PDF handling in LibreOffice

Jaume Pujantell

Software Engineer

jaume.pujantell@collabora.com

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Overview

- PDFs as graphical documents
- PDFium
- Inserted PDF images

PDFs as graphical documents

Import PDF elements as Shapes

Text is imported into Text Frames

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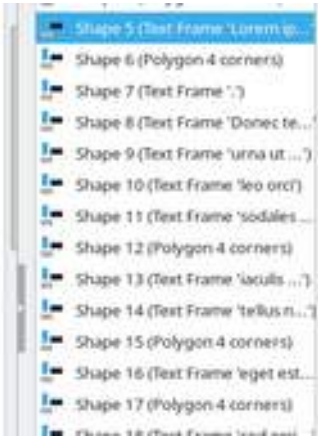
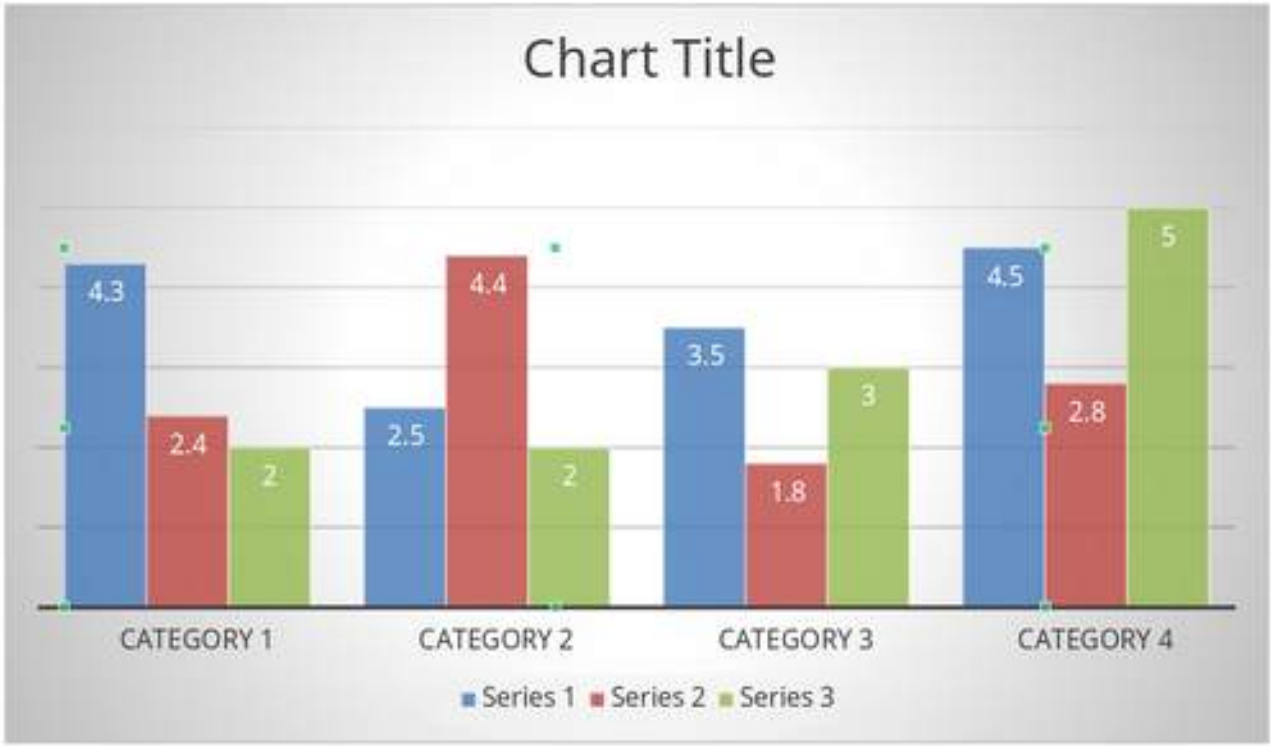


LibreOffice Technology

Import PDF elements as Shapes

Polygons, curves and images are imported as their equivalent shape



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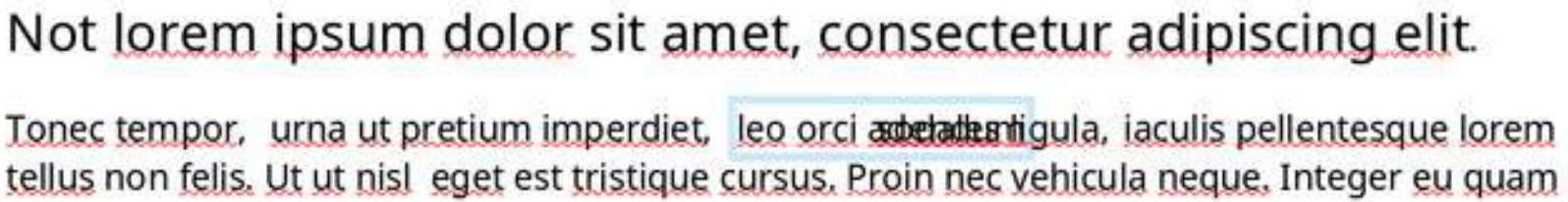
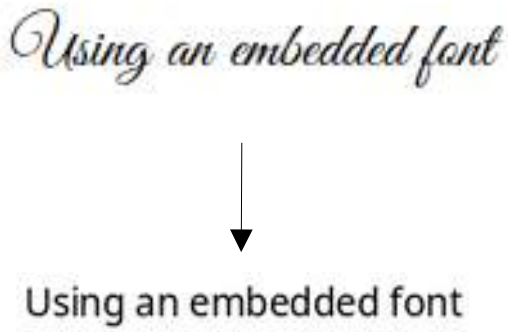
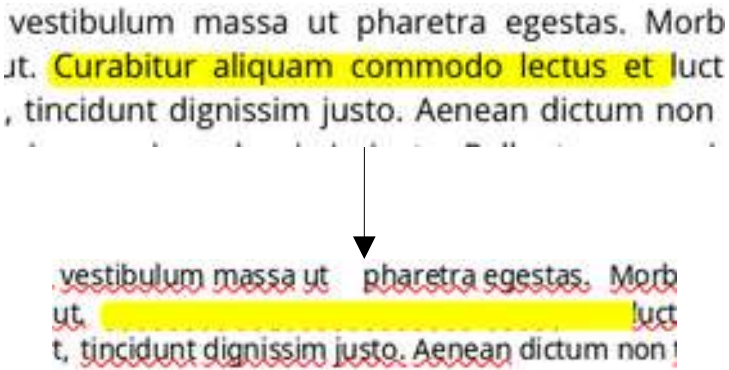
Granular but confusing editing

Some small text edits work fine, but others require remaking parts of the document.



Lost information





PDFium

What is PDFium

- Open Source PDF Rendering Engine
- Generates the bitmap representation of PDF pages
- Provides an API to consult the elements of a PDF

PDFium in LibreOffice

- In Draw is an experimental function, controlled by the environment variable LO_IMPORT_USE_PDFIUM
- In LibreOfficeKit it is always enabled
- When inserting a PDF as an image in another document

Import PDF content as bitmaps

- No possibility to edit directly the document
- Correctly uses embedded fonts and styles

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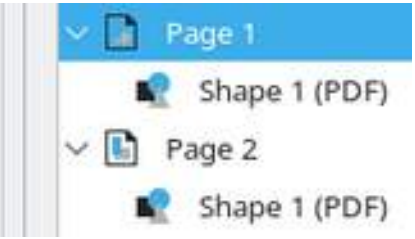

PDF annotations compatibility

- Most common annotations are supported

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- Some still need better support

Inserted PDF images

Ideal use case of PDFium

- The endpoint is an image
- Users won’t expect the ability to edit
- Better quality and fidelity than importing as graphical document and converting to image

LibreOffice Technology

Re-exporting to PDF

- Can reuse the original PDF contents inside the new
  - Preserves embedded fonts and styles
  - Preserves vector graphics

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Thank you!

By Jaume Pujantell

@CollaboraOffice
hello@collaboraoffice.com
www.collaboraoffice.com