

Linux 409 - Hyperlink articles ham-175

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DEVELOPMENT

Hundreds of articles are written for the ham group. Trying to organize, decipher, and disseminate to new as well as slightly more experienced hams is a challenge. First was a website, but it became unwieldy. So a different structure has evolved. Older articles, with less current relevance, were separated potentially for archives.

About 85 communications articles have active application. Another dozen or so tell how to build AllStarLink3. Then about 10 cover Linux, which is commonly used for computer and radio projects, including Raspberry Pi and AllStarLink topics. The number of articles vary depending on new topics.

Many articles were written using Libre Office Writer, an open source alternative to Microsoft Office. One hitch arises. The files must be available to Microsoft users. Word documents are not be replicated very well.

Three major problems arise. One, fonts are not compatible. Only Times Roman, Arial, and Courier are common. Two, Microsoft renders paragraphs differently, so style sheets / templates are strongly recommended to assure the rendering is attached to the document. Three, text boxes overlay on image or shape does not equitably render, so avoid.

Libre Office uses an Open Documents Format and saves the files as *.odt. Articles written in Libre Office Writer are saved as *.odt. A copy is also saved as 365 docx. Then the article are exported as *.pdf. Close the file completely. Then reopen the *.docx, This will reveal the translation problems. Make the corrections. Docx changes anchors, formatting, and other assignments. Save docx then archive as odt and export again. It seldom works tolerably.

OnlyOffice is a superb alternative, whose native files are Open Office XML. This is the native environment of Microsoft Office. OnlyOffice is the only other suite I have found that uses the same native format. Consequently, it saves docx very similar to the big gun. OnlyOffice is an international suite, but with a very small footprint in USA.



Linux Kubuntu flavor is a fabulous OS. Its limitation has been handling docx documents. OnlyOffice resolves that one last hang-up. It feels much lighter weight, but I have written 150-page document with over 300 images. It accomplishes. Now we have the articles written. What do we do with them? Make a book AND put on the web.

WEB

Each Article has a number as part of the name, e.g., Ham 35 - Phonetic alphabet 241227.

Typically files are saved with the date 'yrmoda' as the final 6 characters of the filename. This makes tracking version easier. However, because of the way we will use the *.pdf, leave its date off. The pdf will be linked to a separate Table-of-Contents. Without the date, updates can occur without modifying the links. Save the *.docx and backup in docs-folder.

Place all the article pdf files (*.pdf) in a separate portable-folder. In the separate folder also place an 'Article-toc' (table-of-contents) as a *.docx file. Hyperlink the 'Article-toc' entries to each of the referenced *.pdf files. Save the 'Article-toc' as *.docx and *.pdf. Once the completed table is in portable-folder, move the docx file back to the documents-folder.

Zip the entire portable-folder. Then the zip can be extracted and Article-toc can access any article. Updates only require replacing an updated *.pdf file for existing articles. For new or deleted articles, the Article-toc needs updating.

Relative address. Conventionally absolute address is used. However, in order to send the portable-folder to other computers, relative addressing must be invoked to a file in the same folder.. The link looks different depending on system.

MicrosoftOffice looks like *file:///path/* preceding the filename, *file:///path/ham-01-copyright-bio-etc.pdf*.

OnlyOffice is simply the file name, *ham-01-copyright-bio-etc.pdf*.

LibreOffice is Linux convention. with '/' preceding the filename, *./ham-01-copyright-bio-etc.pdf*.

How to link.

- Go to portable-folder. Open 'ham-175-article-toc' as *.docx.
- Highlight the number associated with each article. Right click to select hyperlink.
- Click folder icon to link. Click on filename. OK to finish.
- If the link is in same folder, it should render as relative.
- Repeat by highlighting the next article number.
- When all hyperlinks are complete, save file as 'ham-175-article-toc.docx'. Also save as 'ham-175-article-toc.pdf'
- Move the docx file to the document-folder. Portable-folder should contain only *.pdf.

Zip the portable-folder, when updates are complete. Send to webmaster or send to recipient.

Recipient extracts zip into a single folder. Webmaster creates a link from webpage to *ham-175-article-toc.pdf*. Then clicking webpage link should open Article-toc, which has links to all the hundred+plus articles.

Life is good. Enjoy!

