Integrating "WYSIWYG" web editors into Notes/Domino applications

How to do it, and how to do it better

Reshape your world, Use Notes to the fullest

Introduction: Ben Langhinrichs

- President - Genii Software Ltd.
  - Founded in 1992 (OS/2 utilities)
  - First Notes product in 1995
  - IBM/Lotus Business Partner since 1995
  - Based in Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A.
  - Customers in 46 countries

- Member - The Penumbra Group

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Genii Software – Current Products

Coexistence Solutions
- CoexEdit: Notes/Web editing coexistence
- CoexLinks: Notes/Outlook e-mail coexistence

Rich Text Tools
- Midas Rich Text LSX
- Midas Rich Text C++ API
- @Midas Formulas

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Editing rich text in Notes client

- Add "richness" with menu items, properties and keyboard shortcuts
- Easily insert tables, images and file attachments
  - In-line file attachments are powerful feature
- Create doclinks, link hotspots and URL hotspots
- Change colors, fonts and attributes
- Styles through style picker
- Limited CSS control added in ND6

Editing rich text in Web (with Domino)

- Option 1 – "Using HTML"
  - Simple textarea
  - All formatting, images, tables, links, etc. lost
  - No ability to add formatting
  - End result is rich text, but very plain rich text

Editing rich text in Web (with Domino)

- Option 2 – "Using Java applet"
  - Java applet fairly heavy and slow
  - Some fidelity remains, but images and doclinks lost
  - Tables are displayed as tags, very hard to manage
  - Basic formatting works
  - No import of images, file attachments or doclinks

Editing rich text in Web (with Domino)

- Option 3 – "Using Best Fit for OS"
  - Requires Internet Explorer on Windows
  - Pretty good fidelity, but images and doclinks still lost
  - Tables are displayed well, but messed up on save
  - Basic formatting works, plus some advanced
  - No import of images, file attachments or doclinks

WYSIWYG Editors

- What You See Is What You Get
- HTML/XHTML underneath, rich text on surface
- Enhanced editing capabilities in browsers

The Editable Area - Choices

- <textarea> replacement

- Java applet

- JavaScript <div> approach

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Open Source Editors

- htmlarea – now unsupported, was very popular
- Xinha – successor to htmlarea
- TinyMCE – Lightweight alternative
- FCKeditor – Probably the top contender now
- Many, many others with niche markets or specialties

Commercial Editors

- eWebEditPro
- editOn Pro
- EditLive! for Java
- More every day

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FCKeditor

- Made in Germany
- Allows either div or textarea replacement
- Full functionality
- Customizable toolbar
- Open source JavaScript - can be modified

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FCKeditor – Create approach

- Create a div around rich text field
- Use innerHTML property to feed to FCKeditor
- 64KB limit on content
- Uses "Create" method in FCKeditor
- Looks the same as textarea replacement, but less flexible

FCKeditor – Textarea Replacement

- Make sure the id is set to fieldname
- Uses the HTML from field itself
- HTML must be set to passthru to display properly
- Uses "ReplaceTextarea" method
- Very flexible with few limits
- Images, links, etc. will work

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FCKeditor – Adding to database

- Load FCKeditor JavaScript in HTML header
- Set id for rich text field
- Modify onLoad logic to trigger
- Specify the toolbar
- Add WQS agent to reset passthru HTML at end

Code Peek
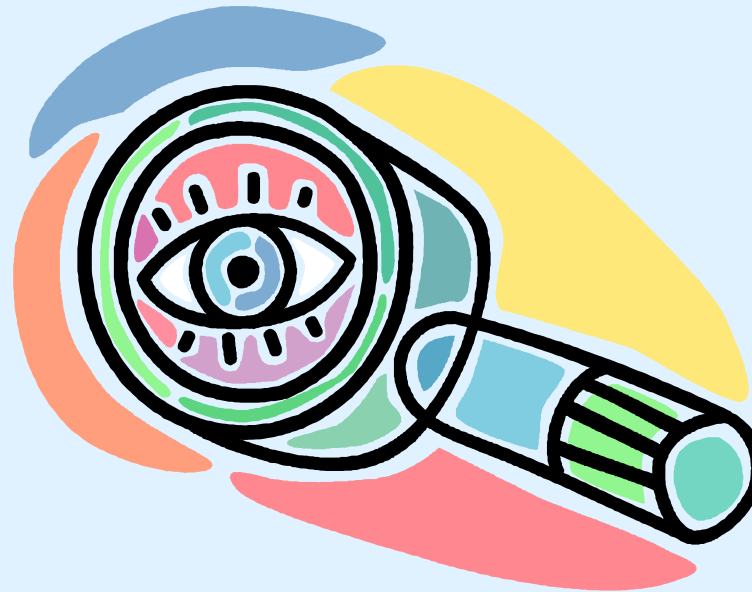
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Special Features - Images

- Add web based images
- Add smileys and other emoticons
- Add local images
- Resize images or set attributes

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Special considerations - Images

- Local images are actually stored in separate documents

- Local images may be less secure

- Deleting image does not delete separate document

- Replicated databases require FCKeditor even for viewing

- Replica copies require identical filepath

Special Features - Doclinks

- Custom code to create doclinks

- Custom view to select doclink

- Easy to extend to other dbs

- Alt text may be set on doclink to identify further

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Special considerations - Doclinks

- No special properties box for doclinks (just an image with link)

- Replica copies require identical filepath

Special Feature – File Attachments

- Files can be uploaded without upload controls
- Files can be uploaded without submit
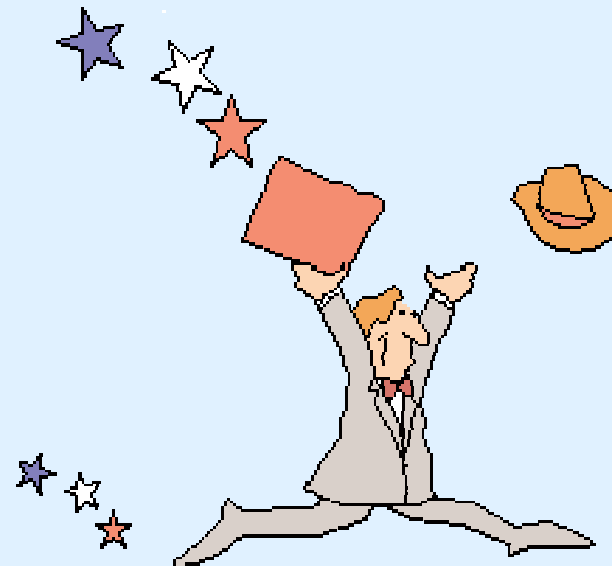- Several files can be uploaded where you like

Special considerations – File Attachments

- No special properties box for attachments
- Paperclip image and link text can be separated
- Local "attachments" are actually stored in separate documents
- Local attachments may be less secure
- Deleting attachment does not delete separate document
- Replica copies require identical filepath

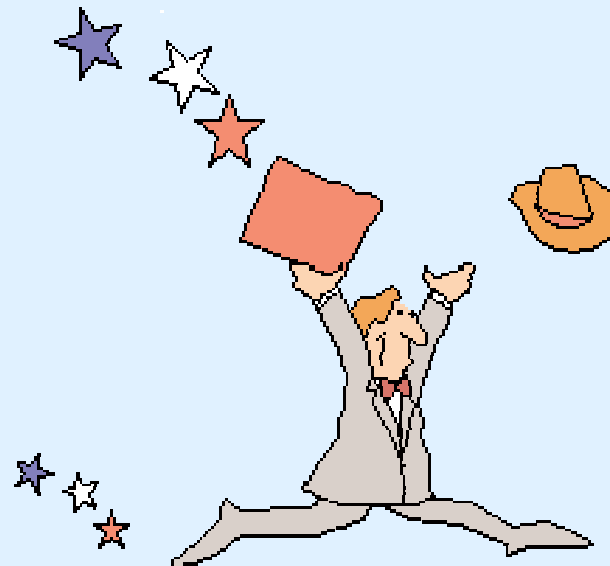# Demo: FCKeditor with Domino

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Multiple rich text fields

- Work primarily the same as single
- May require smaller toolbars
- Require modification of WQS agent

Demo: FCKeditor with Domino

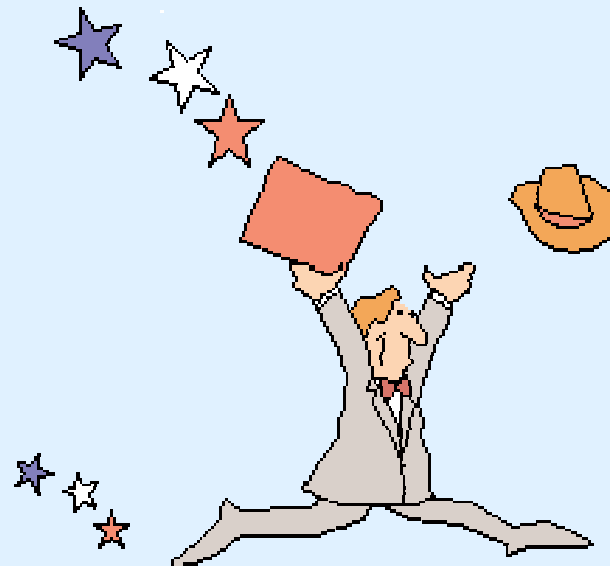**Reshape your world, Use Notes to the fullest**

So, what is missing?

- Ability to edit from Notes as well
- Images and attachments in source document

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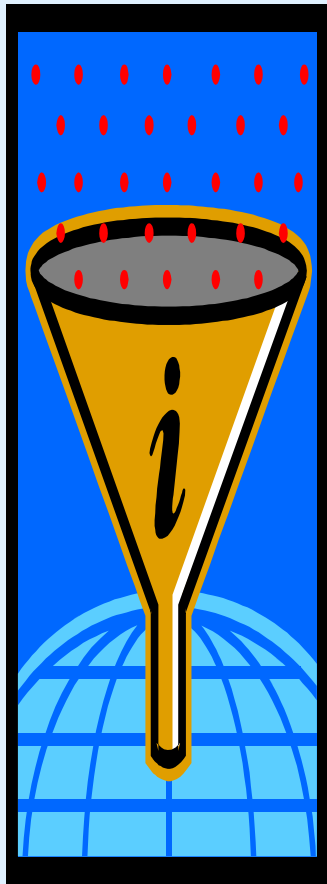
Demo: CoexEdit

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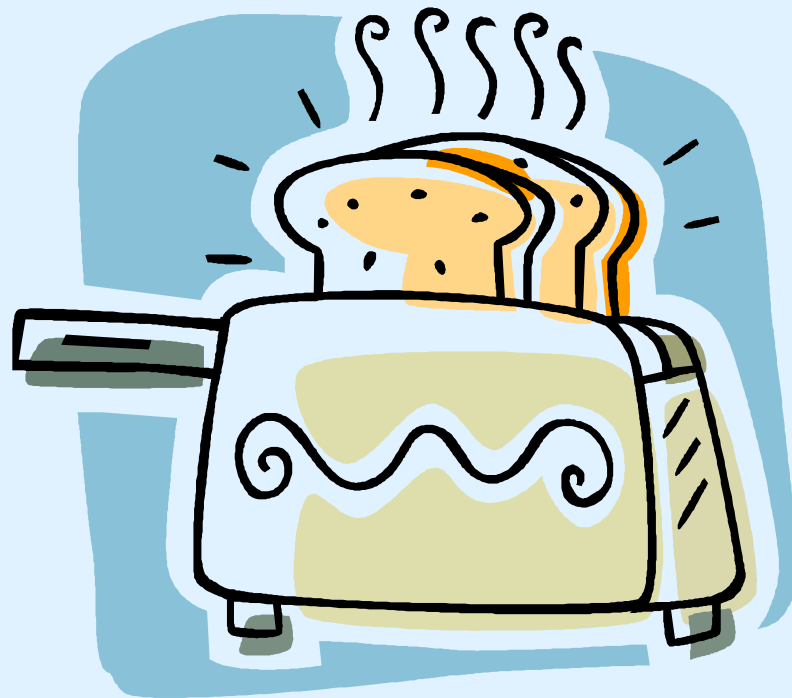
More information

- GeniiSoft.com – CoexEdit, CoexLinks and Midas Rich Text products
- http://GeniiSoft.com/showcase.nsf/GeniiBlog – Tips, tricks (and Mike Midas too)
- Gold forums (ND6/7 and R4/R5)
- Others weblogs:
  - http://www.LotusGeek.com (Notes and more)
  - http://www.AlanLepofsky.net (Cool tips)
  - http://www.EdBrill.com (IBM perspective)

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Q&A: Are we done yet?

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