

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

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Mac/microsoft.public.mac.office.word/2007-04/msg00110.html>

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- *From:* Tony <nospam@xxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Fri, 6 Apr 2007 03:01:43 +0200
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John,

Thanks. Sure, but the problem is that we may have about 5,000 edit points or more in a 50 to 100 page document every time it goes to revision by a single co-author (most of the times we check and accept all changes). So, for us, "Track Changes" is absolutely required. In such scenario it would be a real nightmare to compare documents...

I look forward to Office 2008. Any tentative date?

Hint for Microsoft MBU (if possible): hopefully Word 2008 will not crash unexpectedly when copy/paste applications like CopyPaste <http://www.scriptsoftware.com/copypaste/> or iClip <http://inventive.us/iClip> are active, as now is the case with Office 2004.

Thanks.  
Regards,

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On 2007-04-06 01:58:38 +0200, "John McGhie" <john@xxxxxxxxxxx> said:

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

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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