OpenOffice.org
Conference 2008 Beijing
世界开源大会

OpenOffice.org
Conference 2008 Beijing

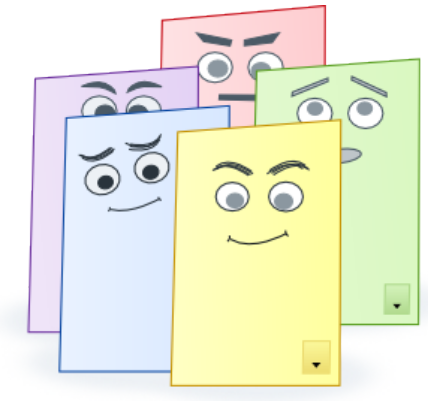
Making the New Notes

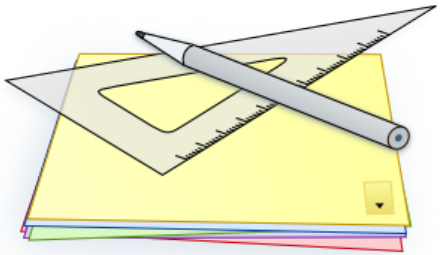
Community • Cooperation • Concepts

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

Making the New Notes

Community Cooperation Concepts

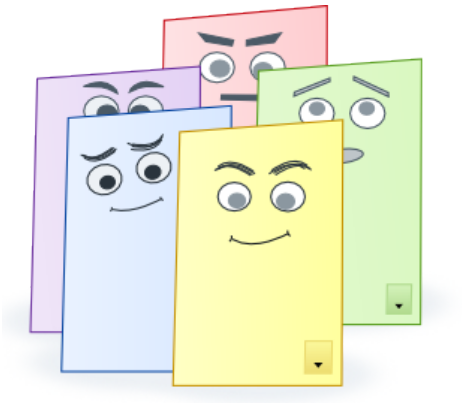


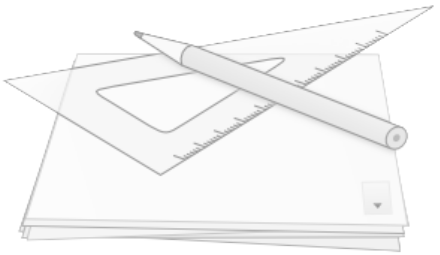


OpenOffice.org Conference 2008 Beijing

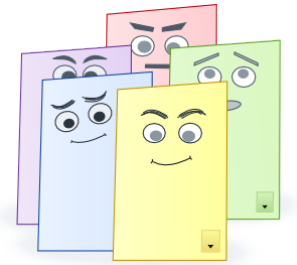
Making the New Notes

Community Cooperation Concepts





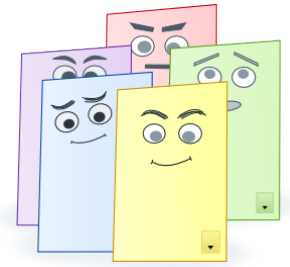
Introduction to Notes2

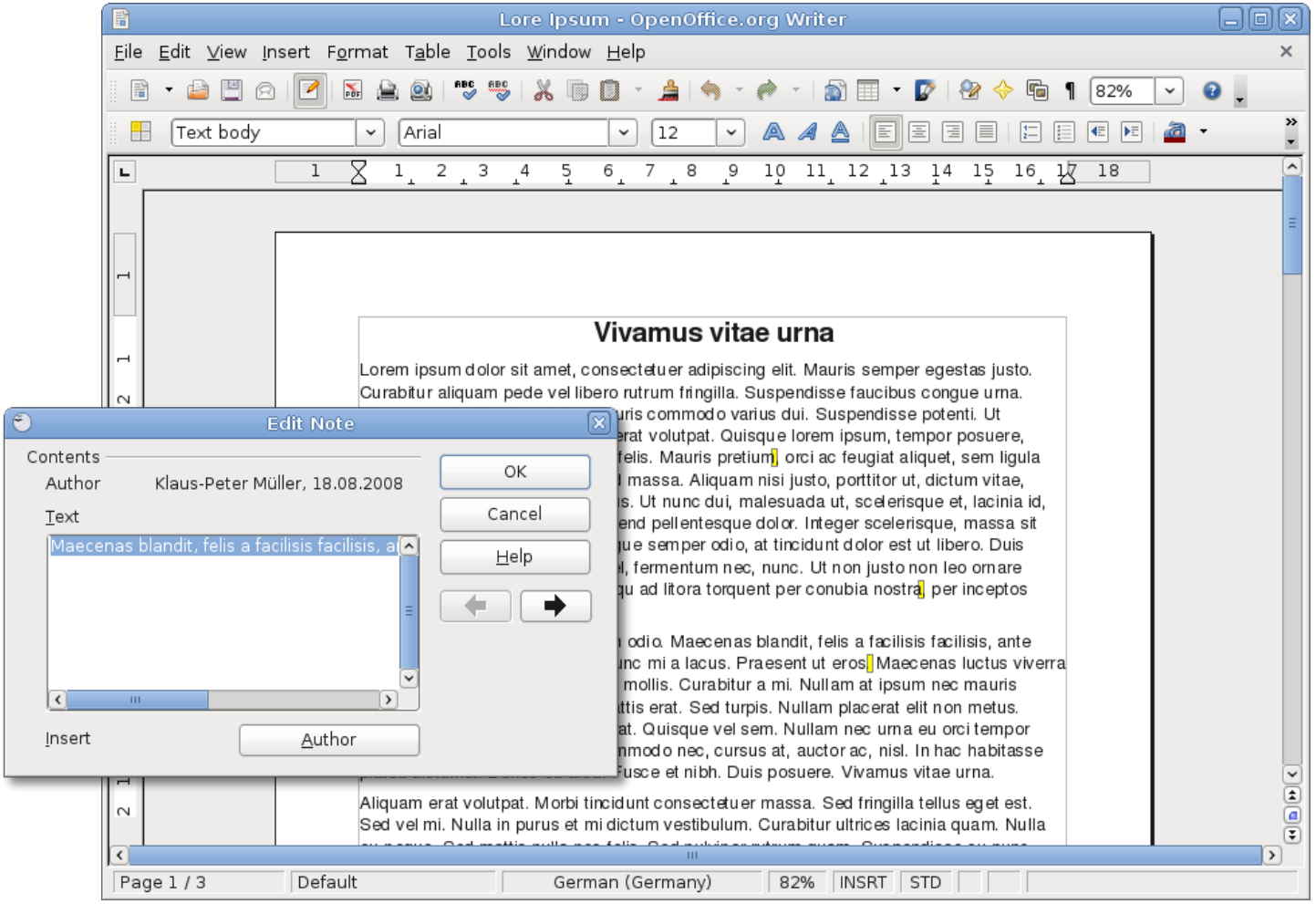


- Notes2 is an activity to improve the existing notes functionality in OpenOffice.org Writer
- Notes2 has been developed with major community involvement
- Notes2 solved about 100 issue tracker entries
- Notes2 has been rewarded in the “OpenOffice.org Community Innovation Program Awards” (Technical,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

Question: Do you remember the past?

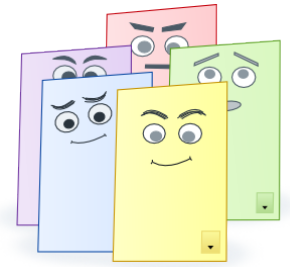
Notes in Previous Versions

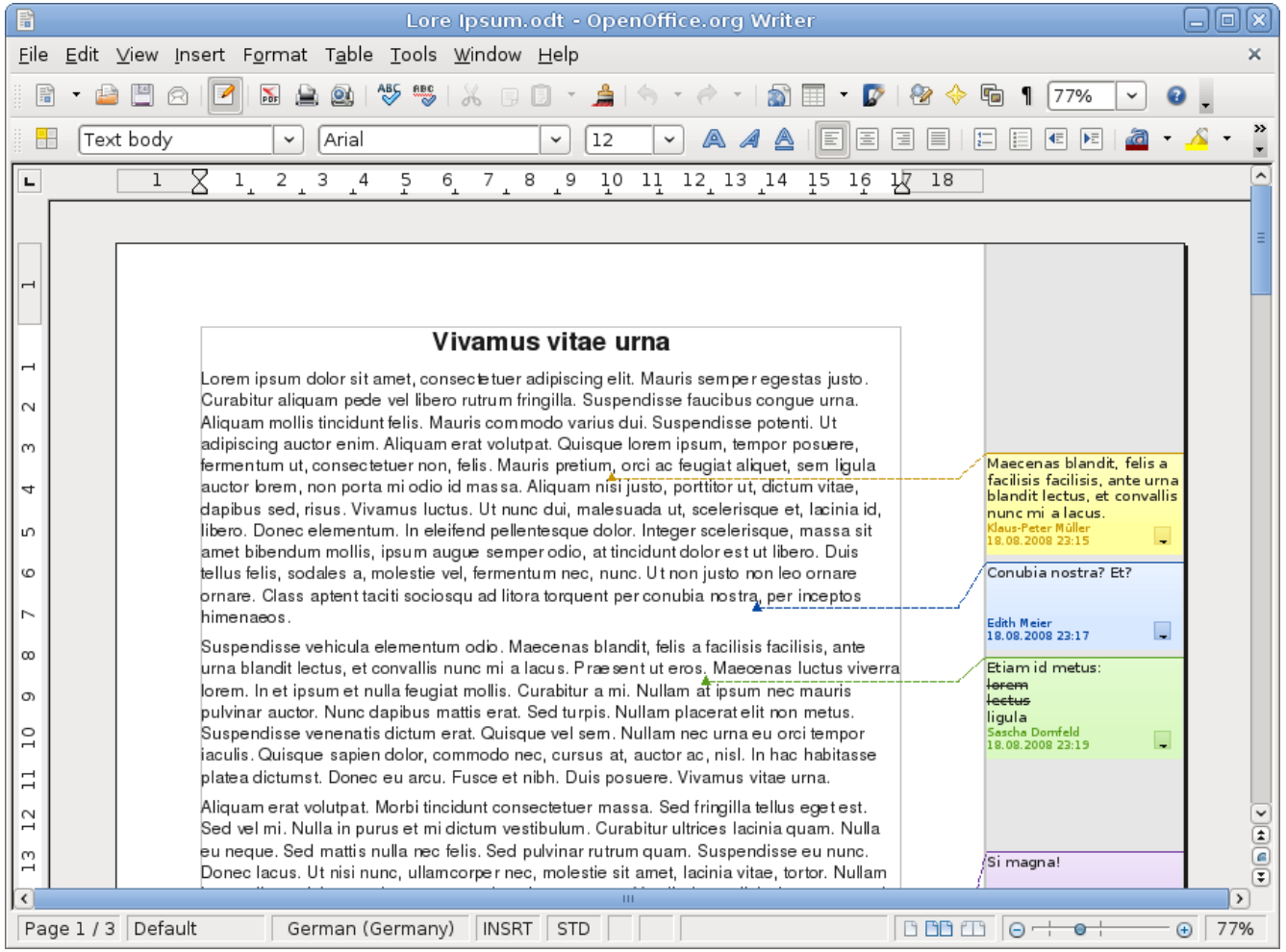




Result:

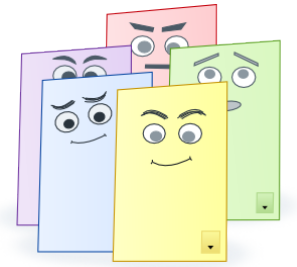
Notes in OpenOffice.org 3.0





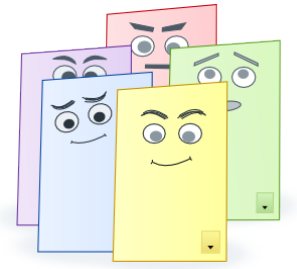
Result:

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

Mentor

Christian Jansen
Sun Microsystems

Development

Max Odendahl
Community

Mentor

Mathias Bauer
Sun Microsystems

Quality Assurance

Éric Savary
Sun Microsystems

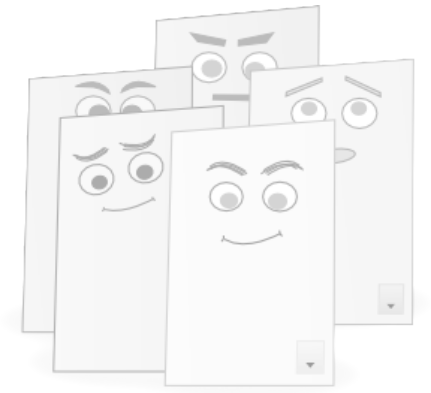
Documentation

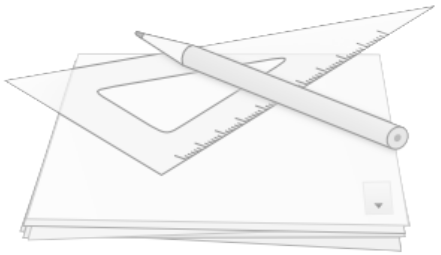
Uwe Fischer
Sun Microsystems

… supported by the whole OpenOffice.org community!

Making the New Notes

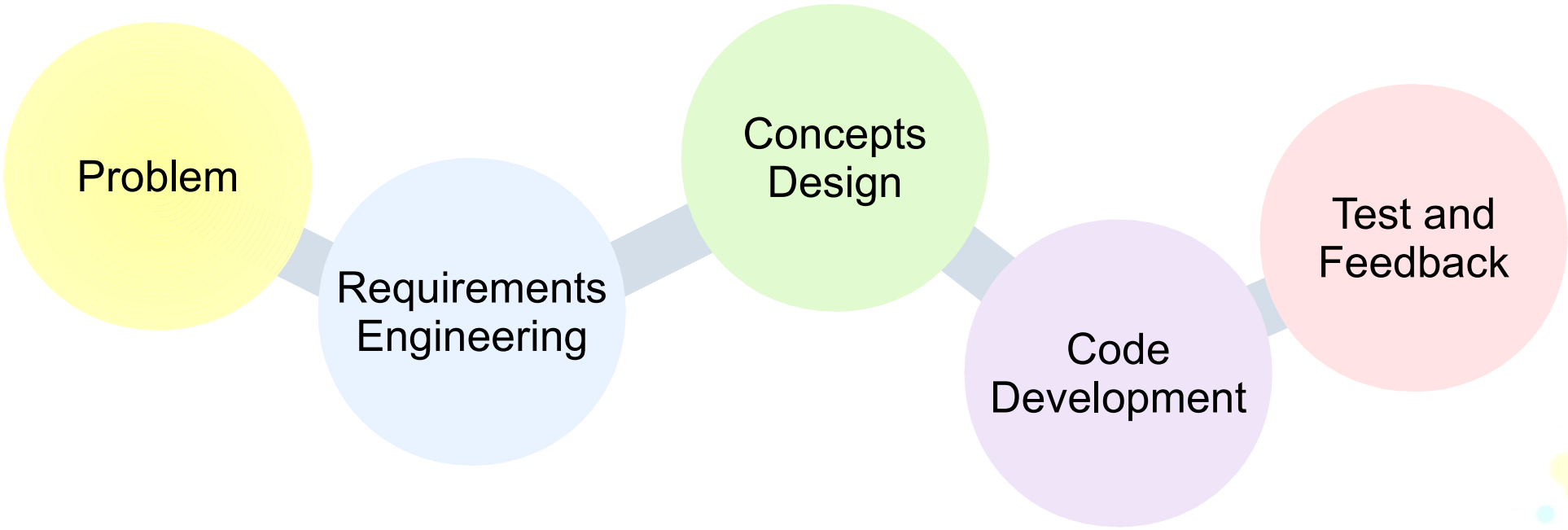
Community Cooperation Concepts





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

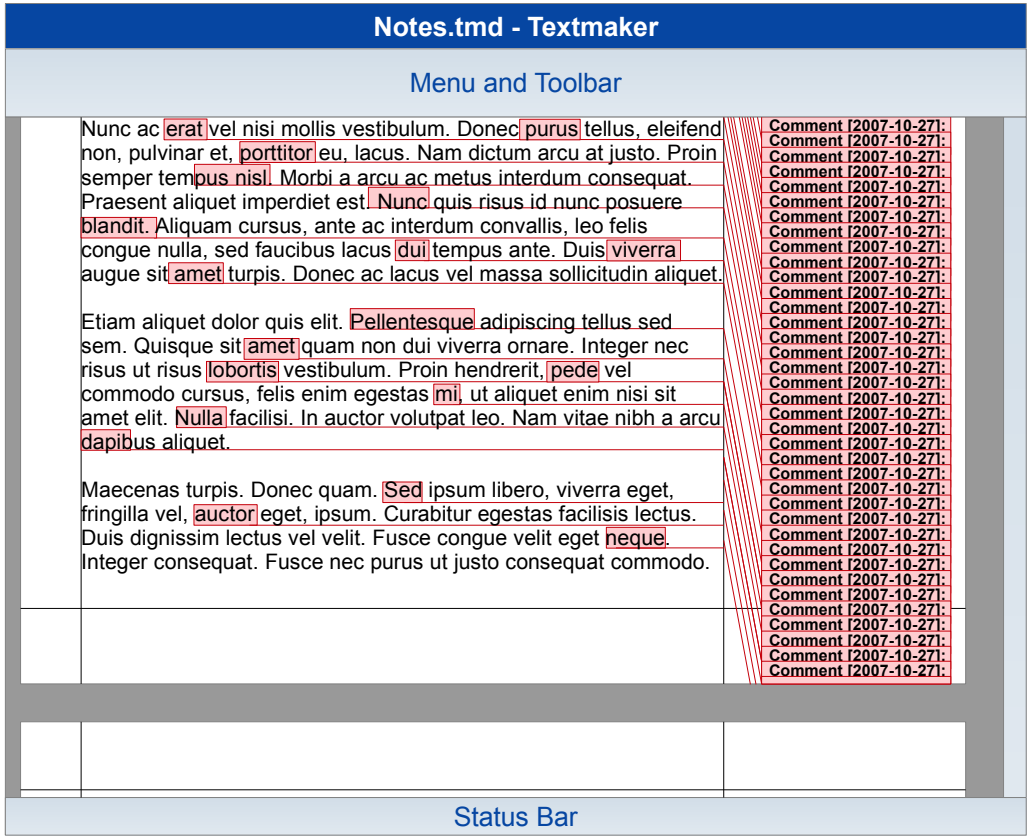
Experience:

- 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!

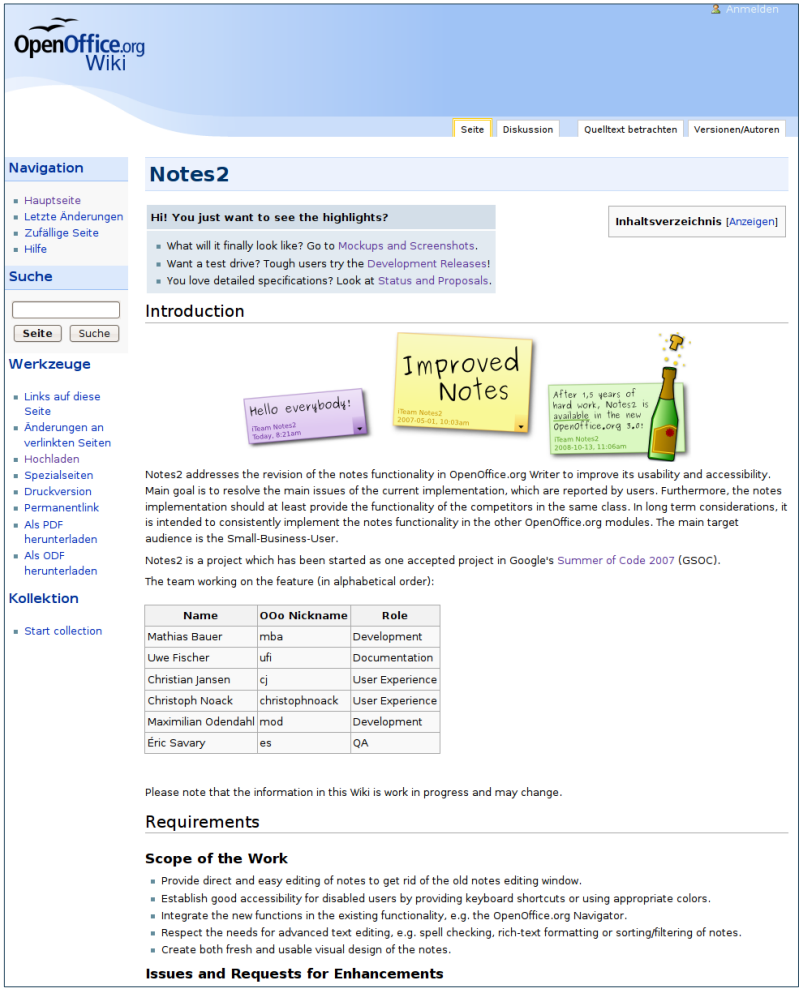
Finding: Be clear in communicating different states to the user

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	• Rated good if used between few members • Never used again by the whole team
E-Mail	• Very good for discussion of single topics • Decisions shold be officially published
Issue Tracker	Good to manage mid-term to long-term issues
Wiki	Very good!

Communication Wiki



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

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

Communication
Discussions and Decisions

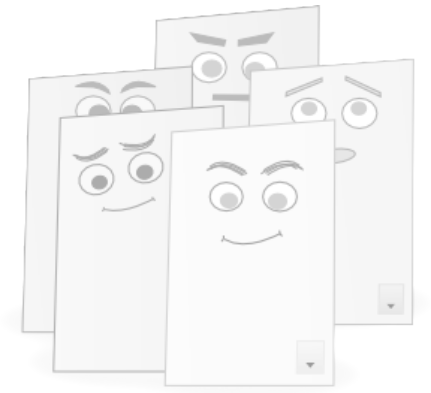
Examples: procedure, roadmap planning, design decisions

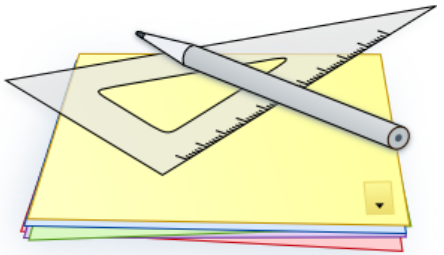
Experience:

- 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

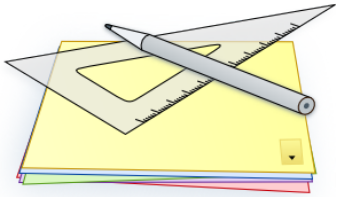
Making the New Notes

Community Cooperation **Concepts**

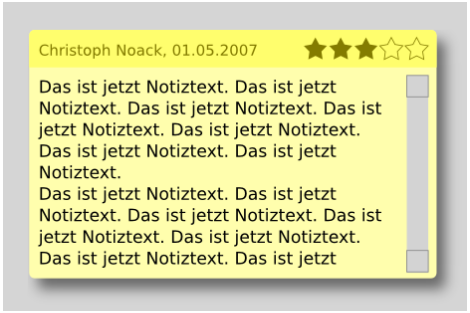


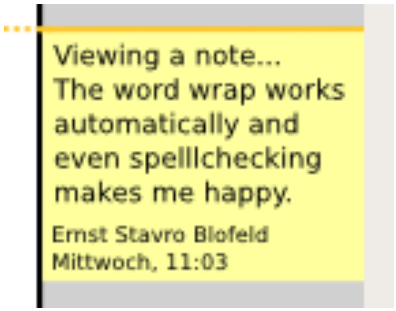


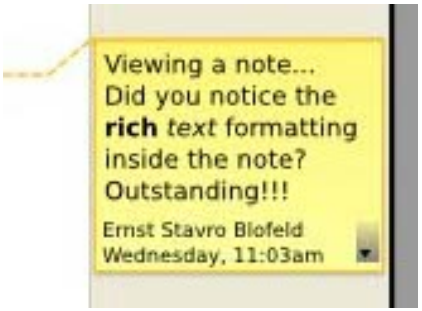
Design Proposals “Notes Window”

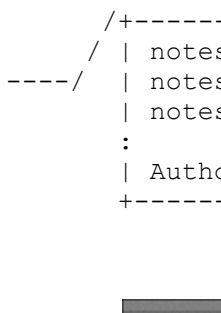


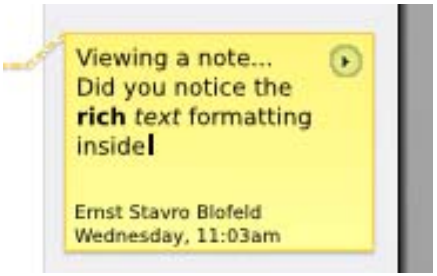
Visual evolution of the note window and the options buttons

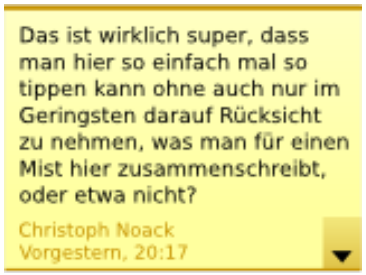


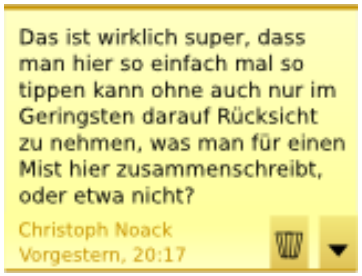


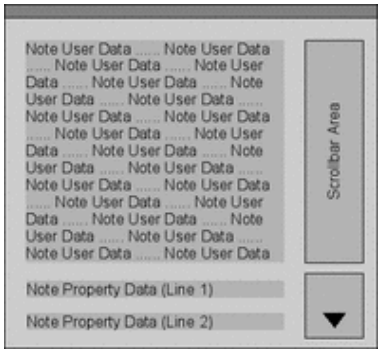


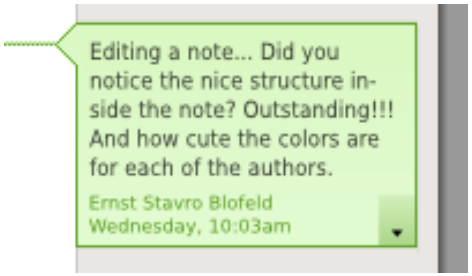


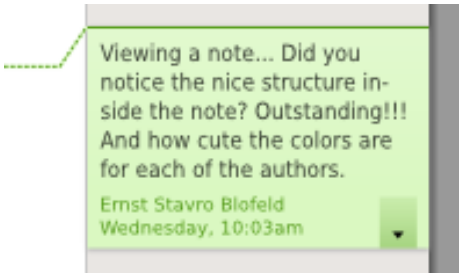


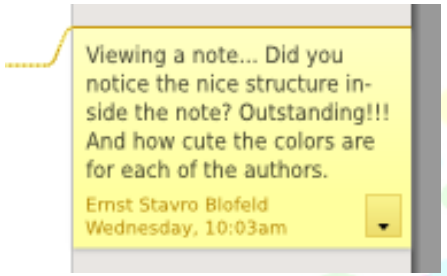




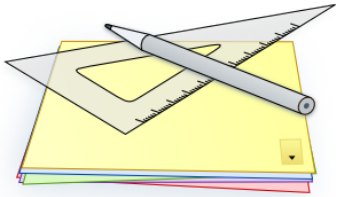




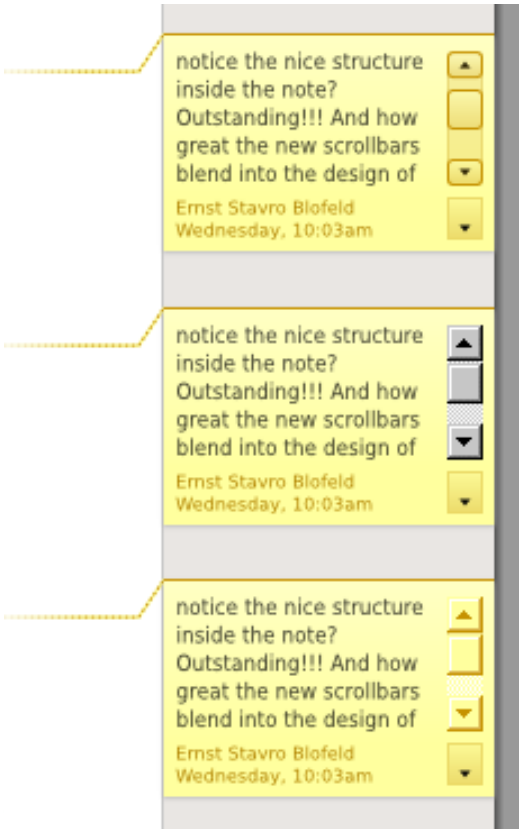




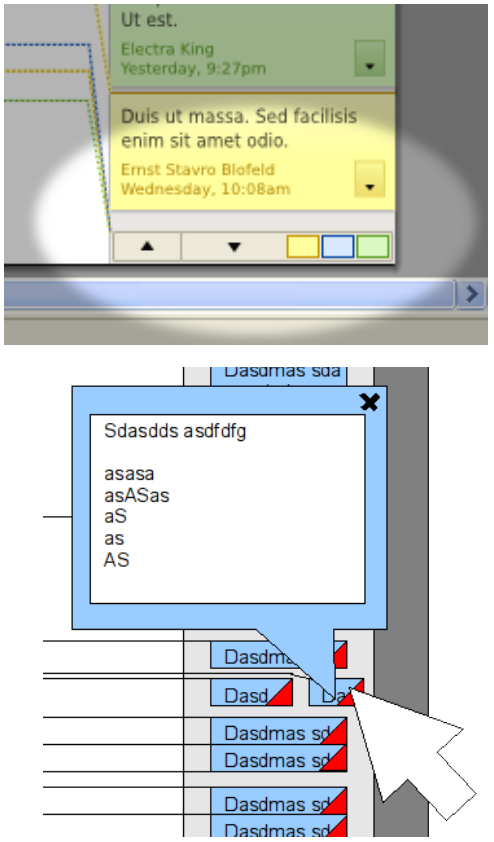
Design Proposals
“Advanced Text Editing”



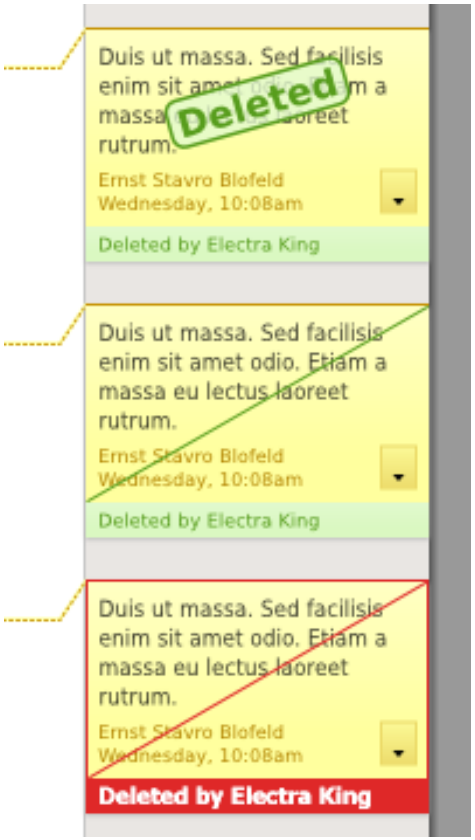
Much text inside note window



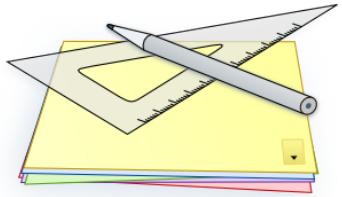
Many notes on one document page



Deleted notes for change tracking



Implemented Design “Colors”



Notes author colors are based on other OpenOffice.org colors

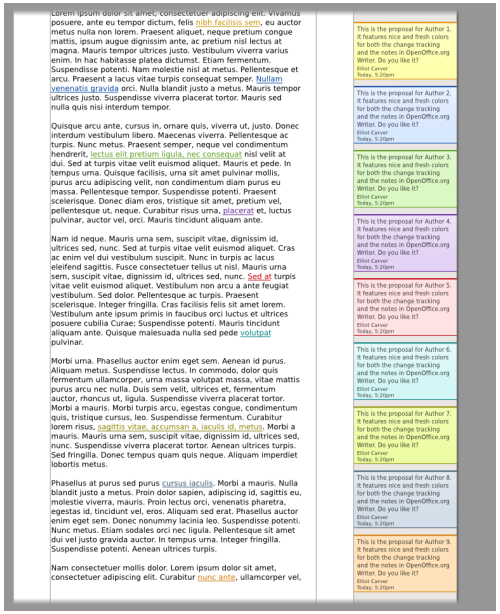
Definition of Colors

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
	n/a n/a n/a	cc mod / new / new

Accessibility Check

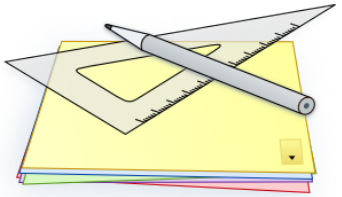
Deuteranopia	Tritanopia	Protanopia
gc / gc / gc mod	gc / gc / gc mod	gc / gc / gc mod
gc / new / new	gc / new / new	gc / new / new
cc / new / new	cc / new / new	cc / new / new
cc mod / new / new	cc mod / new / new	cc mod / new / new
cc mod / new / new	cc mod / new / new	cc mod / new / new
cur (8) / new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

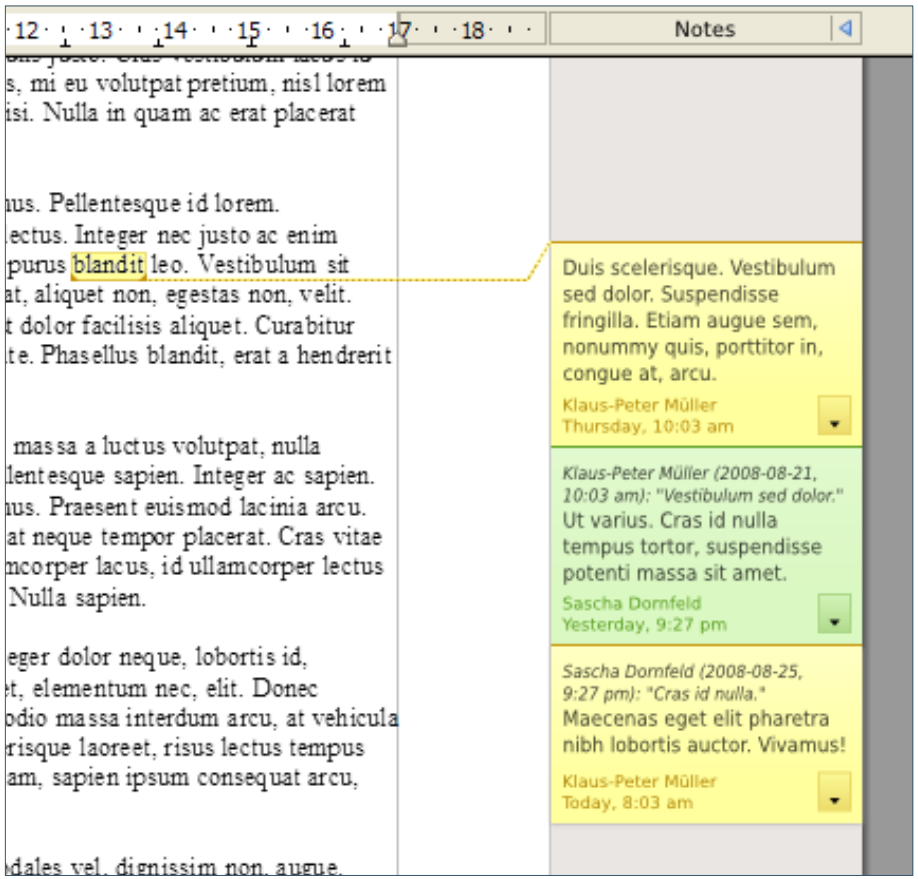
Display Check



Result: New colors are consistent, fresh, accessibility tested

Features Being Worked On

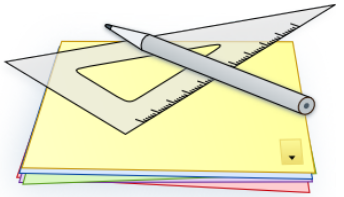


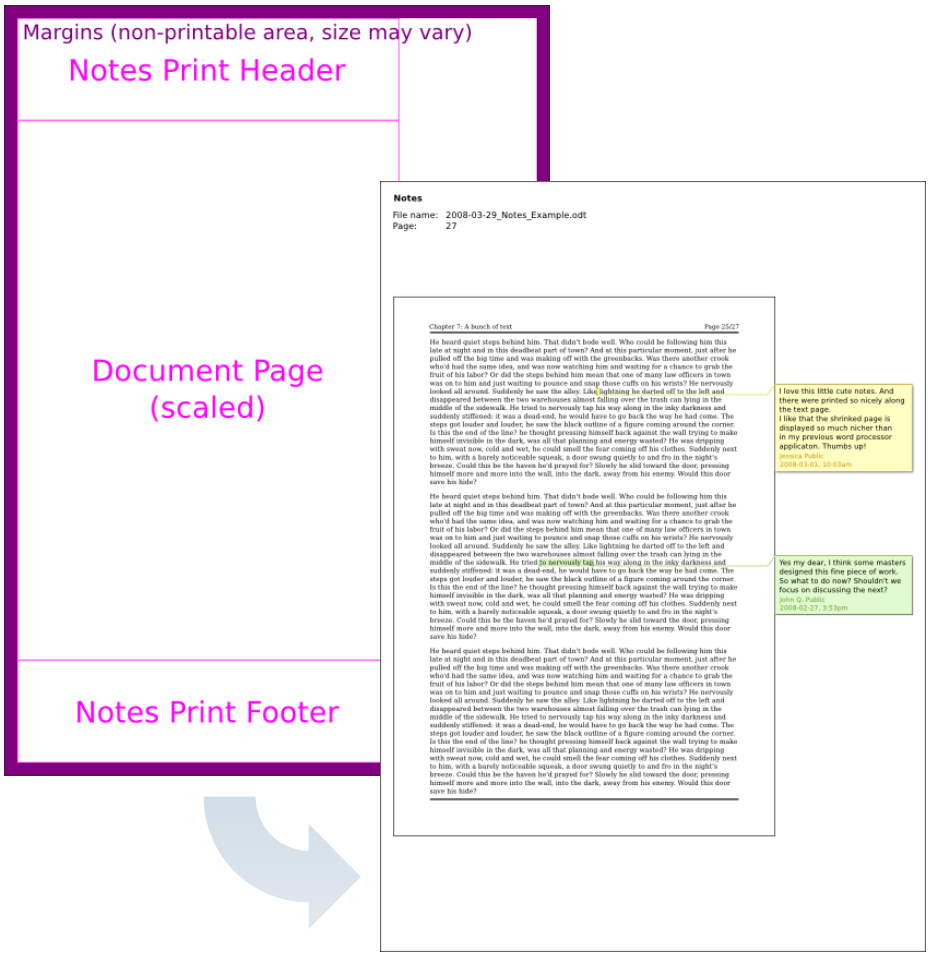


- Grouping of notes belonging together
- “Reply-To-Note” to answer existing notes
- Better integration with change tracking comments
- Improved anchors, e.g. new anchors for text areas (e.g. referring to words)

The framework is now ready for advanced functionality.

Ideas for Future Versions “Printing”



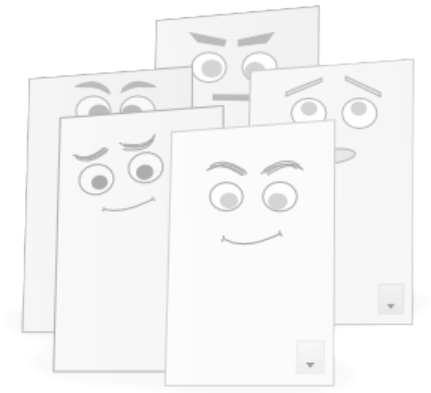


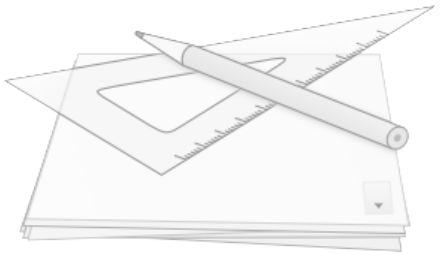
- Printing has still room for improvement
- Specification drafts available for:
  - Printing notes windows next to document
  - Printing notes text only

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

Making the New Notes

Community Cooperation Concepts





Summary

OpenOffice.org Conference 2008 Beijing

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!

OpenOffice.org
Conference 2008 Beijing

Thanks!

凝聚全球力量 绽放开源梦想

OpenOffice.org User Experience Team
ux.openoffice.org