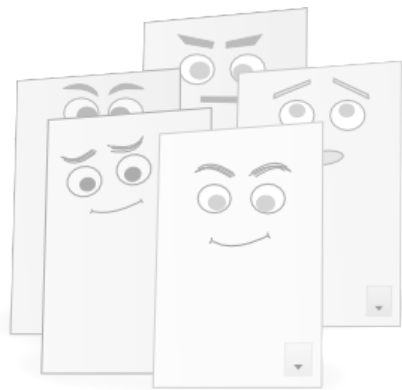
... supported by the whole OpenOffice.org community!

Making the New Notes

Community

Cooperation

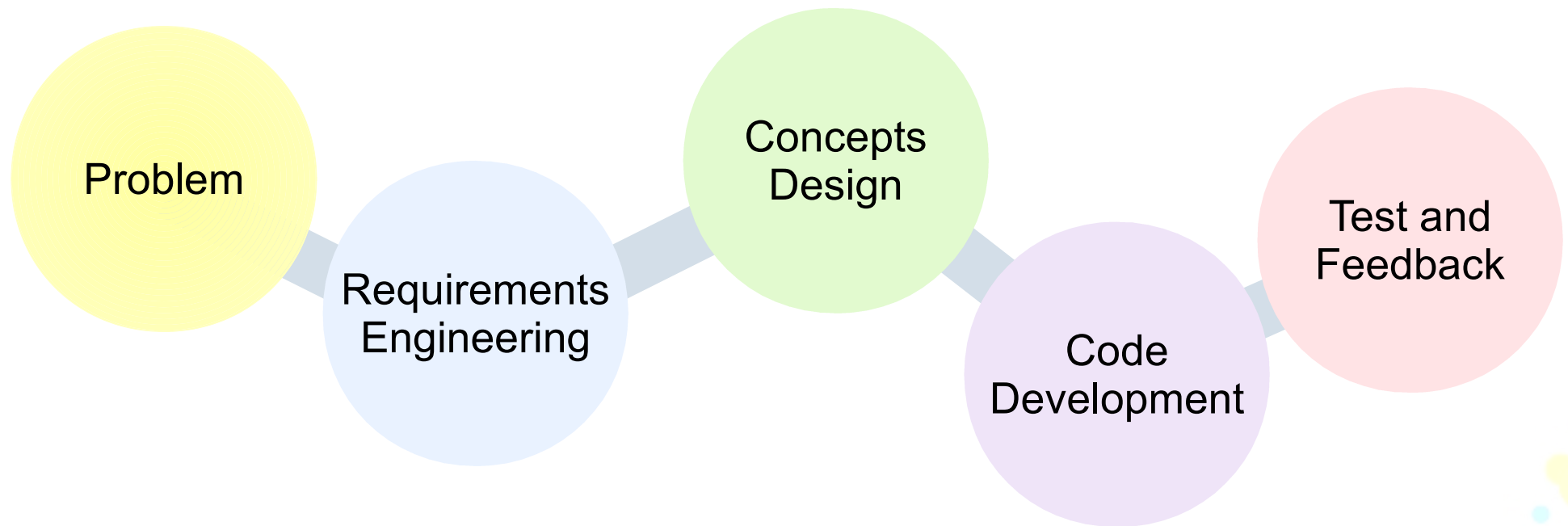
Concepts



Working Steps



- Cooperation does mean: “come together, clarify what to do, work on it, realize something useful”
- The “working steps” show one classic approach



Sounds easy? Let's look at the first step...

Understanding the Problem



An IRC chat was the first “official” team meeting. *Oh dear...*

- We did not know each other (personal goals, previous work in the community, skills, ...)
- We knew the single issues of the notes, but lacked understanding for the common goal
- We had no agenda, we just started to discuss

Experience:

- A face-to-face kick-off meeting or phone conference in the first phase may be helpful
- Formulating a project goal helps to keep the focus

Requirements Engineering



- Roadmap and design concepts are based on requirements (collection of information, prioritization, definition of terms)
- Information sources:
 - Use cases (“brainstorming”)
 - Competitor analysis (different office applications)
 - Requests for enhancements (issue tracker entries, feedback on community mailing lists)
 - Experience of the implementation team

Question: Do we have some examples for that?

Requirements Engineering

Working with Use Cases



Example

Requirement StR 49: If the user exports a document, he wishes to be informed if notes are not visible.

Use Case: User A edited a document and filtered some notes. Then, he sends the document via e-mail. Thus, he wishes to be informed of information which is not visible.

Comments: Alternative is to change the default; deactivate the export of notes.

Source: <http://wiki.services.openoffice.org/wiki/Notes2>

High-level requirements:

- Identify the stakeholders
- Collect use cases in the document life cycle

Experience:

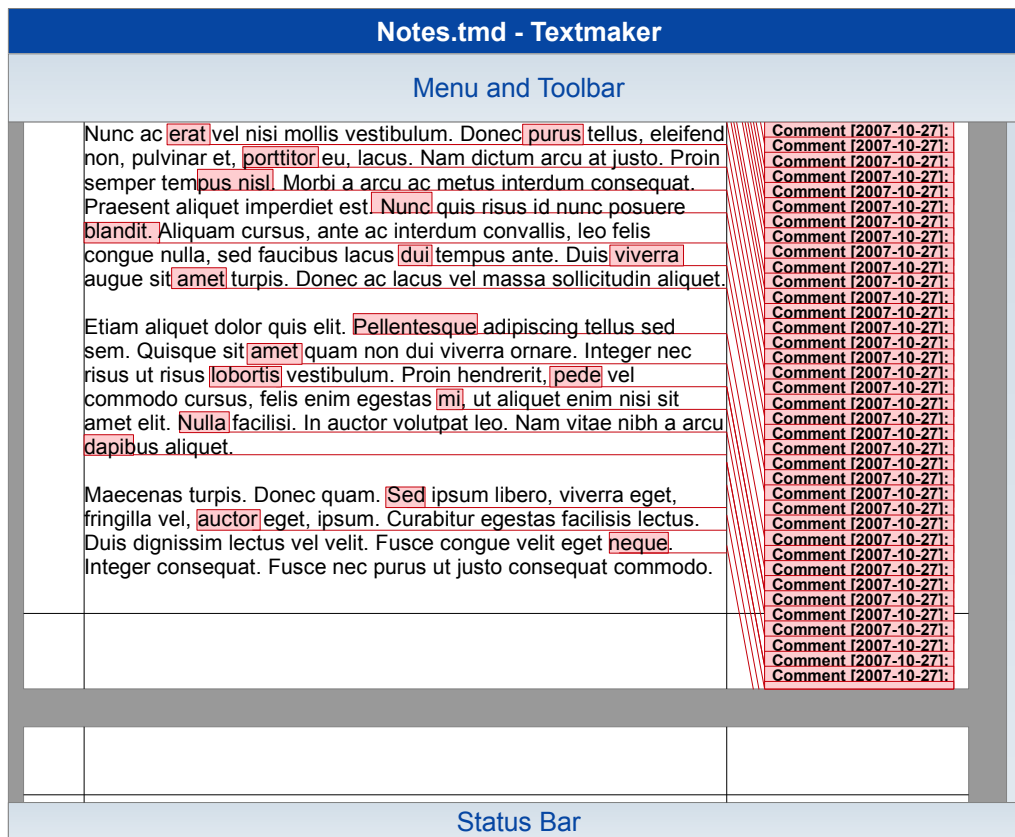
- Judges facts, not preferences
- Very good completeness
- Effort may be high, you need to convince others 😊

Hint: It also helps to look at the competition.

Requirements Engineering Competitor Analysis



Word processor “Softmaker TextMaker 2006”



- Notes similar to Microsoft Word 2003
- Example:
Page contains many notes → notes not really usable (overlay, cut-off)
- Similar behavior in first Apple Pages

Finding: Robust and scalable functionality required

Requirements Engineering Competitor Analysis



Presentation program “Microsoft Powerpoint 2003”



- Notes are handled like small graphic objects
- Example:
 - Click on anchor to open note window
 - Select text → text looks being editable
 - Pressing 'Del' removes the note!

Finding: Be clear in communicating different states to the user

Communication Channels



- Remote collaboration can work well!
- The tools are not that important (but we re-think their use)

Face-to-face	Very positive, although it was a bit too late...
Phone Calls	Good for the discussion of single topics (better if we had an online-whiteboard)
Chat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rated good if used between few members• Never used again by the whole team
E-Mail	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very good for discussion of single topics• Decisions should be officially published
Issue Tracker	Good to manage mid-term to long-term issues
Wiki	Very good!

Communication Wiki



OpenOffice.org Wiki

Seite | Diskussion | Quelltext betrachten | Versionen/Autoren

Notes2

HI! You just want to see the highlights?

- What will it finally look like? Go to Mockups and Screenshots.
- Want a test drive? Tough users try the Development Releases!
- You love detailed specifications? Look at Status and Proposals.

Introduction

Notes2 addresses the revision of the notes functionality in OpenOffice.org Writer to improve its usability and accessibility. Main goal is to resolve the main issues of the current implementation, which are reported by users. Furthermore, the notes implementation should at least provide the functionality of the competitors in the same class. In long term considerations, it is intended to consistently implement the notes functionality in the other OpenOffice.org modules. The main target audience is the Small-Business-User.

Notes2 is a project which has been started as one accepted project in Google's Summer of Code 2007 (SSOC). The team working on the feature (in alphabetical order):

Name	OOo Nickname	Role
Mathias Bauer	mba	Development
Uwe Fischer	ufi	Documentation
Christian Jansen	cj	User Experience
Christoph Noack	christophnoack	User Experience
Maximilian Odendahl	mod	Development
Éric Savary	es	QA

Please note that the information in this Wiki is work in progress and may change.

Requirements

Scope of the Work

- Provide direct and easy editing of notes to get rid of the old notes editing window.
- Establish good accessibility for disabled users by providing keyboard shortcuts or using appropriate colors.
- Integrate the new functions in the existing functionality, e.g. the OpenOffice.org Navigator.
- Respect the needs for advanced text editing, e.g. spell checking, rich-text formatting or sorting/filtering of notes.
- Create both fresh and usable visual design of the notes.

Issues and Requests for Enhancements

Store common knowledge, e.g.:

- Project details
- Goals and requirements
- Development roadmap
- Proposals, concepts, mockups

Experience:

- Great for getting feedback
- Use it as soon as possible
- Care about the structure

Source: <http://wiki.services.openoffice.org/wiki/Notes2>

Communication Discussions and Decisions



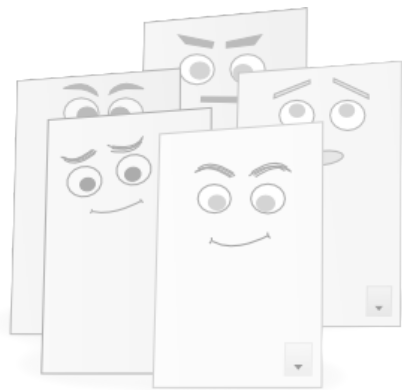
Examples: procedure, roadmap planning, design decisions

Experience:

- Decisions should not be made by the whole team in general → establish guidelines accepted by the team
- Planning for a certain release didn't work well → define minimum feature and quality requirements
- The foundation provides a certain set of capabilities → identify technical constraints as soon as possible

Making the New Notes

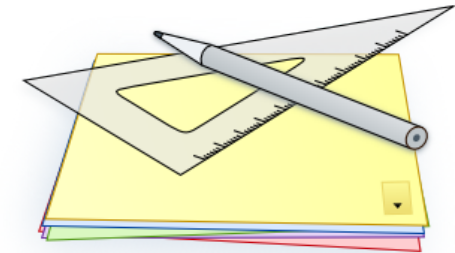
Community



Cooperation

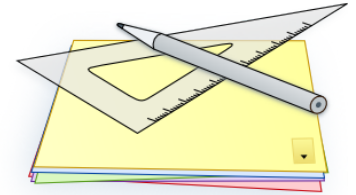


Concepts

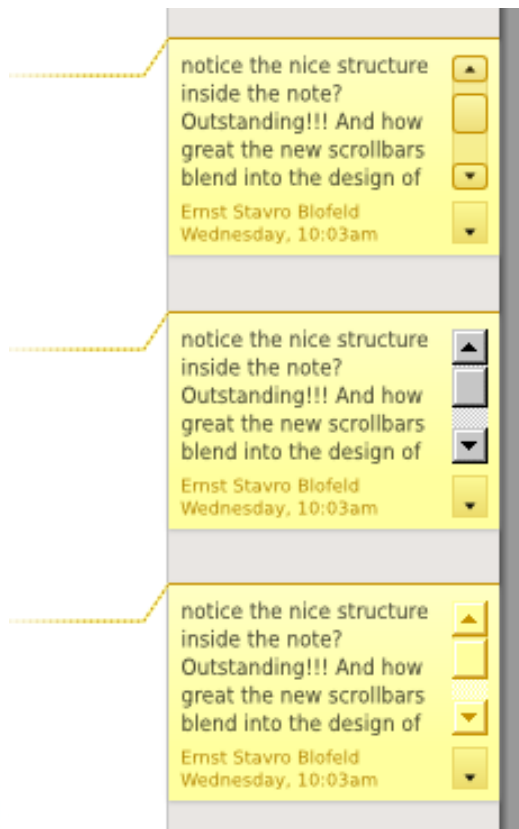


Design Proposals

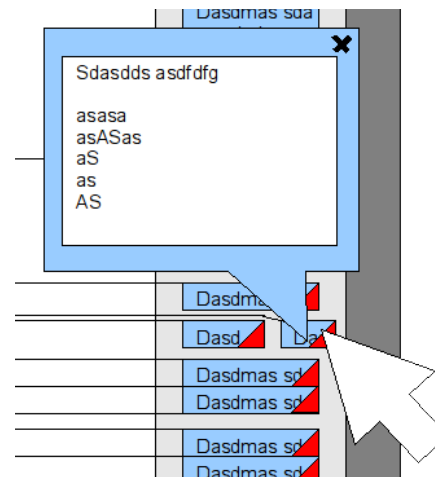
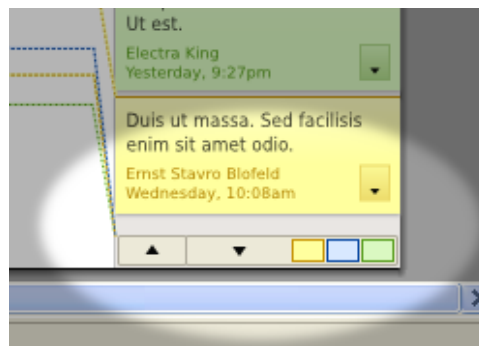
“Advanced Text Editing”



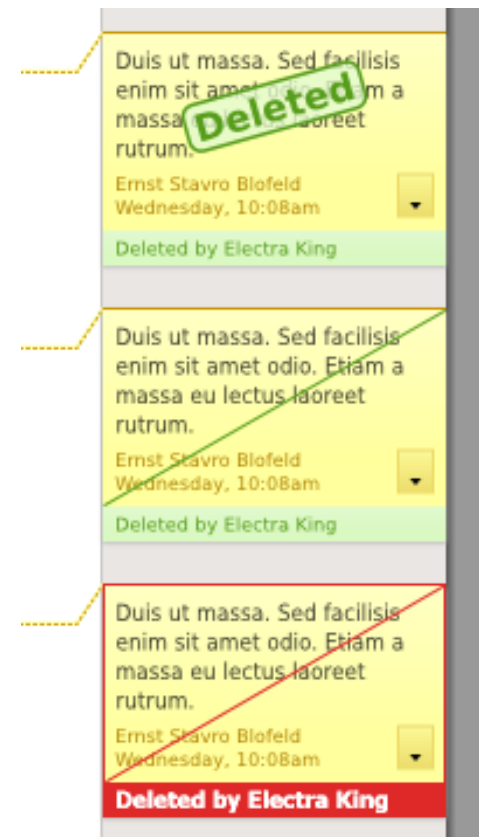
Much text inside note window



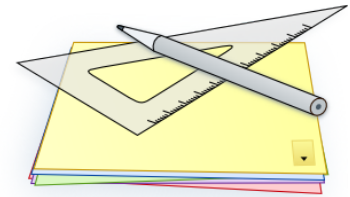
Many notes on one document page



Deleted notes for change tracking



Implemented Design “Colors”



Notes author colors are based on other OpenOffice.org colors

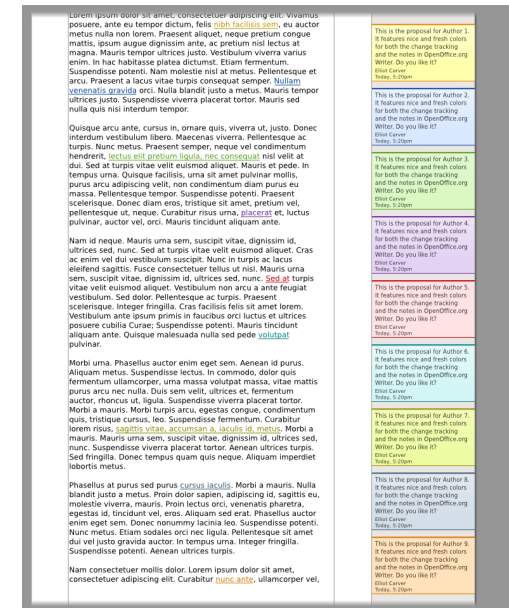
Definition of Colors

Accessibility Check

Display Check

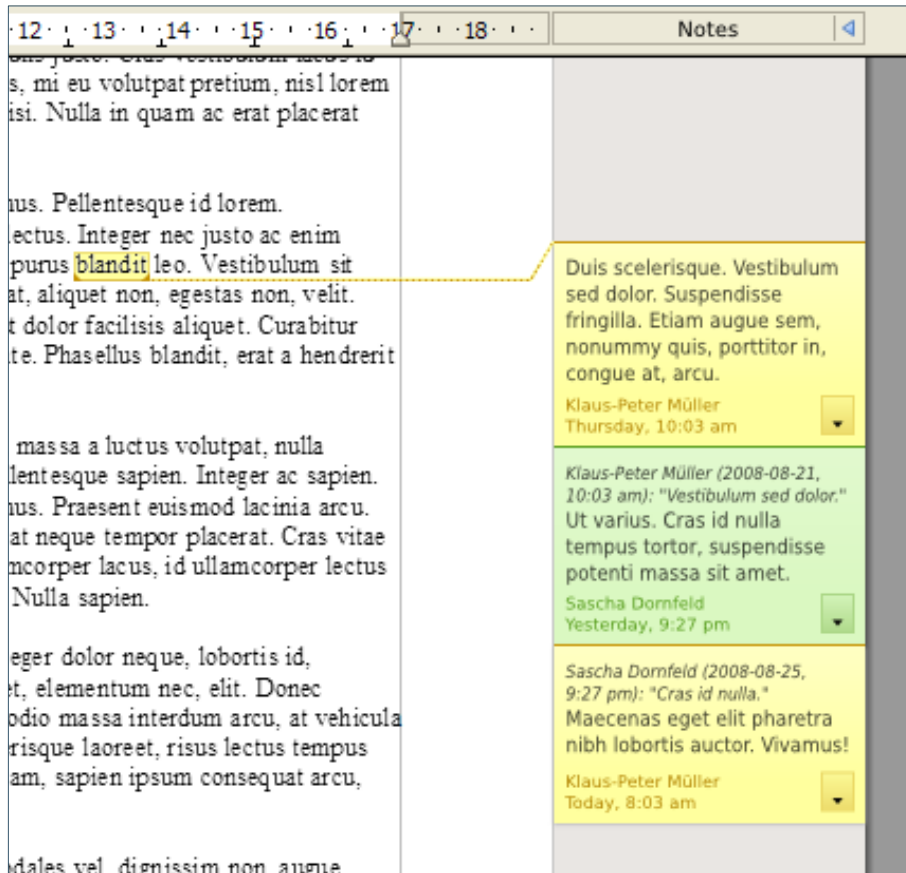
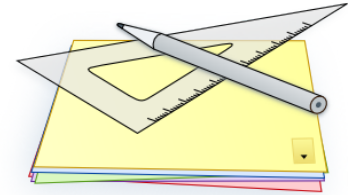
OpenOffice.org Current	Microsoft Word 2003	OpenOffice.org Proposal
		gc gc mod gc mod
		gc new new
		cc new new
		cc mod new new
		cc new new
		cur (8) new new
		gc mod new new
		gc gc mod new
		cc mod new new
		cc mod new new
		cc mod new new

Deuteranopia	Tritanopia	Protanopia
gc gc gc mod	gc gc gc mod	gc gc gc mod
gc new new	gc new new	gc new new
cc new new	cc new new	cc new new
cc mod new new	cc mod new new	cc mod new new
cc new new	cc mod new new	cc mod new new
cur (8) new new	cur (8) new new	cur (8) new new
gc mod new new	gc mod new new	gc mod new new
gc gc mod new	gc gc mod new	gc gc mod new
cc new new	cc new new	cc new new



Result: New colors are consistent, fresh, accessibility tested

Features Being Worked On

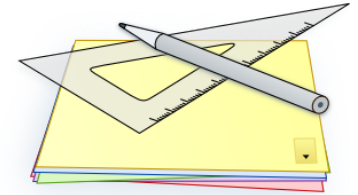


- Grouping of notes belonging together
- “Reply-To-Note” to answer existing notes
- Better integration with change tracking comments
- Improved anchors, e.g. new anchors for text areas (e.g. referring to words)

The framework is now ready for advanced functionality.

Ideas for Future Versions

“Printing”



- Printing has still room for improvement
- Specification drafts available for:
 - Printing notes windows next to document
 - Printing notes text only

Margins (non-printable area, size may vary)

Notes Print Header

Document Page (scaled)

Notes Print Footer

Notes
File name: 2008-03-29_Notes_Example.doc
Page: 27

Chapter 7: A bunch of text

Page: 2507

He heard quiet steps behind him. That didn't bode well. Who could be following him this late at night and in this desolate part of town? And at this particular moment, just after he pulled off the big time and was making off with the greenbacks. Was there another crook who'd had the same idea, and was now watching him and waiting for a chance to grab the fruit of his labor? Or did the steps behind him mean that one of many law officers in town was on to him and just waiting to pounce and snag those cuffs on his wrists? He nervously looked all around. Suddenly he saw the alley. Like lightning he darted off to the left and disappeared between the two warehouses almost falling over the trash can lying in the middle of the sidewalk. He tried to nervously tap his way along in the inky darkness and suddenly stiffened. It was a dead-end, he would have to go back the way he had come. The steps got louder and louder, he saw the black outline of a figure coming around the corner. Is this the end of the line? he thought pressing himself back against the wall trying to make himself invisible in the dark, was all that planning and energy wasted? He was dripping with sweat now, cold and wet, he could smell the fear coming off his clothes. Suddenly next to him, with a barely noticeable squeak, a door swung quietly to and fro in the night's breeze. Could this be the heaven he'd prayed for? Slowly he slid toward the door, pressing himself more and more into the wall, into the dark, away from his enemy. Would this door save his hide?

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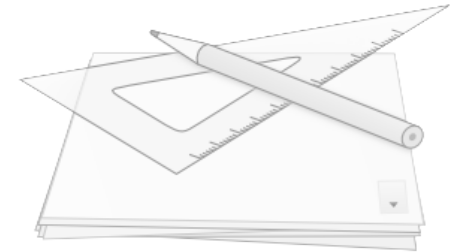
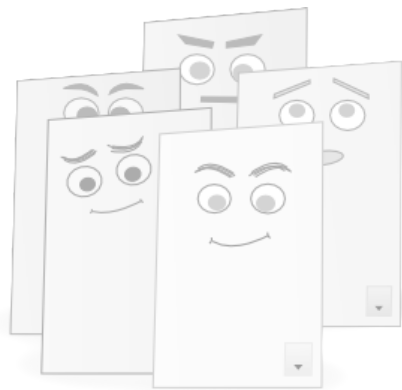
I love this little cute notes. And there were printed so nicely along the text page. I like that the shrinked page is displayed so much nicer than in my previous word processor application. Thumbs up!
Jenna Public
2008-03-21, 10:03am

Yes my dear, I think some masters designed this fine piece of work. So what to do now? Shouldn't we focus on discussing the next?
John G. Public
2008-02-27, 3:53pm

There are still many other ideas... Help is appreciated.

Making the New Notes

Community Cooperation Concepts



Summary



Community

- Success? A feature improvement at least...
- We think, the community does have impact!

Collaboration

- Remote collaboration does work!
- Working has been much fun and sometimes exhausting!

Concepts

- Not everything is perfect, yet. There will be improvements!
- Many ideas still flying around.

And now? Start your project and share your experience!



Thanks!

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www.OOobeijing2008.com



OpenOffice.org User Experience Team
ux.openoffice.org

 **UX** Usability
Productivity
Enjoyment

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Work with us!