This is my first interactive .pdf. Created with LibreOffice, 13 Jan 23. Vers 14 Jan 23, 10:53

Text which is in blue should NOT be interactive in the .pdf version of this.

For more stuff like this, many topics, see...

   https://sheepdogsoftware.co.uk/

This document was created to demonstrate that LibreOffice can easily create interactive .pdf's.

(It isn't specific to *interactive* .pdf's created with LibreOffice, but there's an addional LibreOffice .pdf feature which might interest you: They can be password protected. I think if you are REALLY clever, you can even give people read-only access, with a second password needed to go further, and do edits... but I haven't cracked that part yet!)

My thanks to https://www.techrepublic.com/article/how-to-create-interactive-pdfs-with-libreoffice/ for the information about how to do this with Libre Office, including my first lessons in some of the interactive elements added.

AND to .. and https://www.maketecheasier.com/create-a-pdf-with-fillable-forms-in-libreoffice/

AND to Computer Active magazine, UK, for mentioning that another open office could do it, inspiring me to see if LibreOffice can, too.

To the right of this (which should not be interactive), you should see a text box, which should be interactive.............

There are a couple of "gotchas" to creating the text box, or subsequently moving it or re-sizing it.

The first thing you need to know is that Libre Office applies the name "Text box" to two different things (!-not helpful!)

The text box in the box to the right of this was created with the icon on the main toolbar, the "quick and easy" text box for everyday need. The icon with the "A"...

This is in a "text box", but the text CANNOT be edited in the pdf.

(The icon to get that kind of "text box" is part of the "Standard" toolbar.)

But! You can't use that one, if you want an interactive text box. (The border around it was NOT part of what using the "Standard toolbar" "text box"... I added that simply by adding a "shape" to the document.)

To get one of those, use View/ Toolbars to turn on the Form Controls "toolbar"...

The icon you want is again the one with an "A", but this time there's also the vertical "bone"... it's meant to be the insertion point.

You need to be in the "Design" mode to have the icons enabled. Click the second-from-left icon (set-square) to get into Design Mode, if you aren't already there.

Drag one of those controls out on your document. A "gotcha": Click on the icon. Move mouse pointer onto your document. Press down left button... and move the mouse. If you release the button before you've moved the mouse, you will cancel the process. (Click on the icon again to restart it.)
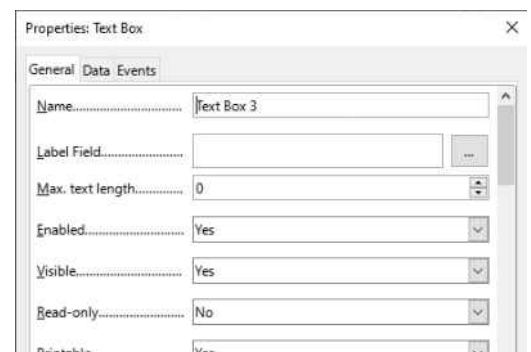
Now... the following might all seem like "just too much trouble". But is it? Don't you like to have options, like to be able to set something up just the way you want it? I think the following "complexity" is a small price to pay, and, really, not so bad once you get the hang of it....

If you haven't already got a "Properties: Text box" secondary window on your desktop, double-click on the text box form control you just added to your document. (I've done another a little further down this document.)

Change the "Read-Only" property to "No".

Change "Text-Type" to multiline.

Change the "Default Text", if only to "Put answer here", or somesuch. (Click on the down arrow next to the "Default text" edit box to do enter your text more easily.)
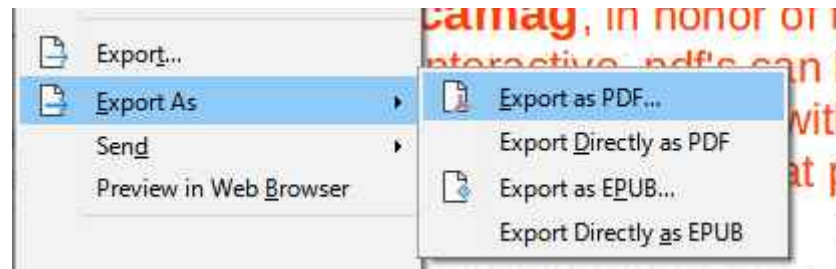
... and you are Good To Go! The text in that text box can be edited in the .pdf you will create! (While you are in Design Mode, the word wrapping may be... odd. To see what the default text will look like in the finished document, turn Design Mode off briefly.

Save your document in the usual way, so you can go back, do revisions later.

And then use...

... to create your interactive .pdf. (If you want to add the password frill, go to the "Security" tab. You only need to set the first one, the one for opening the .pdf.)

A scary "Gotcha"....

If, later, you open the .odt document to make some changes, generate a new version of the .pdf, you may be alarmed at first when you can't select any of your text boxes!

Don't worry! If this happens, you are not yet in Design Mode. Go into that, the same way you diod before, and all will be well. Whew.

Friends say I'm never happy. It may be true. I looked for a way to create more space between the lines around the text in the text box and the lines. Couldn't find it. If you find it, let me know? (wywtk.com (for **W**hat **Y**ou **W**ant **T**o **K**now!)

Fancier controls... I don't think there's any "special" bits to using the other things on the form controls toolbar in an interactive .pdf. Some are not simple-simple at the best of times... Here are a few I played with. I don't know if you are tired of reading. I am tired of working. I'm not writing up all the details I learned while putting these on the form...

Jobs done...

☐ Email answered
☐ Dog walked
☐ Breathe

○ I like coffee
○ I like tea
○ I don't like either

(Though I said I wouldn't help here, I will mention that if when OUT of Design Mode you ticked a Check Box, then when you go back to Design Mode you'll tear your hair because it LOOKS like the "box" for the check (tick) has been lost. Sigh.)

And on that happy(?) note, I'll leave you.

More such at https://sheepdogsoftware.co.uk/ (Of course, there must be a way to make that a clickable link. Sigh.)