

Co:Writer 6 Additional Supports

Upgrade or Share Files

Co:Writer has two types of files which you might want to upgrade or share: Topic Dictionaries and your personal user files – your Co:Writer Preferences, Personal Dictionary, Collected Words Dictionary, and Recent Words list.

The compatibility questions are: can these file be shared

- across platforms: from Macintosh to Windows or vice-versa, and/or
- across versions: from older versions of Co:Writer to the current version

Topic Dictionaries

All Topic Dictionaries are cross-platform compatible. They were first available with Co:Writer 4000 and can be shared with newer versions. They can also be used with Co:Writer for NEO and with the Co:Writer SmartApplet for the AlphaSmart 3000. They cannot be used with pre-4000 versions of Co:Writer.

For considerations in bringing previous dictionaries forward, see Upgrade from an Earlier Co:Writer. For details of transferring files, see Topic Dictionary Compatibility.

Co:Writer User Files

Files for individual users are: Preferences, Personal Dictionary, Collected Words, and Recent Words. All of these are cross-platform compatible.

The user files can only be used with Co:Writer 6 and later versions. They can not be used with Co:Writer SE or earlier versions of Co:Writer.

The best way to bring user preferences forward is to modify these settings in your new Co:Writer. See Set Preferences.

Upgrade from an Earlier Co:Writer

The Co:Writer installer does not erase or change previous versions of Co:Writer.

Topic Dictionaries

Co:Writer ships with all of the Topic Dictionaries that were on the Don Johnston web site as of April 15, 2009. This includes those shipped with previous versions plus many more. Many of the Topics shipped with earlier versions have also been updated — Co:Writer contains the most current dictionaries at time this version was finalized.

- If you made no changes to the dictionaries you received with your earlier Co:Writer, you can simply use the ones shipped with Co:Writer — there is no need to transfer Topic Dictionaries from an earlier Co:Writer.
- If you have SOLO-created Topics in Co:Writer SE, you can copy or move those files from the Co:Writer SE SOLO Topics folder to one of the newer Co:Writer Topics folders. See Topic Dictionary Compatibility.
- If you edited the Topics you received with an earlier version, or if you created your own, you can move or copy them to the newer Co:Writer. See Topic Dictionary Compatibility.

Note: Do not create subfolders inside a Topics folder — all Topic Dictionaries must be at one level. To assign Topics to categories, use the Organize page of Manage Topics.

Writer Files, User Files, Preferences

Each user of Co:Writer can have individual Preferences (settings for display, prediction, speech, scanning, and vocabulary) and a user-specific Personal Dictionary, Collected Words Dictionary, and Recent Words. In

Co:Writer SE and earlier, this information was stored in a single "writer file" for each user. Beginning with Co:Writer 6, this information is no longer in a single file for each user. Instead, it is stored in a group of separate, dedicated user files within a single folder for each user.

The best way to bring Co:Writer preferences forward from Co:Writer SE or earlier is to recreate these settings in your new Co:Writer. You can customize the **Default User** or create a new user with your own name.

- A quick and easy way to start customizing is to Use the Setup Wizard -- you may see templates or options that were not available in previous versions.
- If you are experienced with Co:Writer settings, you can use the Preference Window to customize basic settings and branch from there to the Settings and Vocabulary dialogs.

If you had a large number of Personal or Collected Words in your previous version of Co:Writer and want to bring them forward to the new version, contact Don Johnston Technical Support at www.donjohnston.com/support.

Topic Dictionary Compatibility across Platforms and Versions

Platforms

Topic Dictionaries for Co:Writer are **cross-platform compatible** — you may readily use any Topic Dictionary on either Macintosh or Windows, regardless of what machine was used to create it.

They can also be used with Co:Writer for NEO and with the Co:Writer SmartApplet for the AlphaSmart 3000, but they cannot be created or edited with that software. You must have Co:Writer 4000 or newer to create or edit Topic Dictionaries.

Versions of Co:Writer

Topic Dictionaries were first offered with Co:Writer 4000. They can be used interchangeably with **Co:Writer 4000 or newer**. They cannot be used with older versions of Co:Writer. To transfer files, simply copy them to the correct location for the new version or platform.

Locations for Topic Dictionaries

[Co:Writer 6](#)

In Co:Writer 6, Topic Dictionaries are generally in one of three folders inside the CoWriter folder.

- **Topics** folder: for general-interest topics shipped with Co:Writer
- **Start-to-Finish Topics** folder: for Start-to-Finish Topics
- **My Topics** folder: for topics created by users after Co:Writer is installed

In some situations, such as restricted-user environments, you may have saved or want to save Topics to different locations than shown above. For example, users with restricted access may need to store new or modified Topic Dictionaries on a thumb drive or on a particular networked drive. Co:Writer 6 provides access to dictionaries in these other locations through use of the Add Locations button and the **_Other Locations** category.

[Co:Writer SE](#)

In Co:Writer SE, Topic Dictionaries are generally in one of three locations:

- Don Johnston / CoWriter / **Topics** folder: for general Topics available to all writers.
- Don Johnston / **Common** folder: for Start-to-Finish Topics or for automatically created SOLO Topics.

- Don Johnston / CoWriter / Users / **individual user's** folder: for Topics created or edited for an individual user. These were available only to that user. You might want to move these to the Co:Writer 6 **My Topics** folder.

Co:Writer 4000

In Co:Writer 4000, Topic Dictionaries are usually in one of two locations:

- Don Johnston / CoWriter / **Topics** folder: for general Topics available to all writers. This includes Start-to-Finish Topics which may have been added to your system.
- Don Johnston / CoWriter / **My Topics** folder: This contained Personalized Topics Dictionaries, automatically saved in this location when a Topic was edited using Edit Active Dictionaries. You could move these to the Co:Writer 6 My Topics folder.

For information on where to place Topic Dictionaries you download from the Internet or that you receive from other sources, see [Where to Store Downloaded Topics](#).

Note: With Co:Writer 4.1, Topic Dictionaries could be stored in subfolders inside the Topics folder. These subfolders then appeared as categories when you used Select Topic Dictionaries. For later versions of Co:Writer, do not create subfolders inside the Topics folder. Instead, store the Topics at one level. To create or arrange categories, use the Organize page of Manage Topics.

Mac-to-Windows Note: Copying a Macintosh file to Windows will generally result in two files on Windows. The Windows file with the prefix '_' may be discarded. Example: The file 'Astronomy.cwz' on Mac, when copied to Windows will result in two files, 'Astronomy.cwz' and '_Astronomy.cwz'. The file beginning with '_' may be thrown out.

User Files Compatibility across Platforms and Versions

Certain files for Co:Writer are specific to an individual user: they are Preferences, Personal Dictionary, Collected Words Dictionary, and Recent Words.

In Co:Writer SE and earlier versions of Co:Writer, this information was stored in a single "writer file" for each user. Beginning with Co:Writer 6, this information is more accessible – it is stored in four separate files in a folder with your user name inside the CoWriter / CW Users folder.

These "user files" can be shared across platforms but cannot be used with Co:Writer SE or earlier versions of Co:Writer.

Platforms

All of the Co:Writer 6 user files are cross-platform compatible -- you may move any of them from Macintosh to Windows and vice versa.

The usual location of Co:Writer's user files:

- Windows: My Computer / C / Program Files / DonJohnston / CoWriter / CW Users / name of individual user
- Macintosh: Macintosh HD / Applications / Don Johnston / CoWriter / CW Users / name of individual user

Moving a Co: Writer Preference file from one platform to the other will preserve all of the original settings, with the possible exception of font and text size, voice, and alternate wakeup keys. For details, see the steps below.

[To transfer Co:Writer 6 Preferences, Personal Dictionary, Collected Words, and/or Recent Words files between computers:](#)

These instructions apply to transferring files between any two computers – they can be the same platform (Windows or Macintosh) or different platforms.

1. On the first computer, go to the Co:Writer / CW Users folder. Locate the **user name** folder for the files you want to share.

The files inside the folder are Collected.cwz, Personal.cwz, Preferences.xml, and RecentWords.txt.

2. Copy the files you want to share.

If the user you want to use on the second computer has not been created, you can do this by copying the **user-name folder**, rather than individual files.

If the user already exists on the second computer, you can copy just the files you want to transfer from within the folder.

3. On the second computer, go to the Co:Writer / CW Users folder for the location where you want to place the copied folder or files.
4. Paste the folder or files.
5. Re-launch Co:Writer on the second computer. Activate the user who has the new files.

Platform note: When you transfer the Preferences.xml file between Windows and Macintosh, all settings will be transferred correctly, with the possible exception of these settings:

- If you had made adjustments to the text font and size or the voice on the original platform, you may need to make similar adjustments on the new platform. To check or change the font size, see Text Font and Size. To check or change the voice, see Settings.
- If an alternate wakeup key was used on the original platform, the key may have been reset according to the listing for the new platform. See Use or Change the Wakeup Key to check or change the alternate wakeup key.

Dictionary Note: Co:Writer can use only one Personal Dictionary, one Collected Words dictionary, and one Recent Words file per user, and they must be named exactly as above and placed in the User name folder. To convert a Personal Dictionary to a Topic Dictionary, move or copy it to the Topics folder and give it a different name. Do not change the '.cwz' suffix.

Macintosh-to-Windows Note: Copying a Macintosh file to Windows will generally result in two files on Windows. The Windows file with the prefix '_' may be discarded. Example: The file 'Preferences.xml' on Macintosh, when copied to Windows will result in two files, 'Preferences.xml' and '_Preferences.xml'. The file beginning with '_' may be thrown out.

Versions of Co:Writer

Writer files created with the previous versions of Co:Writer are not compatible with Co:Writer 6. For ideas on bringing older preferences into the new Co:Writer, see Upgrade from an Earlier Co:Writer.

Important Note for Macintosh Users

In order for certain features of Co:Writer's Word Window to function properly with third-party software on your Macintosh, **Enable access for assistive devices** must be turned on in the **Universal Access** window.

This Macintosh access option enables Co:Writer to gain "context" information from software which supports Universal Access. With Co:Writer, if you are using Word Window and click in some previous part of your text, the context information helps Co:Writer to:

- provide guesses that are partly based on the existing words in that sentence,
- follow the cursor (dynamic Word Window only), and
- speak the word or words in this new location when you use Speak Word or Speak Sentence commands.

If you are only using Co:Writer with SOLO, no special settings are needed.

To activate the "enable access" feature:

1. From the Apple menu, select **System Preferences**.
2. In the System Preferences dialog, select **Universal Access**.
3. On the Seeing page, activate the option to **Enable access for assistive devices**.

For further information on using Co:Writer to edit existing text, see Revise Previous Text.

Technical Support

CUSTOMER SUCCESS

We're eager to know your challenges, your ideas, your experiences and successes. Call, write, or e-mail us.

Mail:

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Volo, IL 60073

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E-mail: info@donjohnston.com

When you e-mail or fax our customer success team, we will respond during normal circumstances within 24 hours on business days.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

We continue to offer free technical support with every Don Johnston product registered with us. If you haven't registered yet, mail your registration card today or call us. We can register you over the phone.

Mail: (same as above)

Phone:

Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm Central Time
800-889-5242
847-740-0749

Fax: 847-740-7326 (24 hours a day)

E-mail: support@donjohnston.com

When you e-mail or fax us for technical support, we will respond during normal circumstances within 24 hours on business days.

LATEST INFORMATION

For the latest information on new products, product updates, and the entire Don Johnston community, visit us on the World Wide Web:

www.donjohnston.com

Acknowledgements

Co:Writer 6 Additional Supports

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Kathryn M. Yorkston, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle

For details of word usage (verb pattern scheme, etc):

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, Fourth Edition, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1989 by A. S. Hornby, A. P. Cowie, Chief Editor

For details of English syntax:

A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language, Longman Group Limited, New York, 1985 [Seventh (corrected) impression, 1989], by Randolph Quirk, Sidney Greenbaum, Geoffrey Leech, and Jan Svartvik

For writing and spelling samples from beginning writers, kindergarten through third grade:

Alternative Elementary School II, Seattle, Washington
Wauconda Grade School, Wauconda, Illinois
Family, friends, and colleagues in Washington, Oregon, and Illinois

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