

Introduction – What is Writer?

Writer is the word processor component of LibreOffice, a freely available, fully-featured office productivity suite. In addition to the usual features of a word processor (text entry, editing, and formatting; spelling checker, thesaurus, hyphenation, and autocorrect; find and replace; and others), Writer provides these important features:

- Change tracking during revisions (Chapter 4)
- Page layout methods, including styles, frames, columns, and tables (Chapters 5 and 6)
- Export to PDF and ePub (Chapter 7)
- Document digital signatures (Chapter 7)
- Templates and styles (Chapters 8, 9, and 10)
- Built-in drawing tools (Chapter 11)
- Lists (Chapter 12)
- Tables of data (Chapter 13)
- Mail merge (Chapter 14)
- Automated tables of contents and indexes (Chapter 15)
- Master documents, to group a collection of documents into a single document (Chapter 16)
- Fields and forms (Chapters 17 and 18)
- Database integration, including a bibliography database (Chapters 14, 15, and 18)
- Embedding or linking of spreadsheets, equations, and other objects (Chapter 19)
- And many more

Parts of the main Writer window

The main Writer window is shown in Figure 1. Its features are described in this section.



Note

By default, LibreOffice Writer's commands are grouped in menus and toolbars, as described in this section. In addition, Writer provides other user interface variations, displaying contextual groups of commands and contents. For more information, see “Notebook bar” in the Help and Chapter 20, Customizing Writer.

Title bar

The Title bar is located at the top of the Writer window. It shows the file name of the current document. When the document is not yet named, the document name will appear as Untitled X, where X is a number. Untitled documents are numbered in the order in which they are created.

Menu bar

The Menu bar is located just below the Title bar in Windows and Linux and at the top of the screen in macOS. When you select one of the menus, a submenu drops down to show further options, including:

- Commands that directly cause an action, such as **Close** or **Save**, in the **File** menu.
- Commands that open dialogs. These are indicated by three dots following a command, such as **Find...** in the **Edit** menu.