

Re: Office 2007 Backward Compatible

Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Office/microsoft.public.office.misc/2007-01/msg01534.html>

- *From:* "Echo S" <msnewsgroups@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 31 Jan 2007 08:43:57 -0700
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Well, how painful Word's backsaving is depends on what your needs are.

For example.

With PowerPoint, if you insert something (maybe a new text effect like a soft drop shadow, maybe a SmartArt diagram, etc.) into 2007 that isn't supported in previous versions, when you save the file as 97-2003 format, those items become uneditable. They are just images on the slide. But when you reopen the file in PPT 2007, the items become editable again even if you're still in what is called "compatibility mode."

Word is different. If you insert a SmartArt diagram and then backsave to 97-2003 format, the diagram becomes uneditable (a picture) in previous versions, and when you reopen that file in 2007, the SmartArt is still uneditable. However, all is not lost -- you can go to Office File Button | Convert to make everything editable again. It's just less convenient for me than it is in PowerPoint, but I know there are reasons the Word development team decided to do it this way.

I do believe the various application development teams really did try to get the backwards compatibility stuff right for their primary users.

Now, if your clients only need to read your information, this shouldn't be a problem -- and it's probably not as big a problem for even you, the document creator, as "painful" made it sound! You might also want to consider saving as PDF to send to your clients. That is a new feature in Office 2007 applications, but it does require a free download from Microsoft to install the capability.

I don't really know about the Outlook stuff, sorry. But if you clarify that you meant Outlook 2007 --> 2003 (not 2004), hopefully someone else can shed some light there.

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Echo [MS PPT MVP] <http://www.echosvoice.com>
What's new in PPT 2007? <http://www.echosvoice.com/2007.htm>
Fixing PowerPoint Annoyances <http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/powerpointannoy/>

"Sairy" <Sairy@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message

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news:E99FCCF5-D56E-4255-9595-A84F7A140825@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Thanks Echo but what makes Word "more painful"? Are you referring to the file size? If so, that is not a problem. It is not practical to notify receivers of my emails to download the compatibility pack. I am sending documents, etc. to business customers. It would not be good business to ask them to do something that they are not used to doing (or in some cases are prevented from doing – downloading and installing) in order to read my information...they might just decide they can use a different consultant.

Do you know what happens to Outlook files? If I download and use the preview version of Office 2007 will I be able to uninstall it and have my Outlook revert to Outlook 2004?

Lots of questions. I have to wonder if MS thought this backward compatibility through before they foisted it on us. I like the features but can't afford to use it if it is going to cost me customers.

"Echo S" wrote:

In each program, you should be able to specify the default save format so that you automatically save as 97-2003 format. The backsaving will be more painful in some programs (Word) than others (PowerPoint).

You can also ask the 2003 user to install the compatibility pack, which is free from microsoft.com. It allows Office 2003 and Office XP applications to recognize and open the new 2007 file formats.

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Echo [MS PPT MVP] <http://www.echosvoice.com>
What's new in PPT 2007? <http://www.echosvoice.com/2007.htm>
Fixing PowerPoint Annoyances
<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/powerpointannoy/>

"Sairy" <Sairy@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:C7D799A2-F116-431B-ABDA-25E19CF3BD4C@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

I understand that the user does not have much ability to modify some things in Office 2007. Can I default the save format to the 97-2003 format or do I have to perform that change each time I save a document? If

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so, can I
change
all saves (Word, Excel, OneNote, PPT, etc)

"Milly Staples [MVP – Outlook]" wrote:

Only if the documents are saved in 97–2003
compatible format. The
default 2007 format is not backwards
compatible.

--?

Milly Staples [MVP – Outlook]

Post all replies to the group to keep the
discussion intact. All
unsolicited mail sent to my personal account
will be deleted without
reading.

After furious head scratching, b asked:

| Can documents that are created in Office
2007 with Vista OS be
emailed
| and opened by a user who uses Office 2003
Windows XP?