

# Re: Can Word 2003 open up Word 2007 documents

---

*Source:* <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Office/microsoft.public.office.misc/2007-08/msg00928.html>

---

- *From:* "Beth Melton" <[bmelton@xxxxxxxx](mailto:bmelton@xxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 24 Aug 2007 15:04:31 -0500
- 

Based on what I reviewed (I'm a technical reviewer too. <grin>) it seems the content is more about pointing out inconsistencies that were found than a "How to" guide. I'll also note there were several things that weren't correct, much of it due to changes that have been made in Help since Office was released and it was compiled using Offline Help instead of Online Help.

Online Help is the most up-to-date content. For example topics that were noted as missing aren't, some of the terms noted as inconsistent were terms used in the beta and were changed in the RTM version. And some of what was considered as inconsistent are actually minor bugs in the application. Such as the title bar isn't getting updated as it should in the application.

I will note there were some good points, such as Help should use consistent Help titles throughout the applications. (I plan on passing this aspect along as a request/wish – there should be consistent taxonomy for content that is the similar across the applications.)

If were compiling this type of content then I would forgo attempting to point out flaws, or what might be perceived as flaws, I have found in the documentation. Doing so only adds confusion. The key to clear and concise material is to focus on what readers actually need to know.

Such as:

- Feature changes in Word, Excel, and PPT when working in Compatibility Mode
- What happens to objects that are not compatible with previous versions when saved in an earlier file format. (For example, SmartArt is converted to an image)
- What happens to these objects when converted back to the new file format (For example SmartArt is no longer an image)
- What steps can be taken to default to compatibility mode. (For example there's a registry hack for Word – not sure if this is documented by MS)
- How to convert Office documents created in the previous versions to the new file format.
- Address where the topic can be found in Help and for this topic, perhaps point out any errors that might be in the content. (Also note that the content is subject to change since MS can update the help pages.)
- Provide links to the Demos that are available on conversion and

Re: Can Word 2003 open up Word 2007 documents

compatibility

– Provide links to various Help topics in each application that might be helpful, such as this topic:

<http://office.microsoft.com/client/helppreview.aspx?AssetID=HA101172971033&ns=WINWORD&lcid=1033>)

– Provide links to the Ribbon mapping guides and interactive guides for the new UI

I'm sure there's more but those are the ones that come to mind right now.

:-)

Please post all follow-up questions to the newsgroup. Requests for assistance by email cannot be acknowledged.

~~~~~

Beth Melton  
Microsoft Office MVP

Coauthor of Word 2007 Inside Out:

<http://www.microsoft.com/MSPress/books/9801.aspx#AboutTheBook>

Word FAQ: <http://mvps.org/word>

TechTrax eZine: <http://mousetrax.com/techtrax/>

MVP FAQ site: <http://mvps.org/>

"funnybroad" <funnybroad@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message

<news:E6C96CC5-C22C-4DEF-903F-B6E1DBBD3140@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

The bulk of the content presents the actual inconsistent behavior and inconsistent (and at times incorrect) documentation of the tools provided for Office 2007 compatibility in many different scenarios.

The author did not create the inconsistent (and therefore confusing) behavior. Microsoft did.

The author is not an "author" by profession, but an I.T. professional with 20 years of experience running very large-scale migration projects involving operating systems and/or software systems such as Office.

The author would be very interested in finding out if/how the responder to this post was able to get thousands of non-I.T. and non-author users in a large company to:

- 1) Learn and understand this compatibility "topic that should be fairly simple" and to "fully understand compatibility between the Office apps and various versions"
- 2) Learn and understand the drastically new interface
- 3) Learn and understand the new security features and prompts

.. All with minimal training, minimal reliance on user support organizations, minimal loss of work, and minimal drops in user

Re: Can Word 2003 open up Word 2007 documents

productivity.

"Beth Melton" wrote:

Unfortunately, I think the content on that page adds even more confusion to a topic that should be fairly simple. I fully understand compatibility between the Office apps and various versions and after reviewing the content I felt confused. :-(

As an author, I've found if I don't fully grasp what I'm writing about then I'm unable to properly convey information to others. Since the author did note they are confused I suspect that's what adds to the confusion. Too bad, really, I suspect it took a great amount of time to put it all together.

"funnybroad" <funnybroad@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:1457CD5D-7CAE-41C9-AC22-F9BFAF97F9A7@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:1457CD5D-7CAE-41C9-AC22-F9BFAF97F9A7@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

This might help explain it better than most documentation provided by Microsoft:

<http://www.slideshare.net/funnybroad/office-2007-compatibility-mode-confusion>

"TLC" wrote:

Does Office 2003 have the compatibility to open up Office 2007 documents?  
If so, how is this done?

Thank you.

Please post all follow-up questions to the newsgroup. Requests for assistance by email cannot be acknowledged.

~~~~~  
Beth Melton  
Microsoft Office MVP

Coauthor of Word 2007 Inside Out:  
<http://www.microsoft.com/MSPress/books/9801.aspx#AboutTheBook>

Word FAQ: <http://mvps.org/word>  
TechTrax eZine: <http://mousetrax.com/techtrax/>  
MVP FAQ site: <http://mvps.org/>

"funnybroad" <funnybroad@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
<news:E6C96CC5-C22C-4DEF-903F-B6E1DBBD3140@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

The bulk of the content presents the actual inconsistent behavior and inconsistent (and at times incorrect) documentation of the tools provided for Office 2007 compatibility in many different scenarios.

The author did not create the inconsistent (and therefore confusing) behavior. Microsoft did.

The author is not an "author" by profession, but an I.T. professional with 20 years of experience running very large-scale migration projects involving operating systems and/or software systems such as Office.

The author would be very interested in finding out if/how the responder to this post was able to get thousands of non-I.T. and non-author users in a large company to:

- 1) Learn and understand this compatibility "topic that should be fairly simple" and to "fully understand compatibility between the Office apps and various versions"
- 2) Learn and understand the drastically new interface
- 3) Learn and understand the new security features and prompts

.. All with minimal training, minimal reliance on user support organizations, minimal loss of work, and minimal drops in user productivity.

"Beth Melton" wrote:

Unfortunately, I think the content on that page adds even more confusion to a topic that should be fairly simple. I fully understand compatibility between the Office apps and various versions and after reviewing the content I felt confused. :-(

Re: Can Word 2003 open up Word 2007 documents

As an author, I've found if I don't fully grasp what I'm writing about then I'm unable to properly convey information to others. Since the author did note they are confused I suspect that's what adds to the confusion. Too bad, really, I suspect it took a great amount of time to put it all together.

Please post all follow-up questions to the newsgroup. Requests for assistance by email cannot be acknowledged.

~~~~~  
Beth Melton

"funnybroad" <funnybroad@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:1457CD5D-7CAE-41C9-AC22-F9BFAF97F9A7@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:1457CD5D-7CAE-41C9-AC22-F9BFAF97F9A7@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

This might help explain it better than most documentation provided by Microsoft:

<http://www.slideshare.net/funnybroad/office-2007-compatibility-mode-confusion>

"TLC" wrote:

Does Office 2003 have the compatibly to open up Office 2007 documents?  
If so, how is this done?

Thank you.