LibreOffice:
what was improved in
Interoperability (by myself)

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**Collabora
Productivity**

About us

Collabora Productivity Ltd.

- Provides consultancy and L3 support for Enterprise LibreOffice

- Helps users be efficient in heterogeneous environment, fixing interoperability issues

My talk is about ...

- What has yours truly improved – and broke – in LibreOffice in the last year

  (from Oct 2018 till this September), related to interoperability with other suites (mainly OOXML formats support)

- Also a small part about interoperability with SharePoint

DOC/DOCX
interoperability fixes

DOC/DOCX interoperability fixes

- **tdf#120593** - **a UI problem related to different calculation of tab position in MS Office documents and ODF (by default; controlled by a compatibility option). In MSO-compatible mode, placing a tab stop on the ruler at the right indent position placed it with offset**

  - Fixed in 6.2

- **tdf#119885** - **an interesting import problem with text wrapping in Writer, while fitting into table cell nicely in Word, where at first I suspected some rounding error, but found rather convoluted rules used by Word regarding calculation of cell padding**

  - Fixed in 6.1.4

DOC/DOCX interoperability fixes

- **tdf#116371 - Export of image rotation to DOCX was missing**

  - Fixed in 6.3

- **tdf#121734 - an import problem specific to DOC, where standard frame styles in LO were modified to match defaults in DOC, and that made copied frames from such documents be pasted into other documents with changed appearance**

  - Fixed in 6.3

DOC/DOCX interoperability fixes

- **tdf#122425** - I broke it myself by the previous fix. (I promised to tell about what I broke!) Some frames that should not have borders suddenly acquired them.

- **tdf#125657** - I broke writing some integer attributes to OOXML – floats were output, and Word was unable to open it

  - Both fixed in 6.3

- **tdf#124670** - I broke handling of multiple consecutive spaces in DOCX

  - Fixed in 6.2.4

XLS/XLSX interoperability fixes

- **tdf#124741 - somehow we didn't properly export default column widths to XLSX; also we exported lots of unnecessary data. Widths of columns in XLSX became different – additionally because the default width is different in LibreOffice and Excel. As usual, some interesting peculiarities of how the width should be calculated for XLSX were solved...**

  - Fixed in 6.3 (regarding width part of the bug)

- **tdf#50916 - the famous 1024-column limit fixing bug ... and it progressed much, had lots of changes over the year from many of us, but not fixed yet.**

XLS/XLSX interoperability fixes
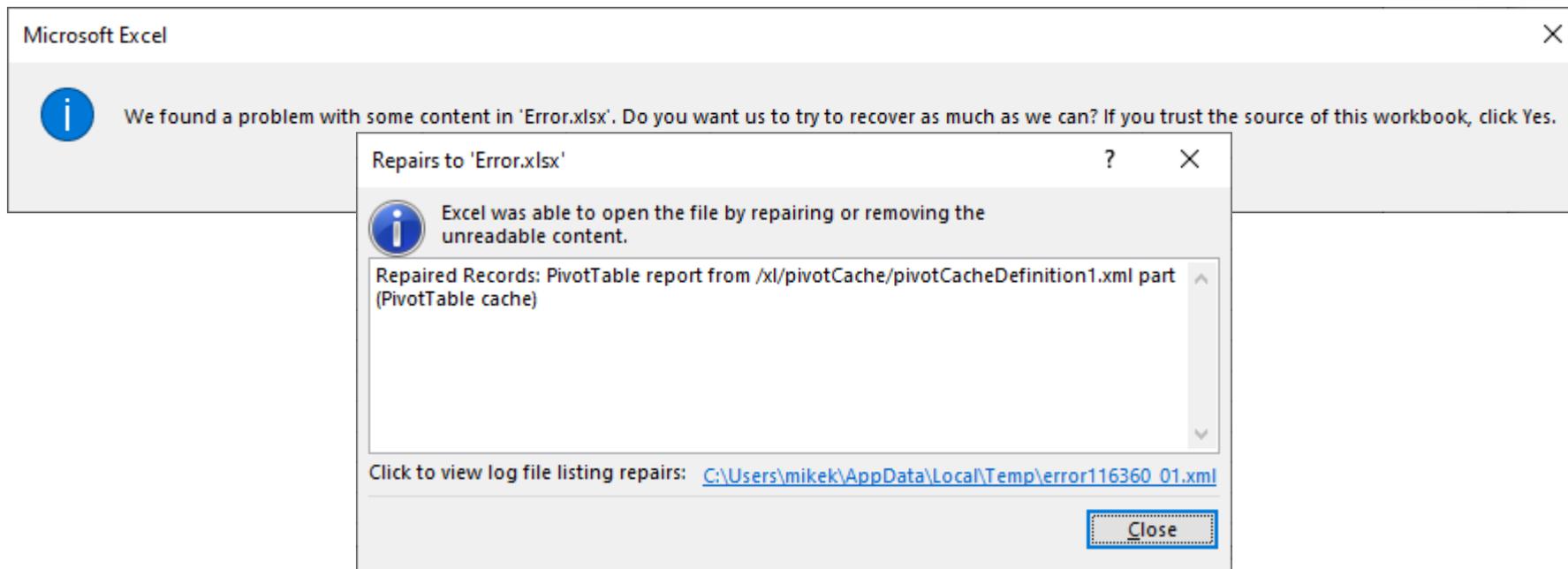
They haunted me throughout the year ...

XLS/XLSX interoperability fixes

- **tdf#123939 - Excel strict handling of pivot table data types (here, error values in cells)**

  - Fixed in 6.2.1

- **tdf#123923 - Paranoid, non-compliant handling of "unexpected" error string by Excel**

  - Fixed in 6.2.3

- **tdf#125046 - Excel obviously just cannot count number of characters in strings in its tables – it needs a hint that some of strings are longer than (oh dear!) 255 characters!**

  - Fixed in 6.3

XLS/XLSX interoperability fixes

- **tdf#124651 - Data field naming problem – Excel 2016 suddenly decided to stop accepting such fields without names (which previously allowed to get Excel-defined field names after the pivot table refresh in Excel)**

  - Fixed in 6.3 …

- **tdf#124881 - … but fixed incorrectly; writing empty name just made the name (unexpectedly) empty :-) - an actual name needed, e.g. to not drop the names in the roundtrip**

  - Fixed in 6.3

XLS/XLSX interoperability fixes

- **tdf#125086 - incorrect export of field data when the field is present in both rows and data of the pivot table**

  - Fixed in 6.3

- **tdf#125055 - incorrect rounding of seconds in time values written to XLSX resulted in pivot tables based on a date column that could fail when opened in Excel**

  - Fixed in 6.3

XLS/XLSX interoperability fixes

- **tdf#124772** - number format of fields in pivot tables was not saved in XLSX – resulting in date fields with today's date shown in Excel like "43720" after pivot table refresh

- **tdf#124810** - Pivot table formatting isn't kept when saved to XLSX

    Calc and Excel use different approaches here; Calc uses cell styles for appearance, and original cell format for numbers, while Excel uses direct formatting... no ideal solution

    - Both workarounded in 6.3

XLS/XLSX interoperability fixes

- **tdf#113908 - group fields in pivot tables were not exported to XLSX, dropping filters and page data of the tables**

  - Initial implementation in 6.3

- **tdf#124736 - and its first bug: the exported field data was not properly sorted (in the order expected by Excel).**

  - Fixed in 6.3

  - tdf#126748 was fixed next

  - More bugs expected...

PPT/PPTX
interoperability fixes

PPT/PPTX interoperability fixes

- **tdf#83247 - actually a non-compliance with ODF, but in such a way that made it particularly problematic in scenarios where presentations were edited in PowerPoint and then viewed using Impress: PowerPoint, lacking a notion of pause, omits that value when writes ODP, and Impress treated that missing value as 10 s; also importing PPT/PPTX introduced the 10-s delay because of that default assumption**

  - Fixed in 6.3

- **tdf#47365 - PPTX import issue ignoring loop setting**

  - Fixed in 6.3

Assorted interoperability fixes

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- **tdf#122266 - an issue with OS integration when files not having an extension, but with proper content-types could not be opened by browser that downloaded them**

  - Fixed in 6.3

- **tdf#34171 - LibreOffice had ignored lockfiles created by MS Office – and users didn't see which MS Office user had opened the file reported as locked.**

  - Fixed in 6.3

SharePoint and WebDAV

SharePoint / WebDAV

- **Changes to support SharePoint 2010 and IE (sigh)**

  - A dialog was implemented to choose between opening the document read-only or in edit mode

  - Registration of the ActiveX control used for the integration with that version was improved

  - The control installation process is being changed to allow sysadmins control it

- **Some crashes using WebDAV fixed**

- **tdf#124736 - WebDAV redirection detection**

We want to thank our customers!

Collabora Productivity

Thank you!

... goes from Mike Kaganski

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