

Re: Another great example of how Word 2007 "brings commands closer to the surface"

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Word/microsoft.public.word.newusers/2007-04/msg00203.html>

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- *From:* "Beth Melton" <[bmelton@xxxxxxxx](mailto:bmelton@xxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sat, 7 Apr 2007 23:26:45 -0500
- 

I didn't say it took months, I was saying that I've spent over 18 months using Office 2007 and feel as though I have an "educated" opinion of things. I was very opinionated about a few things, just as most who have only scratched the surface, but then I realized I was viewing things as I viewed my switch from WP 5.0 to Word, or WordBasic to Visual Basic. It was then I decided to hold off forming an opinion on various matters until I gained more insight. There are still things I don't like but there were things I didn't like in the older versions as well.

To be perfectly honest, I think I could type until my fingers are blue, as opposed to talking until I'm blue in the face (<g>), and it won't make a bit of difference. Those who want to view the change with an open mind will, those who don't, won't. It's like trying to tell convince a hard-core WP user of the benefits of Word. ;-)

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

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Beth Melton  
Microsoft Office MVP

Co-author 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/>

"Larry" <[larry328NOSPAM@xxxxxxxx](mailto:larry328NOSPAM@xxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:eKWSWHUeHHA.3536@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:eKWSWHUeHHA.3536@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Beth,

What you're saying is that you had to spend months of your life completely

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re-learning and re-customizing Word to your needs, with the previous 15 years you had spent learning Word being lost, all for the benefit of some marginal improvements in the efficiency of some tasks.

Second, the improvements you mention did NOT require the total redesign of the interface. For example, you write:

Plus those who were familiar with some of the advanced features will likely find them easier to use. One quick example is AutoText. Previously you had to create a style and associate the entries with the style in order to create an organized AutoText menu. Now it's a matter of creating what is now called a Building Blocks and assigning it to a gallery and a specific category using a dialog box.

Well, AutoText could have been changed without, e.g., getting rid of Toolbars and menus!

Similarly, greater ease of use in learning Styles did not require a radically revamped Word. It just required that the Styles feature itself be changed.

I have nothing against MS adding new features to Word. But to destroy the basic user interface of Word and basic features and capabilities that millions of people have invested many years of work in, and replace it with another, is just wrong.

"Beth Melton" <bmelton@xxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:uftwizTeHHA.1244@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:uftwizTeHHA.1244@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

I've been using Office 2007 for over 18 months and at first, like the majority I hated it. I thought MS made a bad move, it was going to fail,

and

so on. I don't feel that way anymore. (Heh, you should have seen some of

my

"persuasive feedback" – the comments you've made are mild in comparison –

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especially when it came to removing the ease in toolbar/menu

customization.

<g>).

But you know, even though I know how to customize the Ribbon it's really

not

necessary for me to customize it for my every day work. I have come up

with

alternate methods that fit my needs. For example I have several templates that have a customized QAT with commands for specific tasks and I load/unload them as global templates according the task at hand. (I still have a complaint about the inability to float toolbars....)

After using the new interface I can now honestly see how it actually does improve work flow and I can perform tasks in Word that used to take a half

hour or more in a few simple clicks. And it places capabilities that were once used exclusively by power users into the hands of everyone. Plus

those

who were familiar with some of the advanced features will likely find them

easier to use. One quick example is AutoText. Previously you had to create

a

style and associate the entries with the style in order to create an organized AutoText menu. Now it's a matter of creating what is now called

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Building Blocks and assigning it to a gallery and a specific category

using

a dialog box. And there was difficulty remembering what you called them,

now

they are more visually oriented for insertion (and yes you can still

assign

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keyboard shortcuts if you want).

Form development is another example. The ability to easily create bound forms in Word has been a long standing request and that functionality is

now

available using Content Controls AND they automatically update without the need to add extra steps or use a macro. Content Controls also resolve another long standing request, to protect portions of a document for data entry without losing spell check and other functionality.

Oh, and Styles have been lifted up and are easier for beginners to use.

Even

the basic beginner books are including how to use and modify styles. And I've noticed many of the beginning Word books are encouraging users to use formatted space between paragraphs instead of empty paragraphs due to the new defaults. (Thank goodness!!)

BUT in order to fully see and understand these capabilities one can't be resistant to change. That was my stumbling block for several months. I wanted Word (and the other Office apps) to function as I was accustomed to them functioning for over the last 15 years. To use the new versions effectively it does require a bit of change, such as change how you may

have

previously accomplished a task but in the end it is faster and more efficient. The key is if you want to embrace the change or fight the

change.

If you fight it then you'll hate it and find it lacking. If you embrace it you may just find what I have found, that change can indeed be a "good thing".

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"Larry" <larry328NOSPAM@xxxxxxx> wrote in message  
<news:ePicUCKeHHA.320@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Beth,

You've opened my eyes. Now I understand the logic behind Microsoft's destruction of Word. By the same logic by which the menus were eliminated, since the "majority" of users don't create custom toolbars and custom menus, MS just did away with them as well. Or at least made it much harder to create and install them—I haven't figured this all out yet. In any

case,

the former beautiful feature by which you opened the Customize dialog

box

and could effortlessly create a new toolbar and give it a name put on

it

what you wanted seems to be gone.

Hey, folks, the "majority" of users also never create a macro, never

edit

a macro, and never assign a custom keystroke to a macro or to a built-in command. So, by MS's logic of only keeping features that "most" users use, how come MS didn't eliminate VBA, eliminate macro

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recording, eliminate  
macros, eliminate the Macro dialog box, eliminate the VBA  
editing  
interface,  
and eliminate the Customize Keyboard dialog box???

The great thing about Word was that it had thousands of  
capabilities,

and

each user, depending on his interests, might only deal with a  
small  
part  
of  
them. So each person could in effect have his own "Word."  
But now

we've

moved away from such diversity toward a single uniformity.  
A single  
"majority rule" determines what will be in Word. Only what  
the 90

percent

of users who are mediocre users will determine what is in  
Word.  
Everything  
that a more skilled and creative or just idiosyncratic user of  
Word

might

want to access is to be eliminated. That appears to be the  
logic.

The only thing that saves the situation from total disaster is  
that MS

has

not yet been completely consistent in its program of  
destruction, so it  
has  
still left some "non-popular" features in place.

Larry

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