

Installing GroovyForOpenOffice

WARNING – THERE BE DRAGONS HERE

There is a reason that the default settings for macro security are usually quite strict. Macros in OpenOffice (as in Microsoft Office) run with the operating system permissions of the user that launched the office application. That means that a macro (whether by design as with a virus or trojan, or by accident as may occur in the normal course of computer programming and usage) may cause serious and unpredictable damage to your computer files, misbehave with your network, expose private information, or any number of other horrible things. At a minimum keep current backups of all your data and systems and only run macros that you trust.

EXTRA CAUTION – MEN AT WORK

GroovyForOpenOffice is under development and is certain to have defects and may perform unpredictably.

NO WARRANTY! – "AS IS"

Like OpenOffice itself, GroovyForOpenOffice is licensed under the Lesser GNU Public License (aka "LGPL"). To use GroovyForOpenOffice you must accept the terms of the LGPL which include agreeing that there is no warranty of any kind for this free software and that you may not hold anyone developing or distributing it liable for any kind of damages (see paragraphs 15 and 16 of the LGPL).

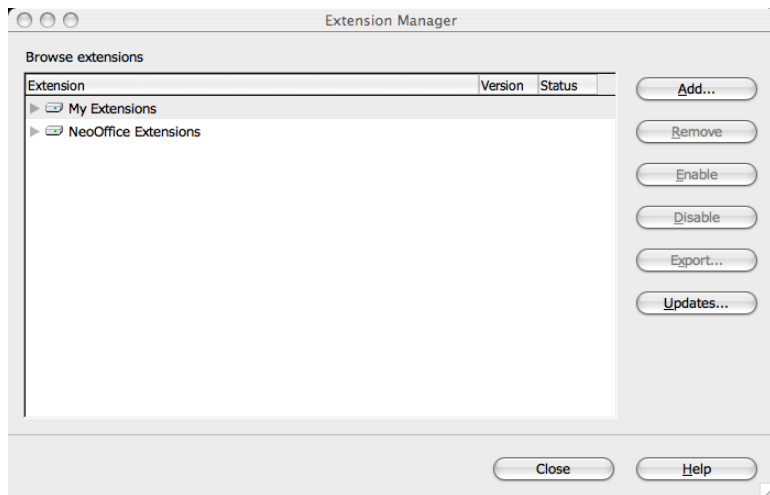
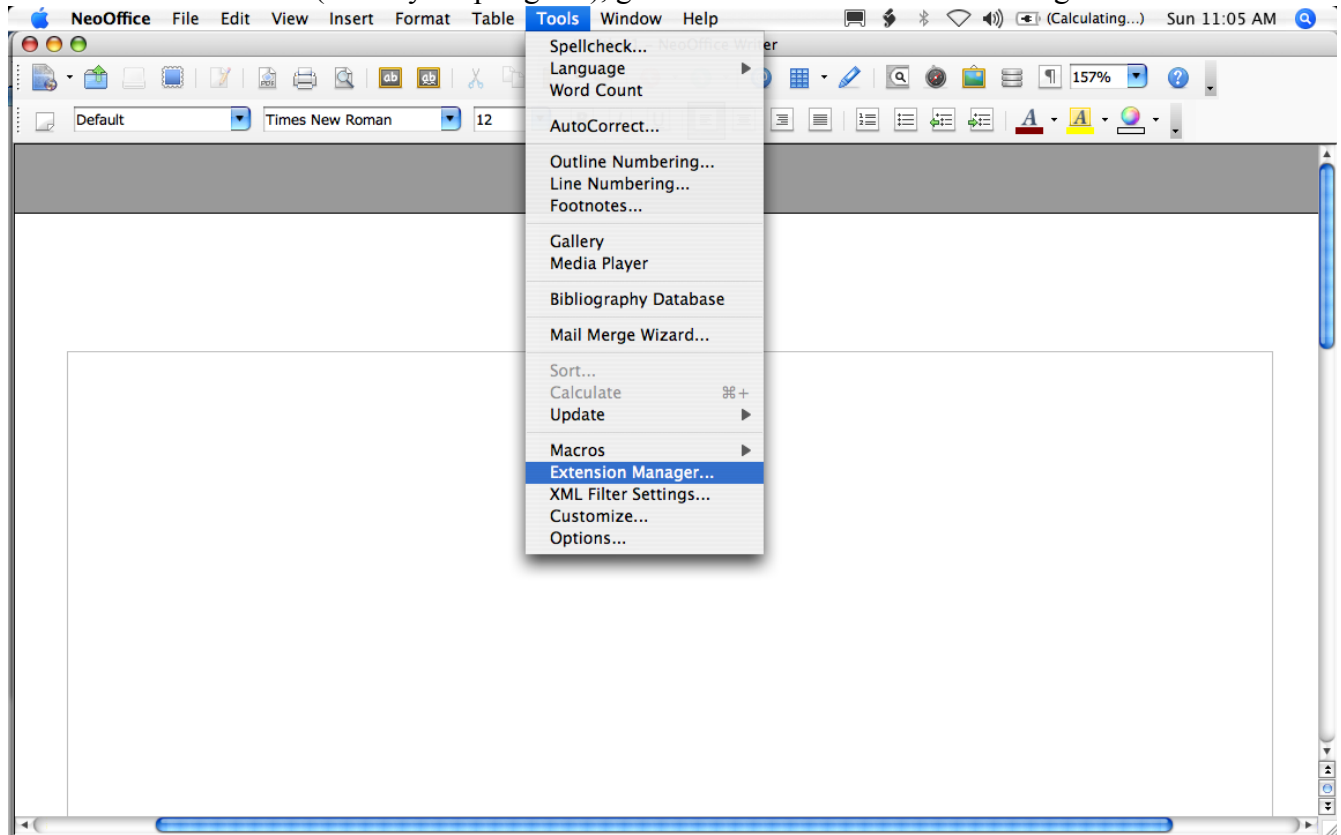
One Big Happy Family

Throughout this documentation I refer to "OpenOffice" as the application we're dealing with and yet the screenshots are (mostly) of NeoOffice. And you may be using StarOffice (version number difference?). Plus there are several significant releases actively being distributed (2.1, 2.2, and now 2.3 – if you're using 2.0 or earlier GroovyForOpenOffice is unlikely to work and it is time to upgrade anyhow). And perhaps Lotus Symphony will support OpenOffice Extensions (although it does not at the time of this writing).

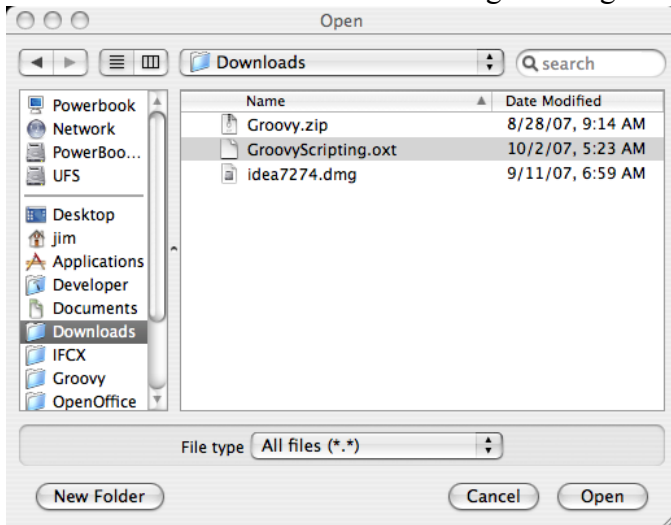
So you are likely to see some variation between what appears here vs. your operating system and "OpenOffice" installation, but most items should be in nearly the same locations and I trust you can make the translation. One tip though is that if you see "Tools : Package Manager" rather than "Tools : Extension Manager" then you are using 2.0 and will need to upgrade in order to use GroovyForOpenOffice.

Add The Extension

To install the extension (GroovyScripting.oxt), go to the "Tools : Extension Manager..." menu:



Click "Add..." in the Extension Manager dialog then choose the "GroovyScripting.oxt" file:

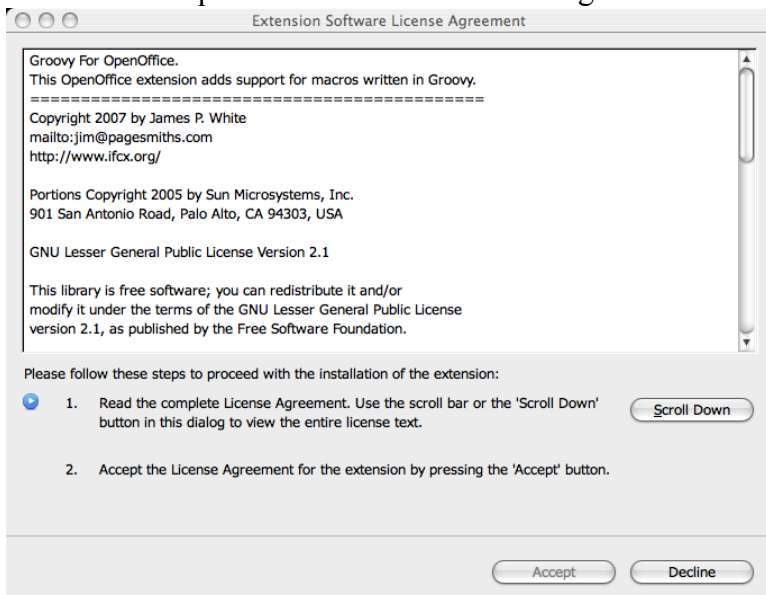


An Extension By Any Other Name May Not Smell As Sweet

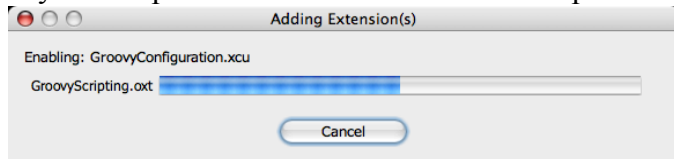
Beware that if you change the name of the OpenOffice Extension file then you may have a conflict with future installs or updates with the original name. If your download procedure has changed the extension, because some web browsers may append a ".zip" for example (OpenOffice extension files are actually ZIP files), then you should probably change the name back to "GroovyScripting.oxt".

Watch out also for file browsers that may be confusing you by hiding some file name extensions. If you are using OpenOffice 2.3, then you may disregard this concern over exact file naming because it has added an OpenOffice extension identifier scheme.

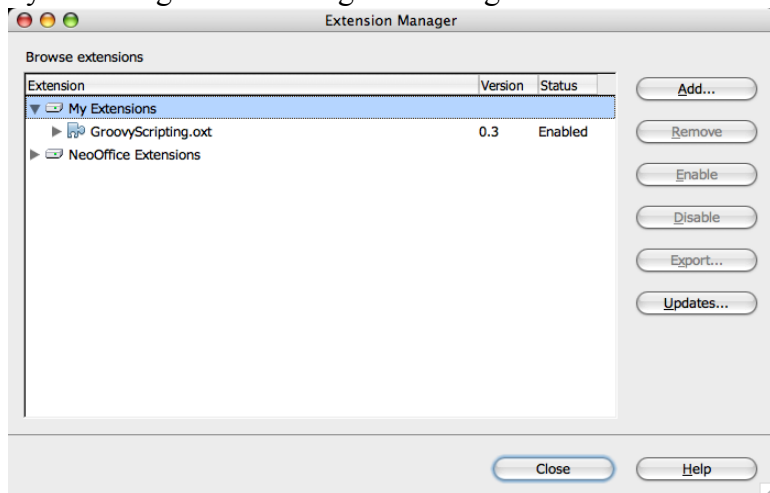
You should be presented with a license dialog:



If you accept the license there will be some processing, like this:



Then you'll be returned to the Extension Manager dialog, where you can show the installed extension by twiddling the tree navigation triangle:

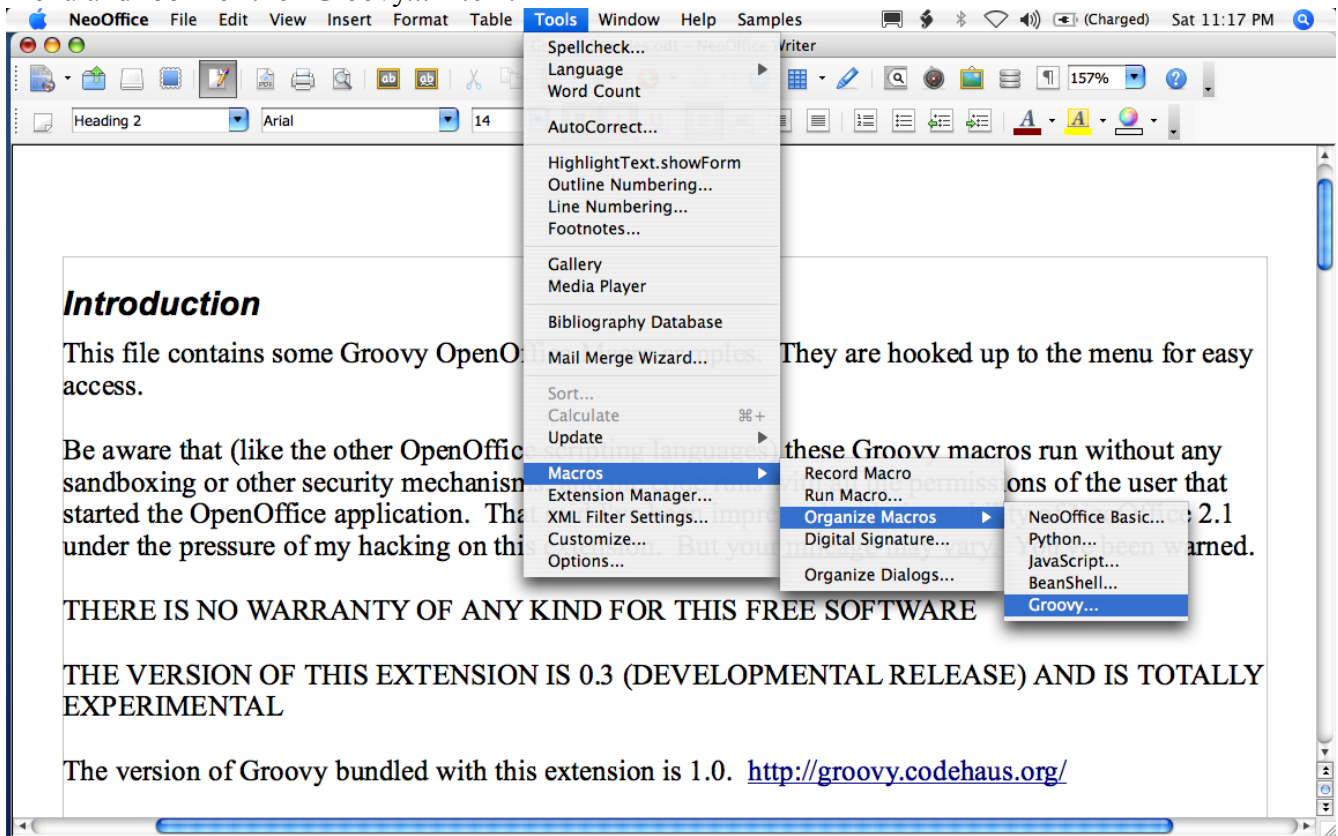


Restarting OpenOffice

You must now restart OpenOffice to complete the installation (because OpenOffice only looks for macro script providers on start-up). This may be a little non-obvious if you are using Windows because OpenOffice has a "QuickStarter" feature that is enabled by default. You must quit all OpenOffice applications, including the "QuickStarter" if it is present. The QuickStarter can be quit by right clicking on the OpenOffice QuickStarter icon in the Windows System Tray and choosing "Exit".

Verify The Installation

To see whether Groovy For OpenOffice is installed, look at the "Tools : Macros : Organize Macros" menu and look for the "Groovy..." item.

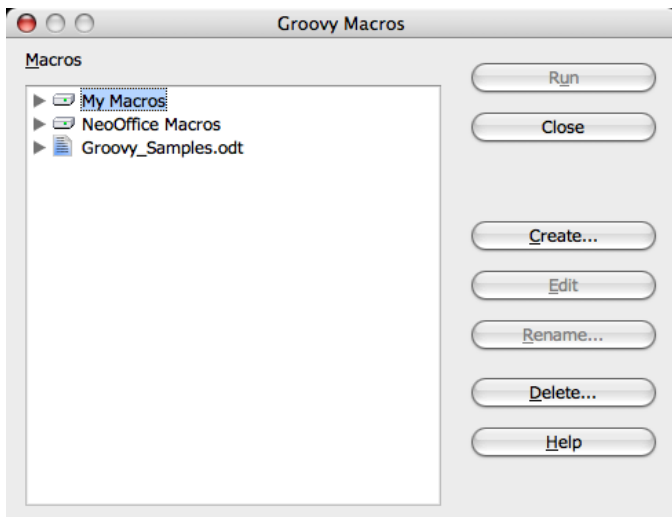


The Demon QuickStarter

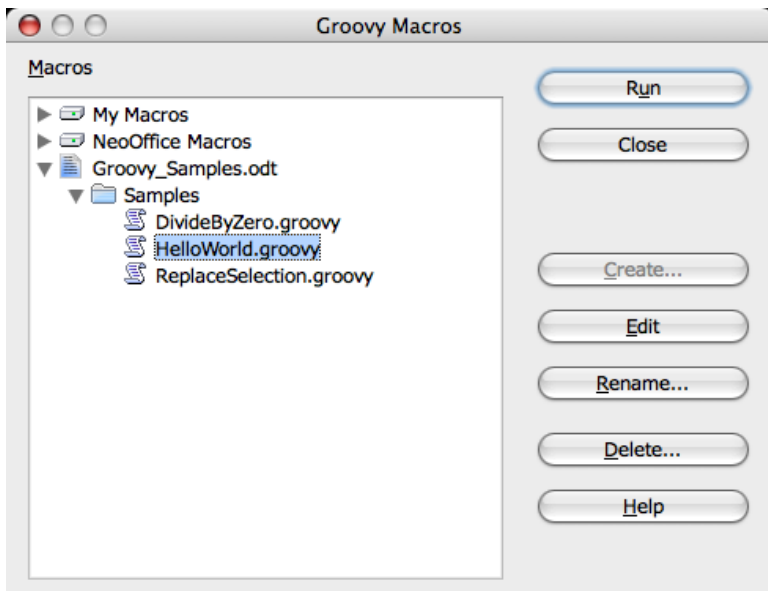
If you've added the GroovyForOpenOffice extension but don't see that "Groovy..." item, then a likely cause is that you haven't yet really restarted OpenOffice (which is necessary to complete the installation). If you think you have restarted, then chances are that you are using Windows and have the QuickStarter enabled (which is the default). To restart OpenOffice with the QuickStarter enabled you can either locate the little OpenOffice QuickStarter icon in the System Tray, right-click and choose "Exit" or you can simply log out and log back in.

Managing Groovy Macros

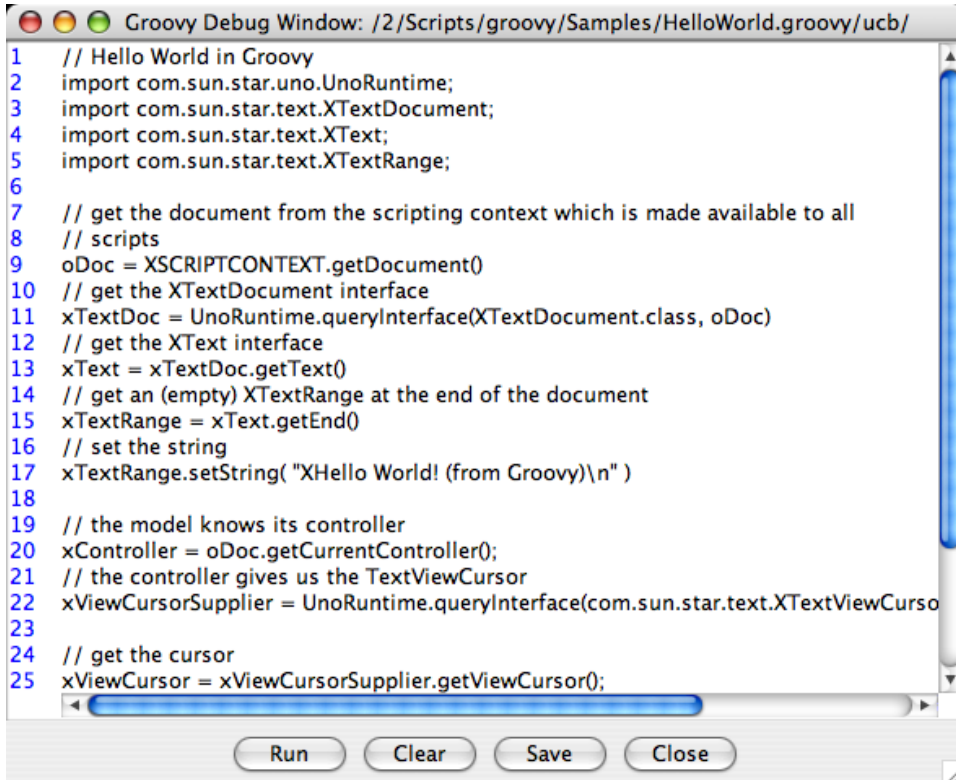
Choosing the "Tools : Macros : Organize Macros : Groovy..." menu item should display this dialog that provides for access to your Groovy OpenOffice macros:



These sample macros are stored in this document, which you can see by navigating the tree controls:



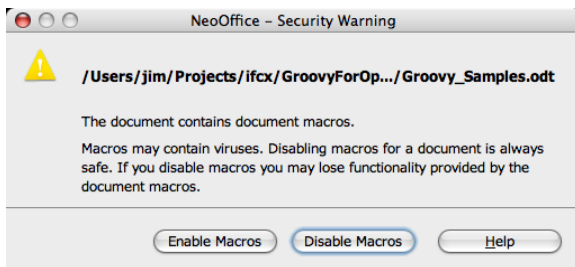
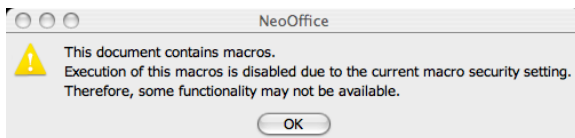
Selecting a macro and clicking "Edit" will display the macro editor:



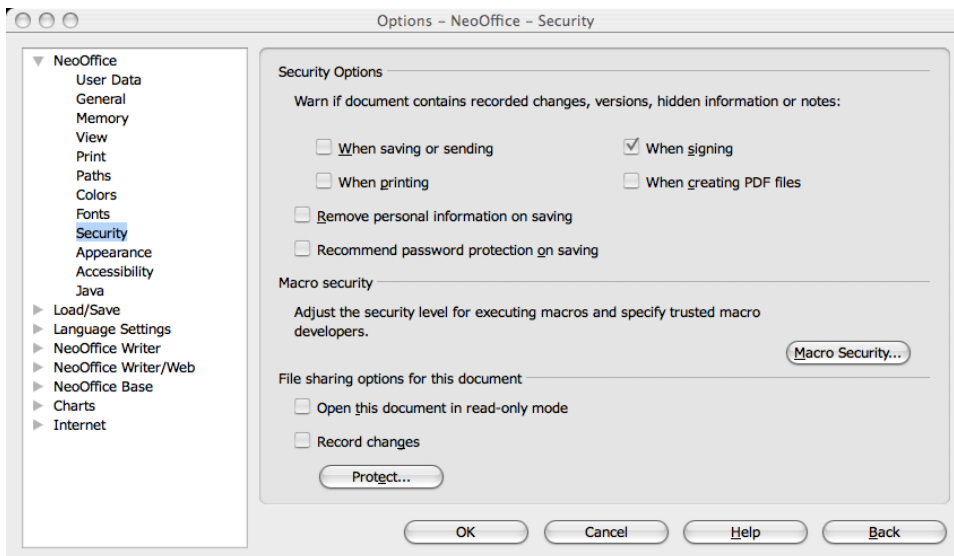
```
1 // Hello World in Groovy
2 import com.sun.star.uno.UnoRuntime;
3 import com.sun.star.text.XTextDocument;
4 import com.sun.star.text.XText;
5 import com.sun.star.text.XTextRange;
6
7 // get the document from the scripting context which is made available to all
8 // scripts
9 oDoc = XSCRIPTCONTEXT.getDocument()
10 // get the XTextDocument interface
11 xTextDoc = UnoRuntime.queryInterface(XTextDocument.class, oDoc)
12 // get the XText interface
13 xText = xTextDoc.getText()
14 // get an (empty) XTextRange at the end of the document
15 xTextRange = xText.getEnd()
16 // set the string
17 xTextRange.setString("XHello World! (from Groovy)\n")
18
19 // the model knows its controller
20 xController = oDoc.getCurrentController();
21 // the controller gives us the TextViewCursor
22 xViewCursorSupplier = UnoRuntime.queryInterface(com.sun.star.text.XTextViewCursorSupplier.class, xController)
23
24 // get the cursor
25 xViewCursor = xViewCursorSupplier.getViewCursor();
```

Macro Security

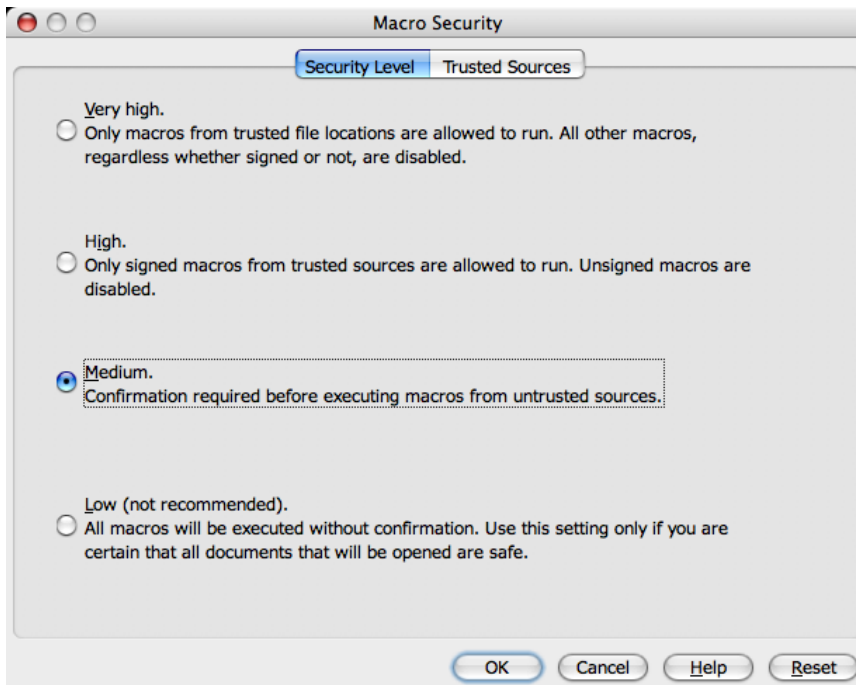
But even if you've got the Groovy For OpenOffice extension properly installed, you may still not be able to run these sample macros because of your security settings. In OpenOffice 2.1 and 2.2 you will typically have seen either a dialog asking whether you want to enable the macros in this document or a dialog telling you that the macros are disabled:



But if you saw no such dialog when you opened this document, then either your macro security setting is at "low" and thus always and silently enabling macros, or you are using OpenOffice 2.3 and you have "high" macro security setting (the default) which will silently disable macros. In either case you will need to look at your "Tools : Options..." dialog under "OpenOffice : Security" :



And from there go to the "Macro Security..." dialog:



You will need to choose "Medium" or "Low" if you want to use GroovyForOpenOffice as there is no signed version yet.