



Migration Guide

Chapter 8
Customizing OpenOffice.org

OpenOffice.org

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Acknowledgments

Thanks to Ian Laurensen for his work as the first maintainer.

Publication date and software version

Published 7 May 2006. Based on OpenOffice.org 2.0.2.



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Customizing toolbars

Using the *Alt* key to drag icons on the toolbars does not work in OpenOffice.org 2.0. The other concepts for customizing the toolbars in OpenOffice.org are similar to those in Microsoft Office. The specific steps are outlined below.

Customizing toolbars

You can get to the toolbar customization menu in three ways:

- **Tools > Customize > Toolbars** tab.
- Click the arrow at the end of any toolbar and choose **Customize Toolbar**.
- **View > Toolbars > Customize > Toolbars** tab (same as Microsoft Office).

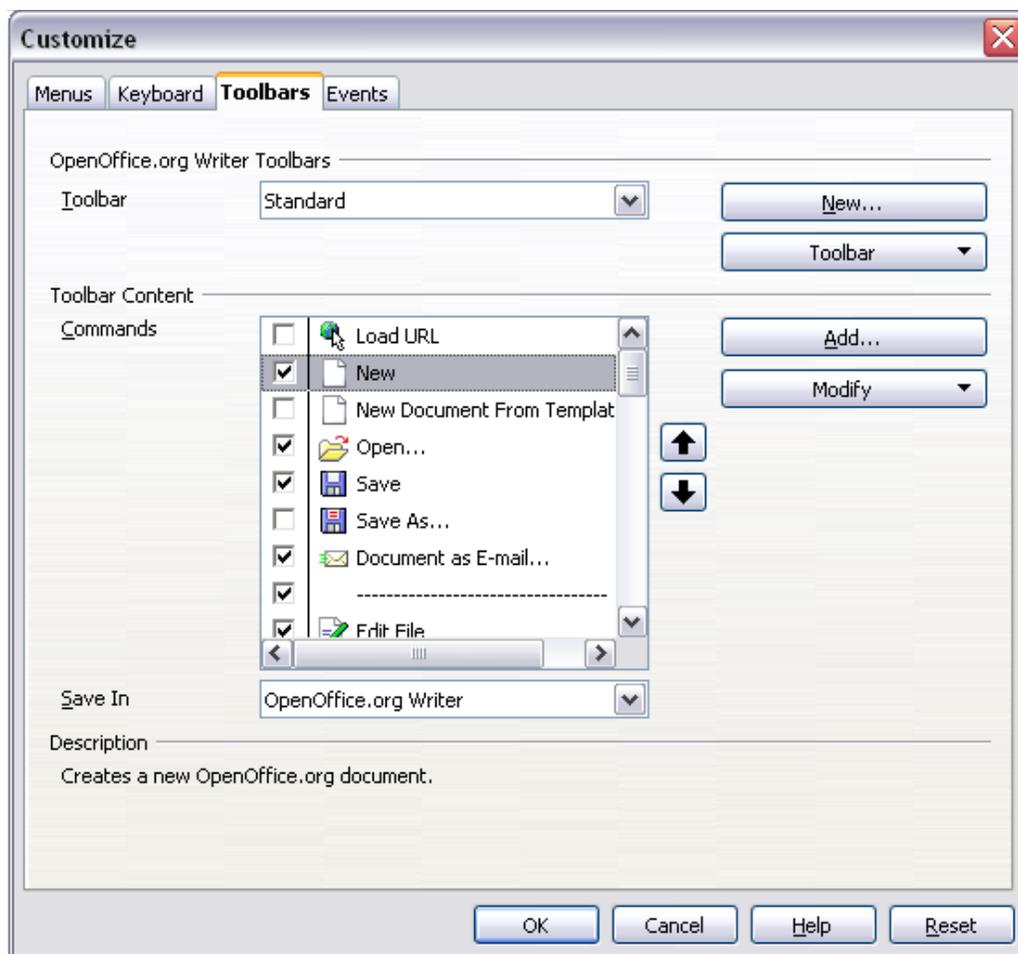


Figure 1. The Toolbars tab of the Customize window

However, rather than dragging buttons onto the toolbar as is required in Microsoft Office, you need to use the Customize dialog (Figure 1):

- 1) **OpenOffice.org <name of the program (example: Writer)> Toolbars:** Activate the drop-down list to select the toolbar.
- 2) **Toolbar Content:** The checkboxes determine whether the button gets displayed or not.
- 3) The **Move Up** or **Move Down** buttons change the order.
- 4) If the function you require is not already listed for the toolbar, use the **Add** button to insert it.
- 5) Use **Modify** for things like changing an icon, renaming, or restoring the default settings.

Note There is no in-built tool-button editor. To use a custom icon, save it to the `{install path}/share/config/symbol` directory in *.bmp format. OOo automatically searches this directory for new icons each time the Customize Buttons dialog is opened. Custom icons must be 16 x 16 pixels in size and cannot contain more than 256 colors.

Creating a new toolbar

To create a new toolbar:

- 1) Select **Tools > Customize > Toolbars** tab.
- 2) Click **New** to display a dialog where you can name the new toolbar. Click **OK**.
- 3) Customize the new toolbar as above.

Customizing menus

Customizing menus is not significantly different in OOo than in Microsoft Office. The specific steps are outlined below. You can even set the menu font to be the font used by the system.

Customizing menu content

To customize menu content:

- 1) Select **Tools > Customize > Menus** tab (Figure 2).
- 2) In the Save In drop-down list, choose whether to save this changed menu for the application (for example, Writer) or for a selected document.
- 3) In **OpenOffice.org <name of the program (example: Writer)> Menus**, select the menu you want to customize in the **Menu** drop-down list.

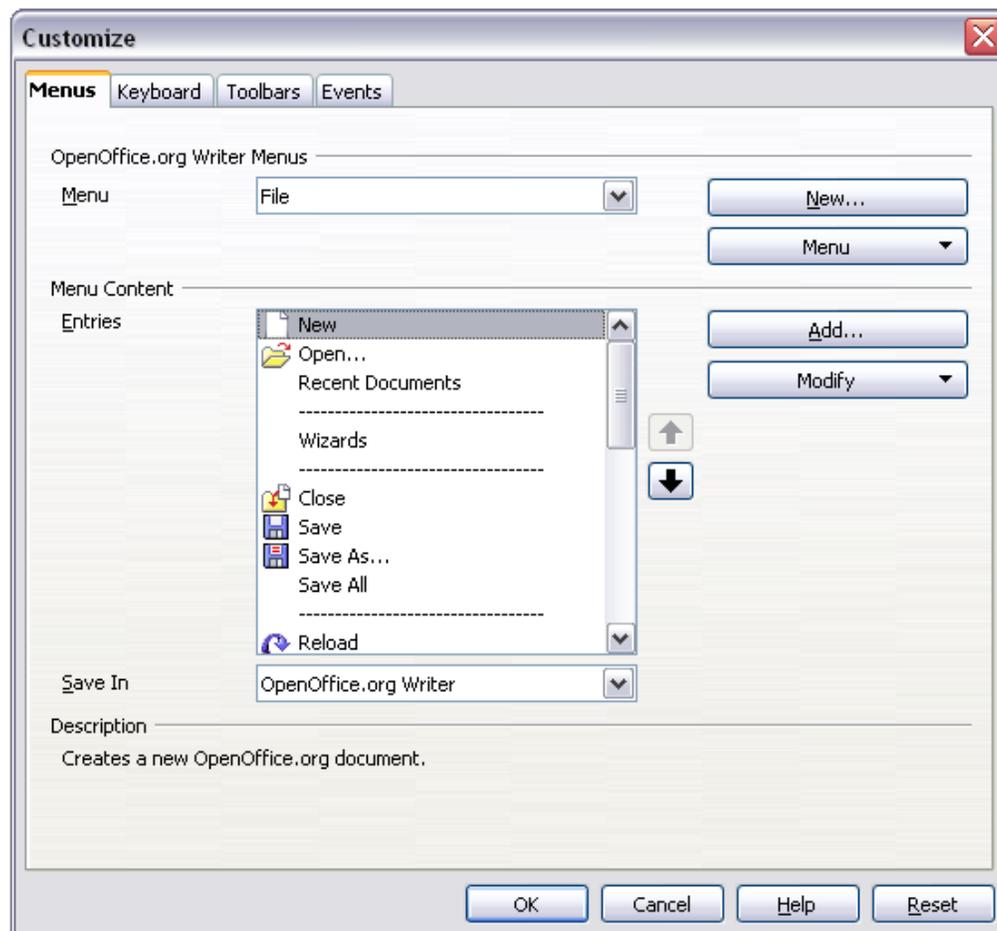


Figure 2. The Menus tab of the Customize dialog

To add a function:

- 1) **Menu Content:** Select the top level menu entry.
- 2) Click the **Add** button.
- 3) Select in the Add Commands dialog the new menu item using the **Category** and **Command** list boxes.
- 4) Click **Add** to insert that function into the menu. When finished, click **Close**.

Customizing the menu font

The font used in Oo for menus is different from that used in Microsoft Office, which is the system font. If you want to change the font to the one used in Office:

- 1) **Tools > Options > OpenOffice.org > View.**
- 2) Check **Use system font for user interface.**
- 3) Click **OK.**

Customizing shortcut keys

Customizing shortcut keys requires a different procedure from that used in Microsoft Office. In OOO use the following steps:

- 1) **Tools > Customize > Keyboard** tab.
- 2) On the Keyboard tab of the Customize dialog (Figure 3), select the desired shortcut key in the top list box labeled **Shortcut keys**.

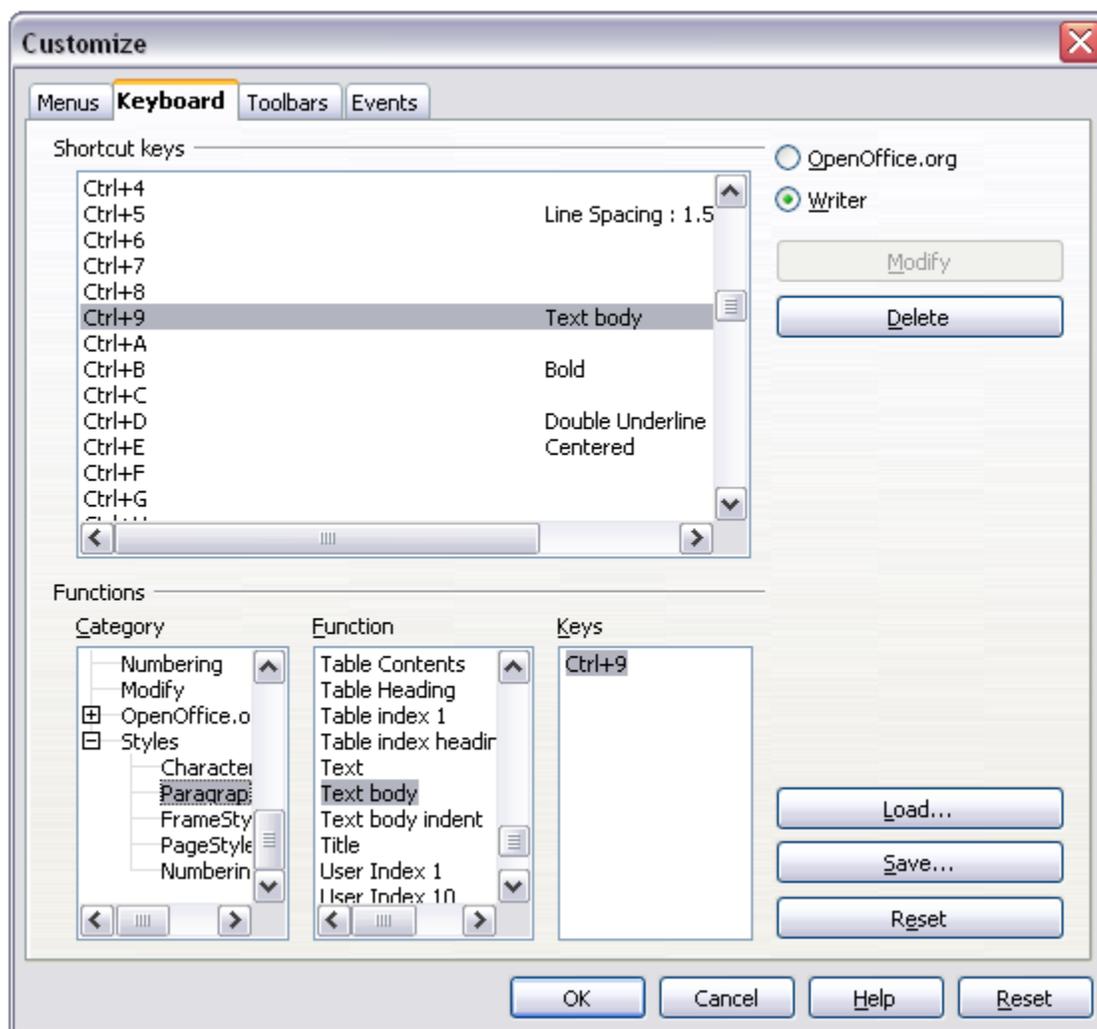


Figure 3. Defining keyboard shortcuts for applying styles

- 3) Select the **Category**, for the command, and the actual **Function** in the bottom list boxes.
- 4) In the top right corner of the dialog, select whether the shortcut key is to be OOO-wide or just for the current application (Writer for example).
- 5) Click **Modify**.

Note The *Alt* key is not available for shortcut keys. A macro that overcomes this limitation is in AltKeyHandler.sxw, available from <http://homepages.paradise.net.nz/hillview/OOo/>.

Customizing word entry and editing

AutoCorrect/AutoFormat

A feature in OOo is the ability to have exceptions for AutoCorrect/AutoFormat rules. For example, you can have “Correct T^Wo INitial CAPITALS” in operation but exclude situations where two capitals are desired, like OOo. To set up exceptions:

- 1) **Tools** > **AutoCorrect**.
- 2) Click on the **Exceptions** tab (Figure 4).

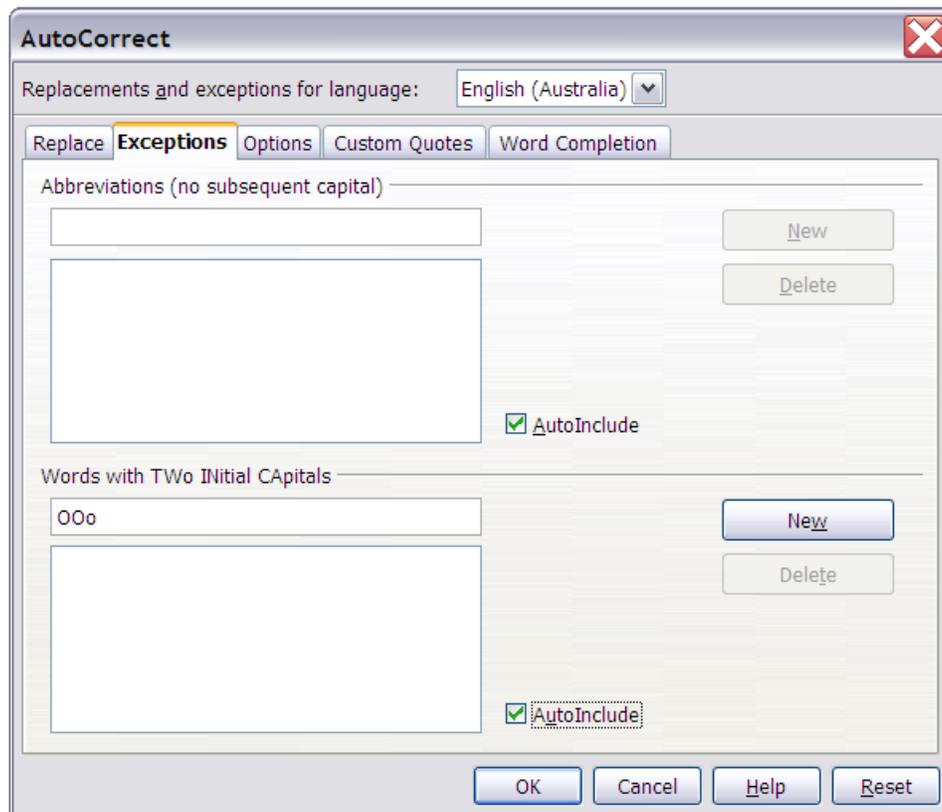


Figure 4: Exceptions tab of AutoCorrect dialog

Undo and redo

To specify how many “undos” are available:

Tools > Options > OpenOffice.org > Memory > Number of steps.

Checking spelling

To set up the Spellcheck options in OpenOffice.org, use:

Tools > Options > Language Settings > Writing Aids

The Spellcheck options are consistent across all OOO applications.

Note Unlike the default dictionaries, custom dictionaries are not compressed. Using too many custom dictionaries, or those containing more than 1000 entries, reduces performance while proofing.

Installing other language dictionaries

To install dictionaries of other languages select **File > Wizards > Install new dictionaries**. An OOO document will open with links to different languages that you can install. Follow the prompts to install them.

Security settings

To set up virus protection for macro and Java security settings, use:

Tools > Options > OpenOffice.org > Security

For other security-related issues, see Password Protection and Privacy Options in the chapter “General Differences in Use between OpenOffice.org and Microsoft Office”.

Personal settings

To find out where these customizations are stored, use:

Tools > Options > OpenOffice.org > Paths

The dialog shows that the information, by default, is stored in a folder called “user”.

Storing configurations in a template

This section describes how to store changes to menus, keyboard shortcuts, the status bar and toolbars in a template so that the customizations are automatically loaded when you work on a document based on that template.

- 1) Create and save the template that is to have the configurations saved into it. A back-up of the template, without the configuration changes, is a good precaution too.
- 2) Make the desired changes to the configuration. (See “Customizing menus”, “Customizing toolbars” and “Customizing shortcut keys” above.) Note that any changes you do not want as standard will have to be undone.
- 3) **Tools > Customize.**
- 4) At each step of customization of the template, that is for each tab of the dialog that you want to change, choose the desired template (the one first created and saved in step 1) and click **Save**.
- 5) Overwrite the file—the warning message that is displayed can be ignored.
- 6) Undo the pre-existing changes that are not wanted (as was noted in step 2).