

Thursday, August 11, 2011

Veronica, thank you for your enquiry about macro tools in Word. I have spent the past 15 years (seems like fifty!) developing Word macros to do the things that Microsoft Word says can't be done.

I have outlined below a part of my range of tools which (outline) may serve to prompt your client to offer specific problems.

I am sure that I have the solution here somewhere, and if not, I know I have the skills to produce a solution.

Under The Hood

I am enclosing a recent list of macros from "Under The Hood" which, as the name implies, holds tools do tweak and manipulate documents.

The examples below serve to give you an idea of the variety of tasks which make Document processing faster and consistent.

Example 1:

modStyles	DeleteUnwantedStyles
	This macro deletes unwanted styles, not in the half-hearted manner of Microsoft Word, but by cataloguing the styles assigned to paragraphs in the document and deleting those styles which do not appear in the catalogue. (Microsoft Word retains styles that were once in use, even though no paragraphs using that style are in the document)

Example 2:

modTextChange	GlueLetters
	This macro glues 1-line paragraphs together to form coherent paragraphs.
	Typical use is text pasted from an email; if one paragraph ends with a lower-case letter and the next paragraph starts with a lower-case letter, the two paragraphs are joined by eliminating the intervening paragraphs mark.

Example 3:

modTable	AutoFormatAllTables
	This macro solicits an AutoFormat style from the user, just once, and applies that style to all tables in the document.
	This beats the heck out of selecting a style 30 times, once for each of 30 tables in a document.

Nearby you will see an example of my SmartSelect technology. If the selection point is embedded within a table, that table is said to be fractionally selected, while following tables are said to be Entire. One can thus select a set of 30 tables and apply one formatting style to the first and last (“Fractional”) tables, and a different style to the 28 (“Entire”) tables within the selection.

Example 4:

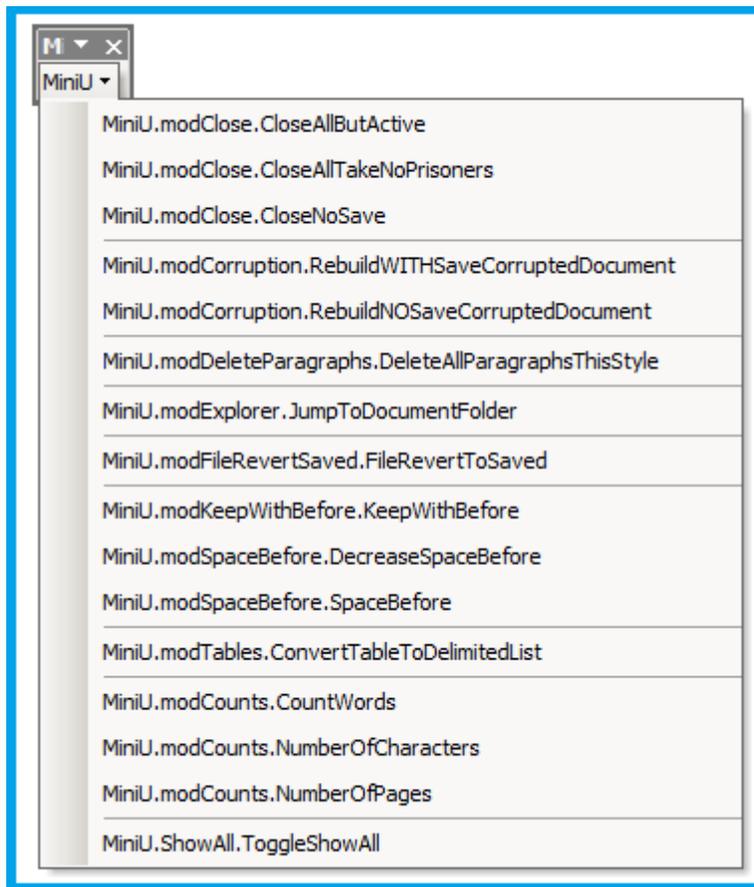
modFiles	SaveAsSelectionTitleCase
----------	--------------------------

This macro uses the selected text, in Proper case, to save a document.

If the document was previously saved, the save takes place in the original folder (“cloning a document”), otherwise a folder is solicited from the user.

MiniU

This is a stripped-down version of Under, designed for the timid.



MiniU is a sampler of Under.

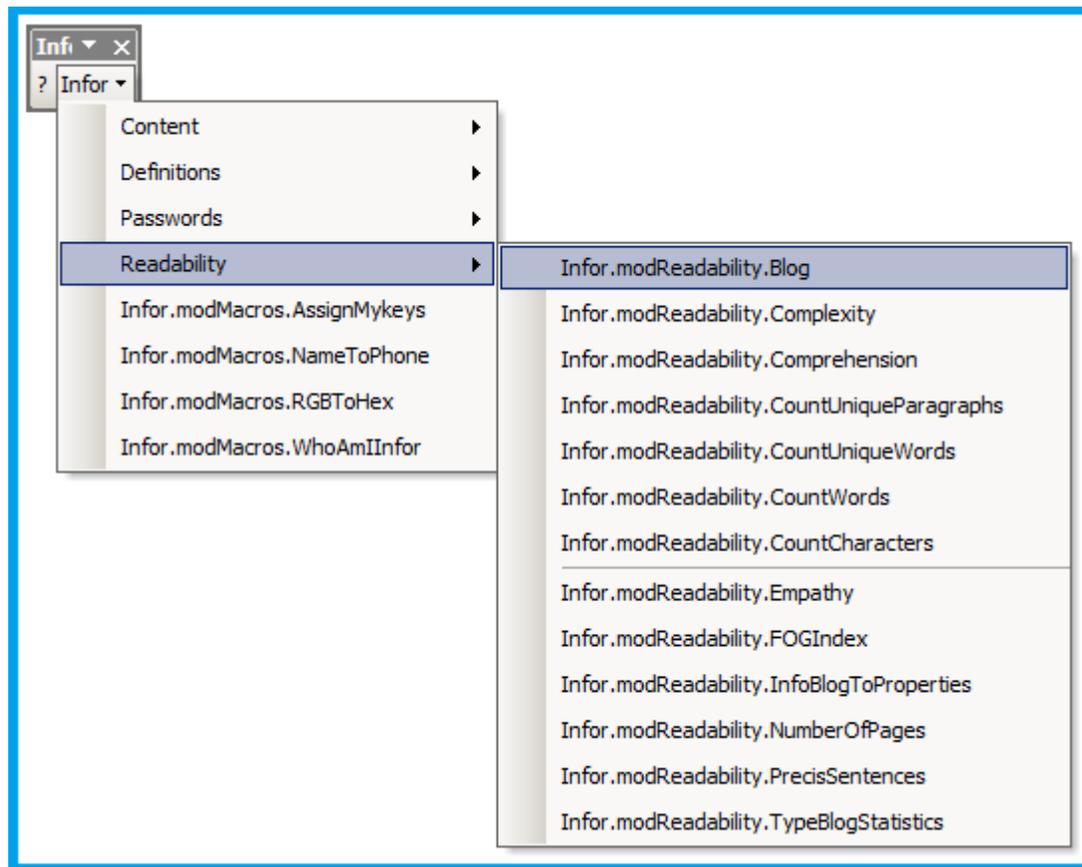
“CloseAllButActive” will clear the desktop of all opened documents (without saving) except for the active document. (“THIS is the one I want!”)

“DeleteAllParagraphsThisStyle” is the fastest way I know to trim unwanted (usually detailed) text from a document. If the cursor is in a “Body text” styled paragraph, then all paragraphs in “Body Text” style will be deleted.

“ToggleShowAll” does what Microsoft Word’s silly paragraph-mark button claims to do, but doesn’t. “ToggleShowAll” toggles every visibility setting, all on (REALLY see what’s going on Under The Hood) or all off.

Infor

Another spin-off from Under.



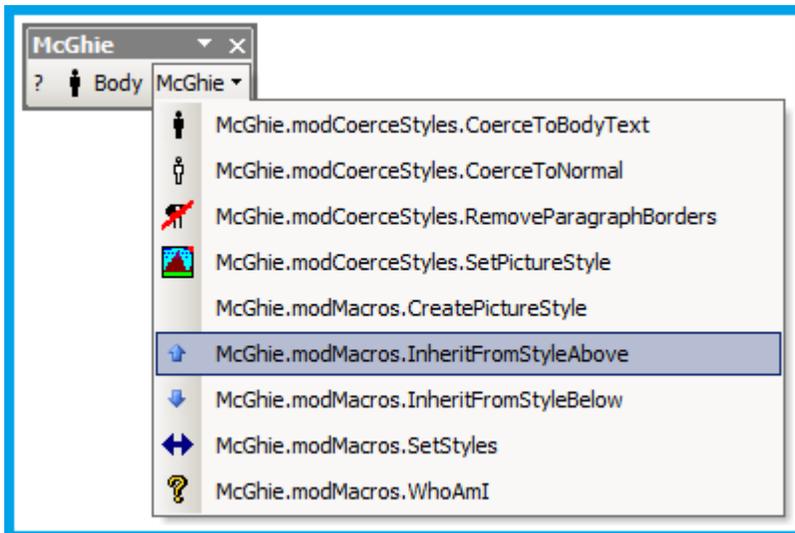
Infor aims to deliver useful information about a document.

The definitions module shells out to your browser with several online dictionary sources defining the selected word.

Readability.Blog maintains a running before/after readout of various factors in a document (FOG index, Empathy, Complexity etc.)

McGhie

This mini-application is based on John McGhie's excellent paper on styles.



“SetStyles” will build a hierarchical set of basic styles based on a typeface and font size solicited from the user.

“CoerceToBodyText” will coerce paragraphs employing a family of GENERIC common styles into a common style “Body Text”.

In its current manifestation it coerces Normal, Text 1, Text 2, Text 3, Text 4, Normal, and HTML to “Body Text”; it being understood that “Normal” generically encompasses ‘Normal’, “Normal Web” and so on.

Applications

Besides these desktop tools I have assembled a slew of applications over the years.

One the phone I mentioned the XML-like definition text file (output from *MIF* (Maker Interchange *Format*)) from which I develop a Microsoft Word template with the corresponding styles defined as accurately as possible.

I have installation tools such as the Styles Cross-reference (1-page PDF attached).