

## Re: Merging two separate Word docs?

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Mac/microsoft.public.mac.office.word/2007-07/msg00450.html>

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- *From:* Elliott Roper <nospam@xxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Tue, 24 Jul 2007 16:40:18 +0100
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In article <1185288057.203533.113530@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Emvee <mvhetes@xxxxxxxx> wrote:  
See in-line remarks below...

If the content is in text boxes I believe you're best bet is to copy & paste... you might check in the Tools menu for a Merge & Compare feature or that version most likely does have an Insert> File command.

HTH |:>)  
Bob Jones  
[MVP] Office:Mac

There IS a "Merge Documents" tool, but it doesn't appear to have an effect. Once I selected — through the dialog box that appears upon selecting the "Merge" tool — the document to merge into the one that is open nothing happens. It appears that the open document (or perhaps BOTH documents) may actually have to have some text on it (rather than in text BOXES) in order for some effect to take place. If that is the case then I'm toast, and will have to rethink this.

Nah. It doesn't do anything like you want. It is difficult to find out what it does, because if you type "merge document" into help you get a lot of explanation of merge fields. It seems to be the ugly stepchild of compare documents which is track changes in bulk.  
So we won't go there!

Basically what I had hoped to do here was to place a color highlight behind a block of text on one side of the document only. For this task it seemed that a text box was the best option. If that is wrong I'm open to suggestions. (BTW I'm really not accustomed to working in Word, per se. At least not for this type of document. InDesign and XPress are my weapons of choice for this sort of thing.)

And \*much\* better they are at that kind of work.

## Re: Merging two separate Word docs?

I'd avoid text boxes at all costs, unless I deliberately wanted an ill-designed ransom note.

You might try a section break continuous, choose double column, and then place a rectangle of appropriate colour nominally in the page header, but placed in such a way as to be behind the column you are highlighting. (format picture » wrapping style = Behind text.

It is *\*so\** ugly compared to ID. Why bother with Word for work like this?

You are really trying to wrestle Word into being a page layout program. Text boxes are Microsoft's first feeble steps in that direction. All they do is cripple the whole concept of "word processor".

If you must use text boxes, you can hit format » Text Box » Colours and Lines where you get an opportunity to set fill colour and transparency. If you set the line's transparency to 100% you can make the ugly border disappear while you are at it.

Hmm. It is not *\*that\** evil. I still hate text boxes. The central problem is they have this half and half property of being stuck to both page and paragraph, where Word has no idea of page until you go to print it. (Page view ameliorates this, but the whole idea is as slippery as hell.)

One more thing: when I try to open the "Text Box" documents in Normal rather than Page mode it appears as a blank document, without any text or text boxes. Is this normal, or have I forgotten something?

That might be because text boxes behave like anchored graphics, and you don't get to see anchored graphics in normal view, only those in line with text. Text boxes anchor themselves to paragraphs of normal text (even empty ones, as you have seen) but they cannot be formatted to be in line with text. They truly are an abortion.

Ahh. That was a fine rant. I'm teaching myself some more LaTeX and emacs. ? and playing with InDesign CS3. Word is getting up my nose lately.

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To de-mung my e-mail address:- fsnospam\$elliott\$\$  
PGP Fingerprint: 1A96 3CF7 637F 896B C810 E199 7E5C A9E4 8E59 E248

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