Building Collabora Online UI
based on the LibreOffice components

By Szymon Kłos
Software Engineer
szymon.klos@collabora.com
Agenda

What is JSDialogs?

- Initial usage in “mobile wizard”

Dialogs and sidebar

- Optimization: 3 different types of messages
- New widgets
- Sidebar introduced in Collabora Online
What is JSDialogs?

“framework” to share UI components between LibreOffice and Collabora Online
What is JSDialogs?

It describes UI using JSON notation which is transferred to Online where native HTML widgets are created. It offers communication in both direction so dialogs are interactive.
Initial usage in “mobile wizard”

Mobile wizard

- It’s sidebar from LibreOffice transformed to mobile-friendly wizard
- Provides advanced editing options
- Is context dependant
Dialogs and sidebar
Optimization: 3 types of messages

Types of messages:

- Full window update (initial message)
- Single widget update (content change)
- Action in the widget (selection)

Impact:

- Reduced transfer size
- Faster updates
- Dialog updates when typing in field
Optimization: queue for messages

Now widgets are using queue shared for every widget in one dialog

- We reduce number of messages to send
- Example: if full update appears in the queue, other messages can be removed
- Lazy message generation: we generate JSON just before sending to be sure it is always up to date
Icon View

- New fontwork dialog
- It uses native icon view – best choice for set of custom rendered entries
- Icon view was also introduced to notebookbar as a replacement for 4 previews with buttons

It makes easier to find styles in a long list
Tree view widgets, Drag and Drop

- Tree view widget was implemented what allowed us to provide new features:
  - Pivot table creator
  - Improved autofilter dropdown
  - Define / Manage named ranges
- Pivot table dialog supports drag and drop – user can move elements between lists
• Native HTML controls instead of canvas
• Possible to style using CSS, more consistent look of the application
• Better user experience with scrolling and selecting from the listboxes (especially for touch screen devices)
Sidebar

Dropdowns

- Toolboxes and menubuttons now support dropdowns with custom windows

New Fontwork panel

- User can edit fontwork directly from the sidebar or mobile wizard
- Shape, character spacing etc.
Thanks!

By Szymon Kłos

@CollaboraOffice
hello@collaboraoffice.com
Collaboraoffice.com