

BorderLiner

*An Openoffice.org extension to draw borders in Calc and Writer tables
and other objects just with a couple of key strokes*



BorderLiner - V 1.3.1
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First edition: 5-Aug-06



The macro BorderLiner is available at <http://oomacros.org>
Intermediate development steps can also be downloaded from
<http://home.tiscali.de/hillerd> > Various > Software

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Overview

BorderLiner provides a simple method to draw borders in tables and some text elements in OpenOffice.org Calc and Writer.

Define the border style in a dialog or pick it from an existing cell, select the cell(s) or text elements and assign the border with some key strokes.

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The Original Documentation is "BorderLiner". The Initial Writer(s) of the Original Documentation is Dietmar Hiller© 2006-2007. All Rights Reserved. (Initial Writer contact(s): hillerd@tiscali.de.)

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The herein described extension BorderLiner is subject to the GNU Lesser General Public License (LGPL). A copy of the LGPL is available at <http://www.gnu.org/licenses/lgpl.html>.

Feedback

Suggestions for improvement of the macro and the documentation are more than welcome!

Please contact me at

my user-ID *hillerd* in Germany (.de) at *tiscali*

The released macro BorderLiner is available at <http://oomacros.org>.

Intermediate development steps can be downloaded from

<http://home.cablesurf.de/dhiller> > Various > Software

This extension is free of charge to you. Nevertheless, to satisfy my curiosity I would be glad to receive a post-card of your home town, if you like and use this extension.

My postal address is: Dietmar Hiller, Dom-Pedro-Str. 22, 80637 Muenchen, Germany.

Modifications and updates

Version	Date	Description of Change
0.1	05-Aug-06	Initial edition issued with basic functionality
0.2	22-Aug-06	Added dialog to set line style Added option to set borders for entire table or for each cell Improved border functionality Improved installation creates toolbar with button
1.0	26-Sept-06	Added drawing capabilities to text tables and other text elements Improved installer (requires OOo 2.0.3 or later) Added feature to pick line style The macro now terminates when the document is closed
1.1	16-Dec-06	Added using with hidden dialog Memorizes dialog position
1.2	08-Feb-07	Allow multiple selections in CALC sheets
1.3	10-Mar-07	Providing a selection of line styles with preview Exchange color model of RGB with HSL, which is more intuitive.
1.3.1	25-Apr-07	Bugfix for OpenOffice.org 2.2 distributed with Ubuntu 7.04

Installation

Requirements

This macro was developed and tested on Linux Ubuntu 6.10 with OpenOffice.org 2.2. It was also tried on Windows XP/SP2 and OpenOffice.org 2.0.4.

It will also run under younger versions of OpenOffice.org 2.0.x (without some cosmetic features). You might need to rename *BorderLiner.oxt* to *BorderLiner.zip* (it was reported that version 1.3 worked this way under 2.0.2). Whether it runs under OpenOffice.org 1.x is unknown to me.

Desktop

Together with this documentation, you will have received the installation file *BorderLiner.oxt*. It may be packed in a zip-file. Copy *BorderLiner.oxt* into a temporary folder, it will be used for installation with the Package Manager.

For installation, start OpenOffice.org and go to the menu item **Tools > Package Manger**. Select **My Packages** and **Add *BorderLiner.oxt***.

If you upgrade the macro from a previous version, you will receive a warning. This warning is positioned behind the window of the *Extension Manager*, so that you have to move that to the side in order to confirm overwriting.

You will find a new toolbar **BorderLiner** in **View > Toolbars** with a button to call this macro in your applications **Calc** and **Writer**. If the toolbar is not available, please close and restart OpenOffice.org.

If you prefer to place the macro in another toolbar, create a new toolbar with the menu item **View > Toolbars > Customize > Toolbars > New**. In this toolbar the macro can now be added with **Add > OpenOffice.org Macros > My Macros > BorderLiner > Main > Main**. The macro is now called *Main*, to rename it use **Modify > Rename**. To set the icon use again **Modify > Change Icon > Import**. Go to the directory where the macro is installed (use the explorer search function to find

the file *BorderLiner_16.bmp* – e.g. in Windows in *Documents and Settings*). Set the type to *BMP* and select the icon. Find this icon in the gallery and close the actions with *OK*.

Portable OpenOffice.org

The Package Manager might not work in portable OpenOffice.org. But there is the possibility to install the macro manually.

Copy the directory *BorderLiner* from *BorderLiner.oxt* in the directory *\PortableOpenOffice\settings\user\basic*.

The following files in *\PortableOpenOffice\settings\user\basic* have to be edited manually. Add the following lines directly above the line "`</library:libraries>`".

dialog.xlc:

```
<library:library library:name="BorderLiner"
xlink:href="$(USER)/basic/BorderLiner/dialog.xlb/" xlink:type="simple"
library:link="false"/>
```

script.xls:


```
<library:library library:name="BorderLiner"
xlink:href="$(USER)/basic/BorderLiner/script.xlb/" xlink:type="simple"
library:link="false"/>
```

You can now call the macro via the menu item **Tools > Macro > Run Macro**. You might get an error message about the Java Runtime Engine (JRE). As long as your PC has JRE installed, the message can be ignored. Start the macro with **My Macros > BorderLiner > Main > Main**.

To assign the macro to a toolbar follow the instructions above.

Usage

Defining the line style

Click on the icon  of the toolbar to start the dialog to set the line styles.

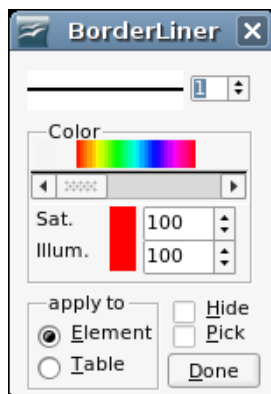



















Image 1: Dialog

The following settings can be done:

- **Linestyle**
A selection of 17 predefined line styles is available. These are also the only line styles available in text tables (see also "known issues").

Linestyle	Number
- Keine -	0
 0,05 pt	1
 0,50 pt	2
 1,00 pt	3
 2,50 pt	4
 4,00 pt	5
 5,00 pt	6
 1,10 pt	7
 2,60 pt	8
 3,00 pt	9
 7,50 pt	10
 3,55 pt	11
 5,05 pt	12
 6,55 pt	13
 6,00 pt	14
 4,50 pt	15
 9,00 pt	16
 9,00 pt	17

- `Color: hue, saturation, illumination`
Defines the color of the line. The color is shown in the adjacent bar.
Hue defines the basic color. The lower the saturation of a color, the more "grayness" is present and the more faded the color will appear. Reducing the illumination darkens the color.
For gray colors (including black and white), set the saturation to 0 and adjust the brightness. Hue has no significance here.
- `apply to:`
Element - applies the line to each selected element
Table - applies the line to the entire table
see below for details
- `Hide`
Checking this box hides the dialog immediately. This comes very handy, if you only intend to pick and draw lines from the keyboard. Use the "0" key to toggle dialog visibility.
- `Pick`
Check this box to pick the line style from the document. This enables easy setting of the same border style to a series of objects.
- `Done`
The macro is terminated by clicking on `Done` or by pressing the `ESC` key while drawing.

The settings of the dialog are kept as long as OpenOffice.org is running. When you re-open the dialog, the previous settings are shown again. Also the position of the dialog is preserved during the entire OpenOffice.org session.

Drawing the borders

After having defined the line style in the dialog, select the table or the element you want to apply this border to.

Also the status line shows that the macro is active:

Borderliner 1.3 - Press 1 to 9 to draw a line, ESC to stop, 0 to toggle dialog

Image 2: Statusbar

With the following key strokes the lines are drawn:

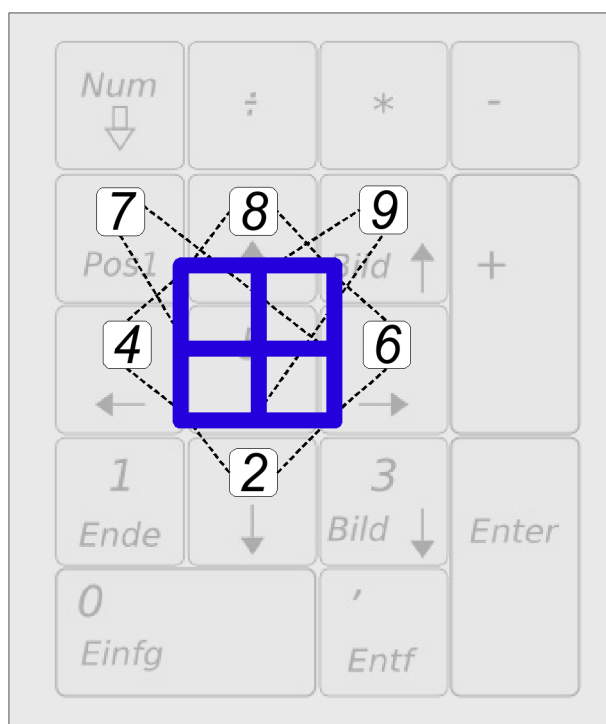


Image 3: Keystrokes for Table

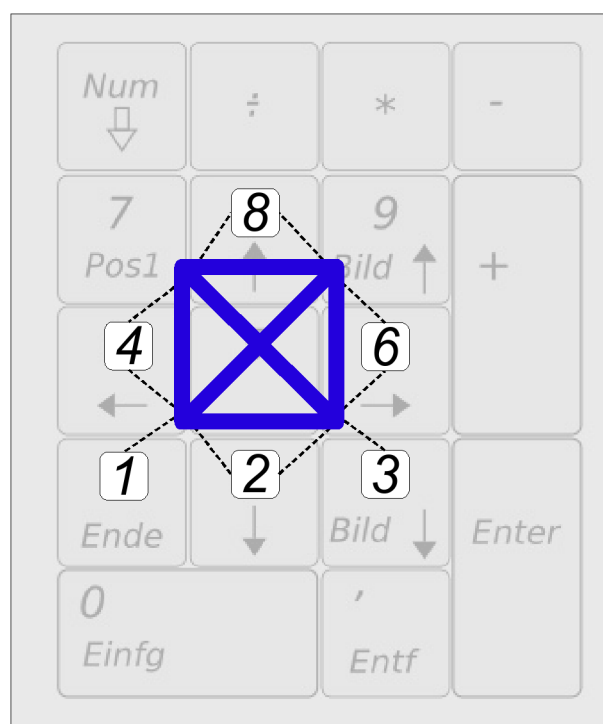


Image 4: Keystrokes for Elements

Always 2, 4, 6 and 8 draw the bottom, left, right and top line. For tables 7 draws the horizontal lines and 9 the vertical lines inside the table, whereas for elements 1 and 3 draw diagonal lines in Calc cells. An underlying numeric keypad is shown to ease memorizing the key strokes.

Deleting a line can be done by holding the `Shift` key and pressing the corresponding key. Also setting the line style to 0 in the dialog is possible.



In OpenOffice.org the borderline belongs to a cell and not to the border between the two adjacent cells. This means that a line that was drawn as a bottom line of one cell cannot be cleared by removing the top line of the cell below.

If a feature is not available (e.g. diagonal line in tables), a sound is played.



While the macro is running, the application can be used as usual. Only the keys 0 to 9 are not available.

The macro is terminated by pressing the `ESC` key in the document or by hitting the `Done` button.

Picking a line style

It is possible to read the border line style from existing cells if you want to apply the same borders to other cells.

Mark the `Pick` checkbox in the dialog and then press the number key (e.g. "2" for bottom line) in the cell whose line style you want to copy. The border settings are read to the dialog. The `Pick` checkbox is cleared automatically so that you can apply the same border style to other cells immediately. `CTRL-2` would do the same job.

The same keystrokes as for drawing a borderline are also valid here.



Because the borderline belongs to a cell and not to the border between the two adjacent cells, a line that was drawn as a bottom line of one cell could be different to the top line of the cell below. Only one of the two is displayed and picked.

Where the borders can be drawn

The toolbar is only available in *Writer* and in *Calc*.

Calc

An `Element` in *Calc* is the individual cell, whereas the `Table` is the entire selection. Therefore, with `apply to set to Element`, e.g. a bottom line would be drawn to each cell of the selection in Image 5, whereas if set to `Table`, only the cells CK383:CP383 and CK396:CP396 would have a bottom line drawn.

This example also shows that the selection of non-adjacent cells is possible.

	A	CK	CL	CM	CN	CO	CP
1	Totals	2007-01-13	2007-01-20	2007-01-27	2007-02-03	2007-02-10	2007-02-17
2	Mail Lists Posts (for current mail stats click)	2.790	2.662	2.730	2.836	3.101	2.851
3	Total from Web (All discussion lists)	2.742	2.645	2.724	2.806	3049	2.846
378							
379	Unique Subscribers						
380	Without announce@ included						
381	Members (reg. SourceCast users)						
382	CVS Commits (overall)						
383	Registration Page			132.704	143.173	143.766	135.418
384	JCA signatories						
385							
386	Overall Downloads*			530479	561526	542777	520191
387	Source (Total)						
388	Binaries (Total)			530479	561526	542777	520191
389	(see Years4 for the missing 8.3M)						
390							
391	Download Pages Hits (total)	576284	537925	530479	561526	542777	520191
392							
393	Contribute Page (for all downloads)	139.926	134.799	194.321	209.991	207.160	215.743
394							
395	Total binaries (some duplication)	576284	537925	530479	561526	542777	520191
396	Binaries (unique)	290.215	278.535	273.830	297.247	278.660	267.483
397	Beta						
398	RC						
399	Source (stable)						
400	680	4.094	6.146	9.393	6.173	5.916	n/a
401	P2p	27.083	26.653	25.980	27.228	27.289	24.690
402	dev source						
403	Mac OS X	26.873	16.090	16.384	17.174	16.966	18.462
404	FreeBSD						

Image 5: Drawing borders in *Calc* (example taken from <http://stats.openoffice.org/spreadsheet/index.html>)

Writer

In *Writer*, selecting a range of cells and choosing `Elements`, assigns the borderline to that range, not to each cell of the range. So the behavior is identical to choosing `Table` in *Calc*.

`Table` marks the entire table, the cursor is in, independent of the selection.

2006-07-08	2006-07-15	2006-07-22
49.684	35.045	31.271
15.061	13.106	13.997

Image 6: Drawing borders in *Writer* tables

The black borders were drawn by placing the cursor in the table and applying the keystrokes to the table. The blue lines were created by selecting the first row of the table and applying the keystrokes to the elements.

Additionally to Writer tables, borders can also be drawn to other elements:

to simple paragraphs

Make sure to set some space below the paragraph in the `format` menu, otherwise the line might not be visible.

to frames



Impress and Draw

Because tables in *Impress* and *Draw* are Calc objects, BorderLiner also works on tables in these applications.

BorderLiner does not work on text frames in *Draw* and *Impress*. These frames are drawing-objects and the borderline is realized with a different feature.

What's next?

- Known issues currently under investigation
 - A bug was observed when using BorderLiner over various Calc sheets: the keylistener was not terminated properly after ending the macro. Workaround: close and restart OpenOffice.org.
 - If the application is closed while the macro is running, OpenOffice.org crashes after having closed all files. Closing just the document while the macro is running causes no problem. Best practice is to terminate the macro before closing the application.
 - In *Writer* the borderline is currently applied to the cell range when `Elements` is selected not to each cell in.
- Version 2.0:
 - substitution of dialog with enhanced features of the toolbar
- Version "later":
 - Drawing with mouse instead of or additional to keys
Note: mouse pointer cannot be set to pencil (missing OOo feature)
- Know issues that cannot or are not planned to be resolved
 - OpenOffice.org uses only those line widths and distances in text tables as they are predefined in *BorderLiner*; other settings would get lost after saving. See also the issue "[Issue 69608] Writer table double borders assigned by macro are lost after saving" (http://www.openoffice.org/issues/show_bug.cgi?id=69608). Current OOo target milestone is 2.x.

- In double lines, the top line shows in Writer the one in the internal part of the cell, whereas it is the top or left one in Calc. See also issue "http://www.openoffice.org/issues/show_bug.cgi?id=74826".

Acknowledgments

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Villeroy (<http://www.oooforum.org/forum/viewtopic.phtml?p=209595#209595>) and Paolo Mantovani (private communication) for showing me how to change images interactively in dialogs.

Wikipedia (<http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/HSV-Farbraum>) for explaining the conversion between the RGB and HSV color spaces.

all the contributors of oooforum.org (<http://www.oooforum.org/forum/viewforum.phtml?f=9>), especially

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- ms777, pitonyak

Andrew Pitonyak, his document "AdrewMacro.odt" (<http://www.pitonyak.org/AndrewMacro.odt>), especially chapter "7.1.1. Is the cursor in a text table?"