

Re: Cannot activate "Track Changes" on Word 2004 for Mac

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Mac/microsoft.public.mac.office.word/2007-04/msg00107.html>

- *From:* "John McGhie" <john@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 6 Apr 2007 09:58:38 +1000
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Hi Tony:

You mean apart from Upgrading to Office 2008?? :-) When it goes on sale, Office 2008 will prevent this problem occurring.

In the Word .doc file format, all of the formatting (and most everything else except the actual character strings) is contained in a series of look-up tables in the binary file format. These properties and attributes are all called in with binary pointers that indicate which rows of the tables apply to each piece of text.

It's the binary tables that seem to corrupt. These are re-created when you de-corrupt the document. But yes, you do lose some formatting, picture and page sizes, etc. And it's very difficult to know which of the decorruption methods will result in the least damage in any particular document. I shy away from the HTML method for most of my work because it converts all pictures to PNG bitmaps, and I use a lot of vectore art. But other than that, it's pretty good. Round-tripping through RTF fixes "some" problems, but generally RTF makes such a faithful copy of the document that it copies the problem as well, so I rarely use or advise that one. Copying all but the last paragraph mark (some of us know that as a "Maggie") fixes the widest range of problems, but is potentially the most destructive. Of course when you're desperate you can round-trip through Plain Text (or use "Recover text from any file" to open the document. Either way, you lose ALL the formatting but you get your text back.

My suggestion is that you avoid tracked changes if you have an unskilled editor or a diffeent version of Word in your workflow. Use Compare Documents instead: it's much less likely to result in problems :-)

Hope this helps

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John McGhie, Consultant Technical Writer,
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Sydney, Australia. GMT + 10 Hrs

Re: Cannot activate "Track Changes" on Word 2004 for Mac

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"Tony" <nospam@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:2007040513495016807-nospam@xxxxxxxxxxx>

Thanks.

"Tools/Protect Document" shows that it is NOT protected.

Copying and pasting all except the very last carriage return fixes it, but now the document has different formatting, some images are huge, etc.

Any other way to avoid such issues?

Thanks.

On 2007-04-05 04:31:05 +0200, "John McGhie" <john@xxxxxxxxxxx> said:

Check the Tools>Protect Document setting. It may be that he has Protected the document, in which case the Revision Tracking tool can not enable.

Or it may be that he has been playing around with the changes that were marked near a table or section break (within one character of a table or section break) and has managed to orrupt the document.

Copy everything except the last paragraph mark into a fresh new document and see if that fixes it...

Cheers