



Central Configuration Management of LibreOffice

Andras Timar

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LibreOffice Configuration

- Quick overview...
 - I do not want to repeat what is already known
 - Florian Effenberger
Deploying OpenOffice.org, Installation and Configuration in a Corporate Network
http://www.linux-kongress.org/2010/slides/ooo_netzwerk-effenberger.pdf
 - Thorsten Behrens
LibreOffice configuration management, tools, approaches & best practices
http://www.linuxtag.org/2012/fileadmin/www.linuxtag.org/slides/Thorsten%20Behrens%20-%20LibreOffice%20configuration%20management%20-%20Tools_%20approaches%20and%20best%20practices.p331.pdf

LibreOffice configuration

- Layered configuration data, typically 3 layers
 - Hardwired
 - Administrative
 - User
- Highest layer „wins”
- Possible to lock settings in a lower layer
- ~20000 settings

Configuration backends

- XML files
- System dependent backends
 - Locale
 - Internet proxy
 - Security settings
- **NEW!** Windows Registry
 - A new layer on Windows (defined in fundamental.ini)
 - LibreOffice from Collabora 4.1
 - Other flavours of LibreOffice, from 4.2

What to set centrally?

- Disable features
- Set paths (e.g. templates)
- Lock down security settings
- Set company name in user data
- Force UI language and locale
- Set default fonts
- Etc.

How to find the keys?

- Expert Config page in LibreOffice 4.2
- Change a setting on UI, find the difference in `registrymodifications.xcu` before/after the change
- Use existing documentation and/or read source code
- Some important settings have been collected already (not yet published).

Scenario 1 – Windows

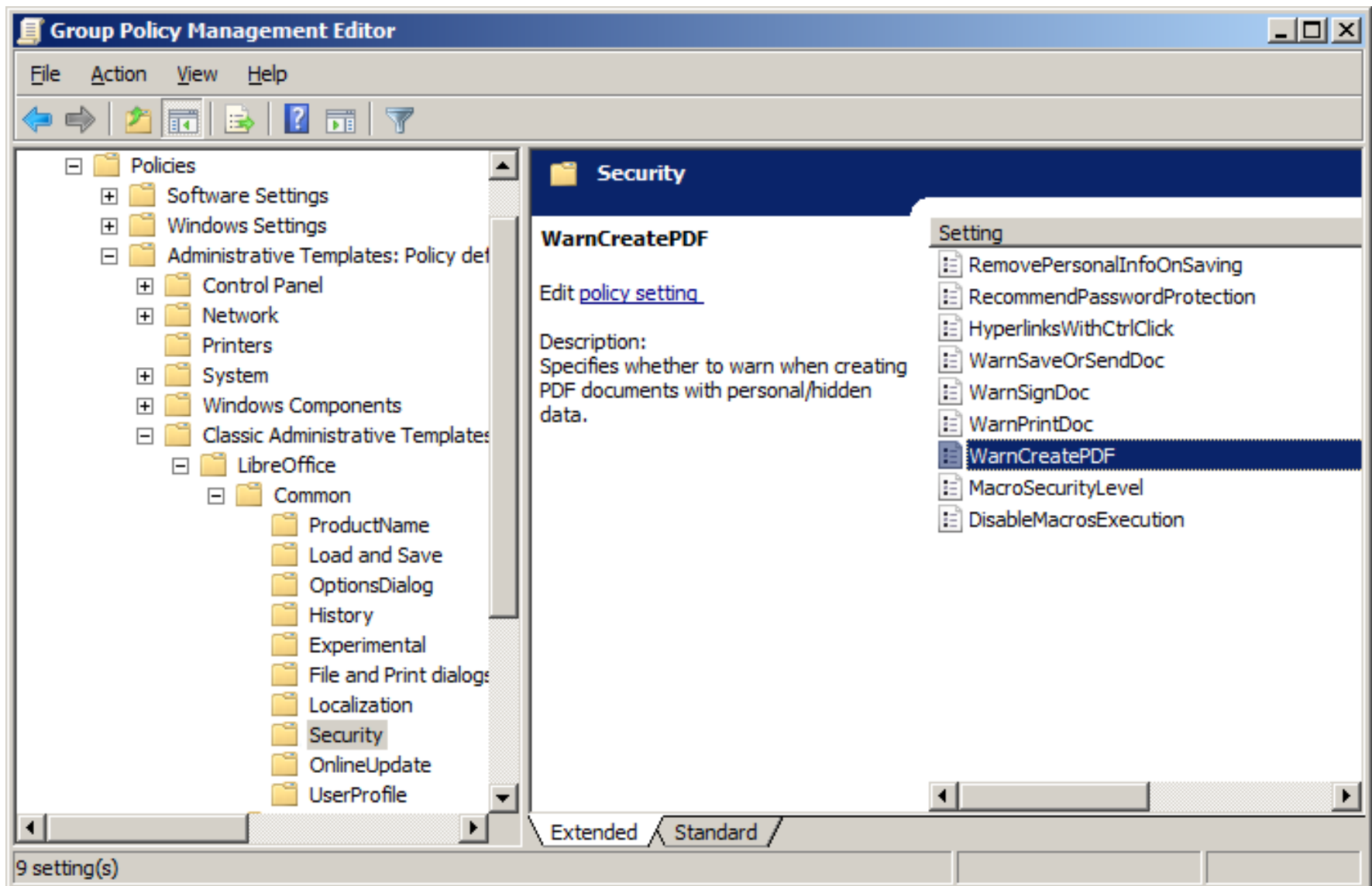
- Windows Server AD
 - Tested with Windows Server 2008 R2
- Desktops/laptops are domain members
 - Windows XP, 2003, Vista, 2008, 7, 8, 8.1 ...
- Central configuration management via GPOs
 - Currently machine-specific Group Policy is supported by LibreOffice

Setting up a GPO

- ADM file

```
POLICY "WarnCreatePDF"
KEYNAME
"Software\Policies\LibreOffice\org.openoffice.Office.Common\Security\Scriptin
g\WarnCreatePDF"
EXPLAIN "Specifies whether to warn when creating PDF documents with
personal/hidden data."
PART "Specifies whether to warn when creating PDF documents with
personal/hidden data." TEXT END PART
PART "Default value: Do not warn" TEXT END PART
PART Value DROPDOWNLIST
        VALUENAME Value
        ITEMLIST
                NAME "Warn" VALUE "true"
                NAME "Do not warn" VALUE "false"
        END ITEMLIST
END PART
PART Final CHECKBOX
        VALUENAME Final
END PART
END POLICY
```


Setting up a GPO



WarnCreatePDF

WarnCreatePDF

Previous Setting Next Setting

Not Configured Comment:

Enabled

Disabled

Supported on:

Options: Help:

Specifies whether to warn when creating PDF documents with personal/hidden data.


Default value: Do not warn

Value Warn

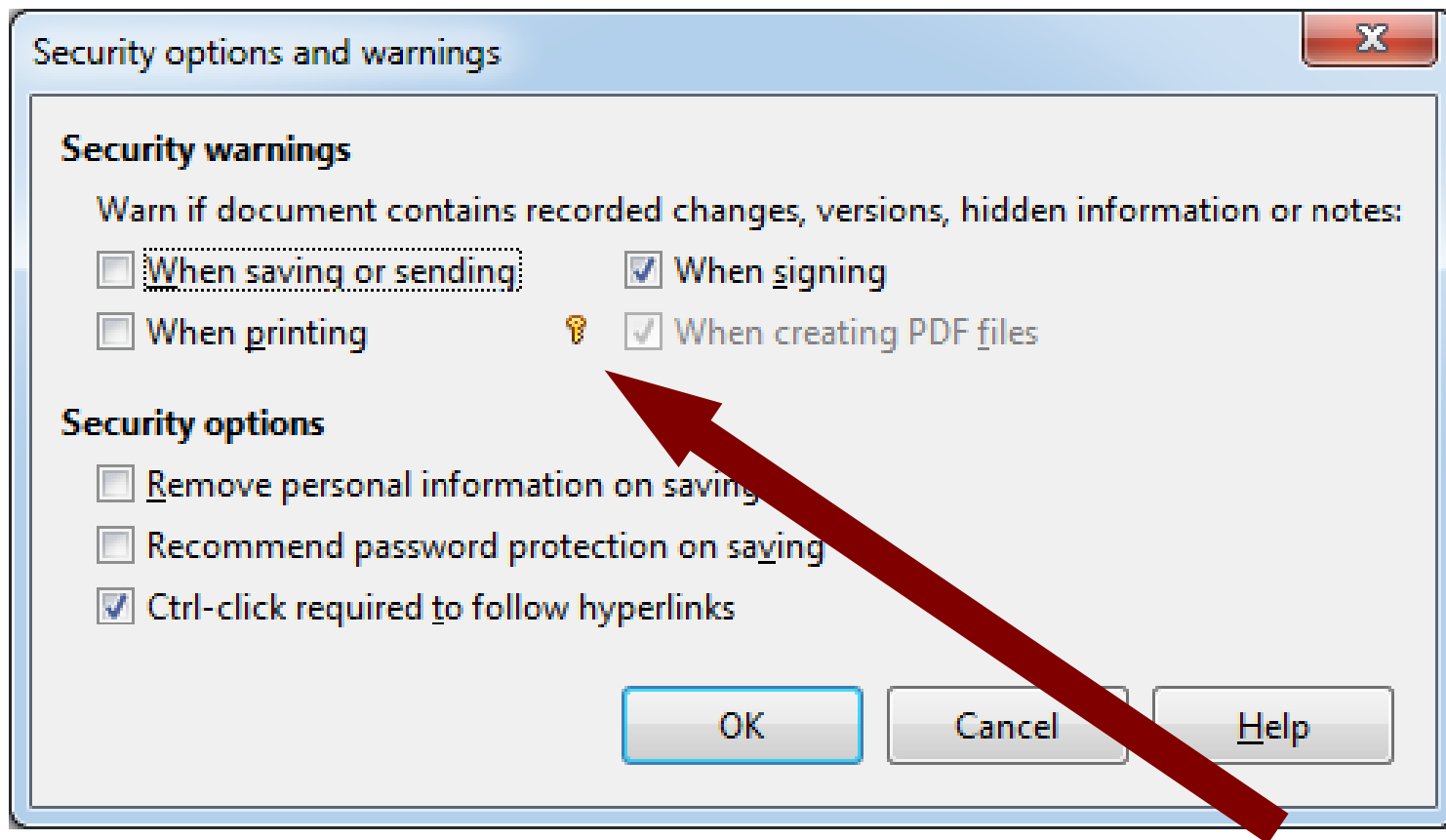
Final

Specifies whether to warn when creating PDF documents with personal/hidden data.

OK Cancel Apply



Result (LibreOffice UI)



Set and Locked!

Scenario 2 – Linux/BSD

- Many PCs, laptops → organized into host groups with uniform HW/SW setup
- Central authentication with Kerberos and LDAP
- /home mounted from NAS
- All configuration files come from packages
- Deploying configuration with the help of package manager

New tool: Remote Root

- Free Software (AGPL/EUPL)
- Centralized management of server and desktop computers
- Suitable for all package-based Linux and BSD systems
 - Currently the supported systems are: Debian, Ubuntu, CentOS, Fedora, RHEL, OpenSUSE, SLED and SLES
- Agent-less operation (Perl, SSH)
- Web GUI, CLI
- <http://remoteroot.org>



Expert mode

Host groups

+ Add Edit Delete

Hostgroup name	Hosts	Sum upgrades	Important upgrades
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> desktops prod	14	30	30
<input type="checkbox"/> desktops test	7	119	22
<input type="checkbox"/> everything	23	155	58
<input type="checkbox"/> os.centos	2	92	0
<input type="checkbox"/> os.debian	0	0	0

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Hosts

+ Add View Host Show last snapshot Edit Delete

Host Name	OS	Distribution	Distribution version	OsArch	Sum upgrades	Important upgrades	Jobs
<input type="checkbox"/> 32ubuntu	linux	ubuntu	12.04	i686	5	5	0
<input type="checkbox"/> centostester	linux	centos	6.4	x86_64	92	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> desktop-21	linux	ubuntu	12.04	i686	0	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> desktop-25	linux	ubuntu	12.04	i686	5	5	0
<input type="checkbox"/> desktop-26	linux	ubuntu	12.04	i686	0	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> desktop-28	linux	ubuntu	12.04	i686	5	5	0
<input type="checkbox"/> desktop-34	linux	ubuntu	12.04	i686	5	5	0
<input type="checkbox"/> desktop-42	linux	ubuntu	12.04	i686	0	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> desktop-45	linux	ubuntu	12.04	i686	5	5	0
<input type="checkbox"/> desktop-51	linux	ubuntu	12.04	i686	0	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> desktop-53	linux	ubuntu	12.04	i686	0	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> desktop-63	linux	ubuntu	12.04	i686	0	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> desktop-65	linux	ubuntu	12.04	i686	0	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> desktop-66	linux	ubuntu	12.04	i686	5	5	0

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Upgrade tasks

Select target on the left, and choose one

Important upgrades

Upgrade all pkgs

Install all critical and security updates for selected hosts / groups

Install or remove

Select target on the left, and choose one

Type comma separated package names here...

Install

Remove

Create packages

The screenshot shows the LibreOffice Central Configuration XML Editor. On the left is a tree view of the configuration structure, with 'Load and Save' selected under 'Common'. On the right is a table of configuration options with columns for ID, StructPos, configuration key, description, value, and locked status.

	StructPos	onfiguration ke	Description	Value	Locked
8	LibreOffic...	SoftwarePoli...	Determines if Windows' file and folder picker should be used. If false, the LibreOffice's ...	<input type="checkbox"/> bool	<input type="checkbox"/> bool
9	LibreOffic...	SoftwarePoli...	Determines if Windows' print dialog should be used. If false, the LibreOffice's own, plat...	<input type="checkbox"/> bool	<input type="checkbox"/> bool
10	LibreOffic...	SoftwarePoli...	Describes the range and current size of the picklist shown inside the menu. Range: 0 - 100	string	<input type="checkbox"/> bool
11	LibreOffic...	SoftwarePoli...	Describes the range and current size of the history list. Range: 0 - 1000	string	<input type="checkbox"/> bool
12	LibreOffic...	SoftwarePoli...	Save AutoRecovery information	<input type="checkbox"/> bool	<input type="checkbox"/> bool
13	LibreOffic...	SoftwarePoli...	Save the document, too, when AutoRecovery information is saved	<input type="checkbox"/> bool	<input type="checkbox"/> bool
14	LibreOffic...	SoftwarePoli...	Save AutoRecovery information in every __ minutes	30	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bool
15	LibreOffic...	SoftwarePoli...	Always create backup copy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bool
16	LibreOffic...	SoftwarePoli...	Edit document property before saving.Specifies that the Properties dialog will appear e...	<input type="checkbox"/> bool	<input type="checkbox"/> bool
17	LibreOffic...	SoftwarePoli...	Load user-specific settings with the document	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bool	<input type="checkbox"/> bool
18	LibreOffic...	SoftwarePoli...	Indicates that the decimal separator (dot or comma) is used as appropriate for the sel...	<input type="checkbox"/> bool	<input type="checkbox"/> bool
19	LibreOffic...	SoftwarePoli...	Specifies the default document language - Western.	string	<input type="checkbox"/> bool
20	LibreOffic...	SoftwarePoli...	Specifies the default document language - CJK.	string	<input type="checkbox"/> bool
21	LibreOffic...	SoftwarePoli...	Specifies the default document language - CTL.	string	<input type="checkbox"/> bool
22	LibreOffic...	SoftwarePoli...	Indicates whether changes to the system input language/keyboard will be ignored. If ig...	<input type="checkbox"/> bool	<input type="checkbox"/> bool
23	LibreOffic...	SoftwarePoli...	Contains the user's desktop locale setting.	string	<input type="checkbox"/> bool
24	LibreOffic...	SoftwarePoli...	Specifies the UI language. An empty string means: use the desktop's UI language if poss...	string	<input type="checkbox"/> bool
25	LibreOffic...	SoftwarePoli...	Indicates the currency settings defined by the user. By default, this label is empty and t...	string	<input type="checkbox"/> bool

Package Management

- LibreOffice Central Configuration XML Editor (Qt application) → XML config file
- Shell scripts → RPM, DEB, (OXT)
- Versioned packages, different packages for different host groups
- Deploy packages with Remote Root

Summary

- What's new?
 - Windows registry backend
 - Tools
- Windows AD
 - Configuration with GPOs
- Linux
 - Create config packages with GUI editor
 - Deploy config packages with Remote Root