

TAO 6.0 GUI Enhancements

1. Introduction

This document outlines the enhancements that are included as part of the TAO 6.0 GUI client. Please note that the document is a work in progress.

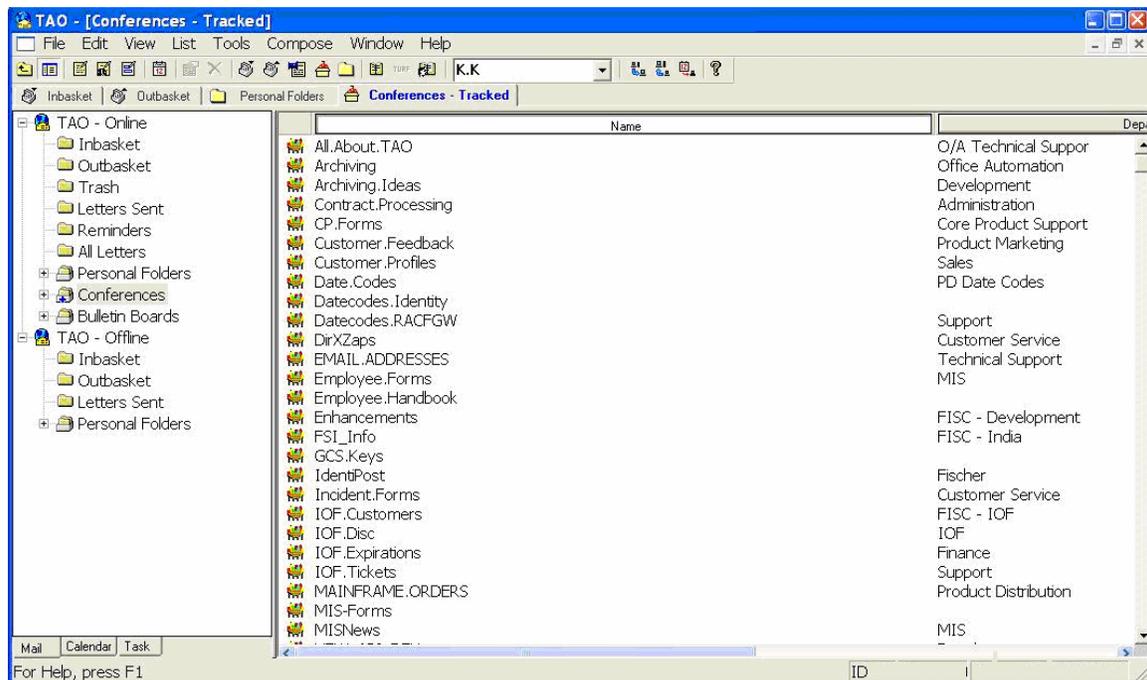
Two primary user interface changes have been implemented:

- a) Tab-based List viewer
- b) Unified frame-based approach for both mail and scheduler functions.

2. Tab-based List Viewer

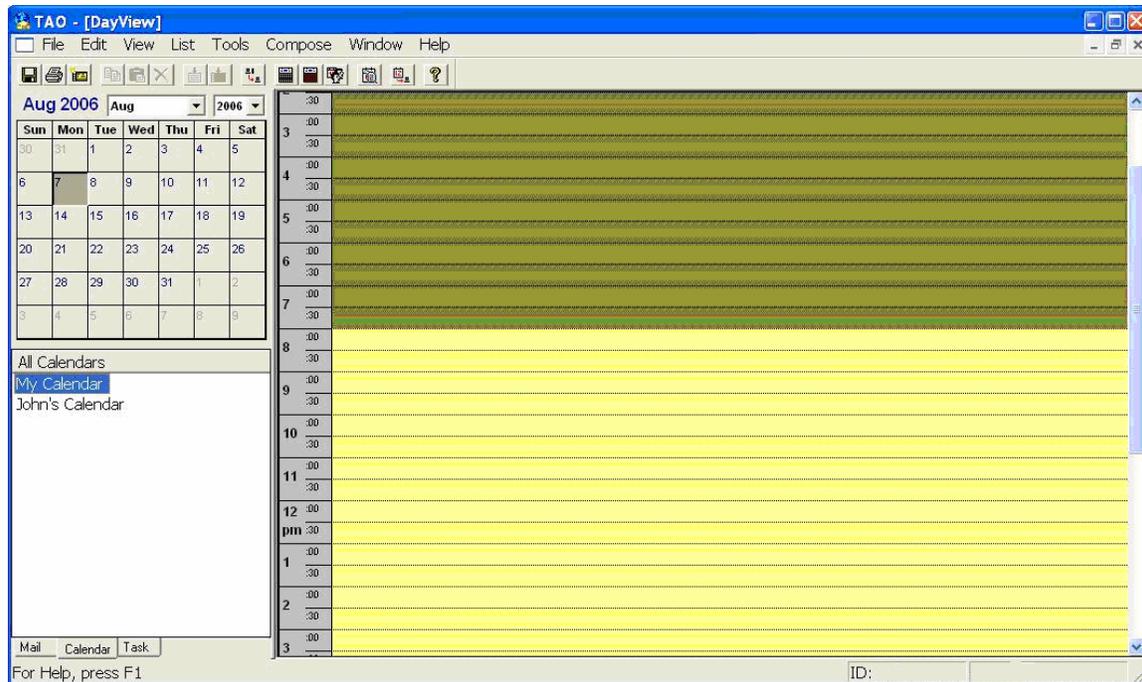
The Figure below shows the new Tab-based List viewer in action. Notice the following new UI changes:

- a) A tab bar at the bottom of the tree-list that has three tabs, **Mail**, **Calendar** and **Task** corresponding to the primary functional elements of the product.
- b) A tab bar at the top for each list in the **Mail** feature.
- c) The list window on the right is shown always **maximized**.



Navigation of the list windows can be done via the tab-bar at the top as well as the tree-list on the left-hand side of the splitter.

3. Unified Frame-based Approach



On Clicking the **Calendar** function tab, the tree-list on the left pane is replaced by the calendar and a calendar instance list window below. The right-hand side pane displays the day view (or week view or month view, as per configuration).

The biggest change here from the previous version of TAO is that, there are no separate pop-up windows dedicated to Scheduler. Instead, the same frame window houses the mail, scheduler and task functions. Further, the "All Calendars" list allows one to list his/her own calendar as well as his surrogate's calendar. This allows for quick access to the surrogate's calendar unlike TAO 5.0. Notice that the menu bar and the command tool bar that are displayed when the Calendar tab is clicked belongs to the Calendar functionality menu. When the Mail tab is clicked, the toolbars its switched to the Mail functionality menu.

4. Tabbed Letter Window

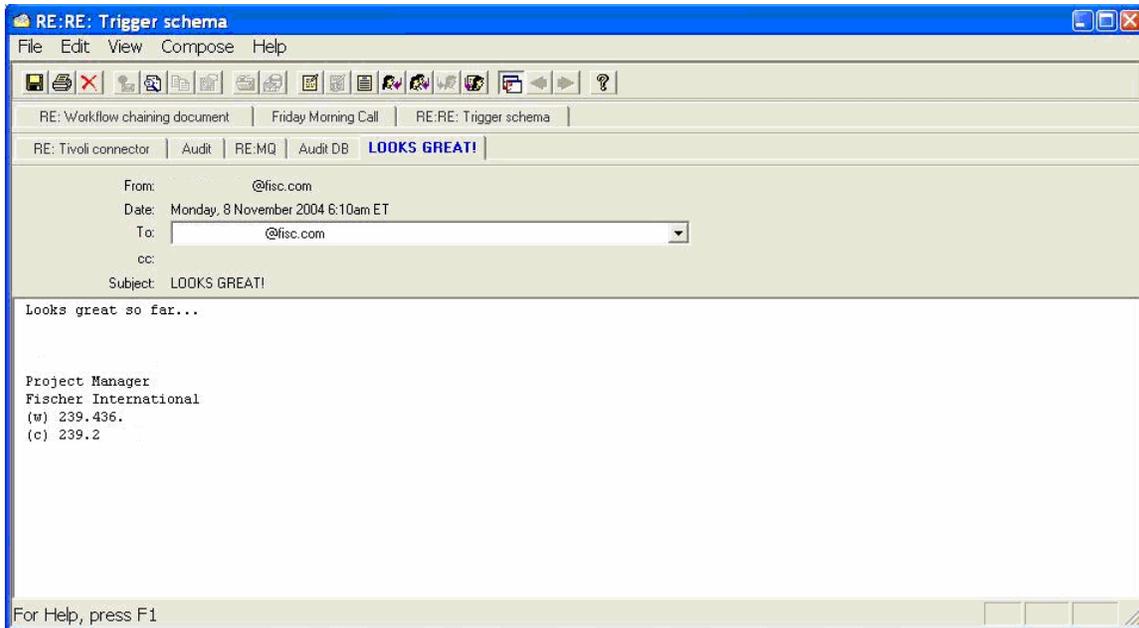


Figure above shows the implementation of the tabbed letter window. There are three new local configuration properties which controls the tabbed letter window feature. (See item#9 for information on how to set these parameters)

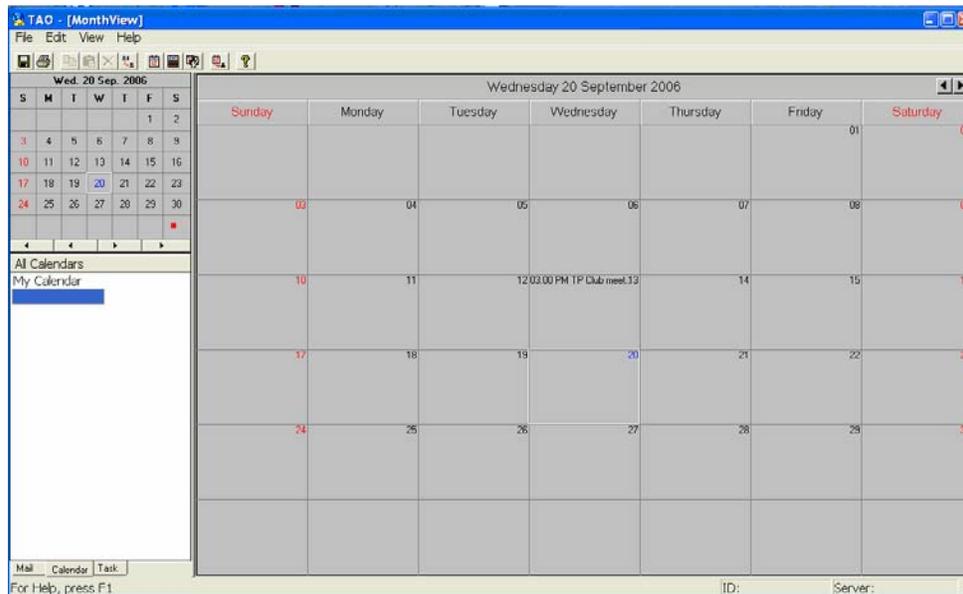
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TabbedUI = 1 //Enables tabbed UI for letters
MaxTabBars = 5 //Maximum number of tab bars
MaxTabs = 5 //Maximum number of tabs per tab bar
```

If a letter cannot be accommodated within a tabbed letter window subject to the limits as per configuration, it will open in a separate tabbed letter window. There is no limit to the number of such tabbed letter windows that can be open, except of course, subject to available memory.

There is also support for drag/drop of a letter from one tabbed letter window to another.

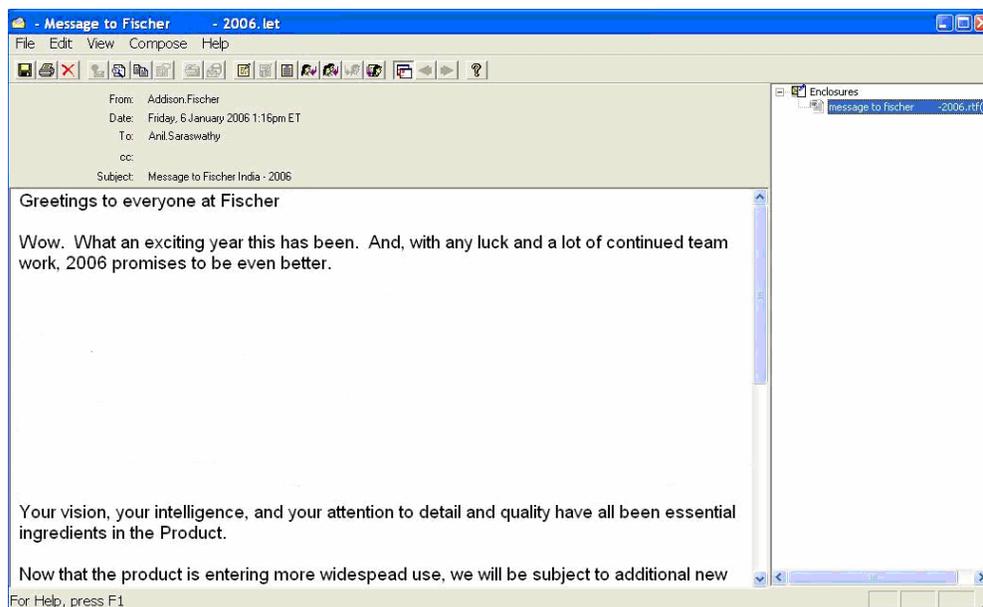
5. View calendar in surrogate mode – Month view

In the previous releases of TAO, one could only view the Day and Week views of another user in the surrogate mode. With the new “All calendars” list box in the calendar view, one can select another user’s day view, week view or month view. Figure below illustrates this.



6. New layout for Enclosure window

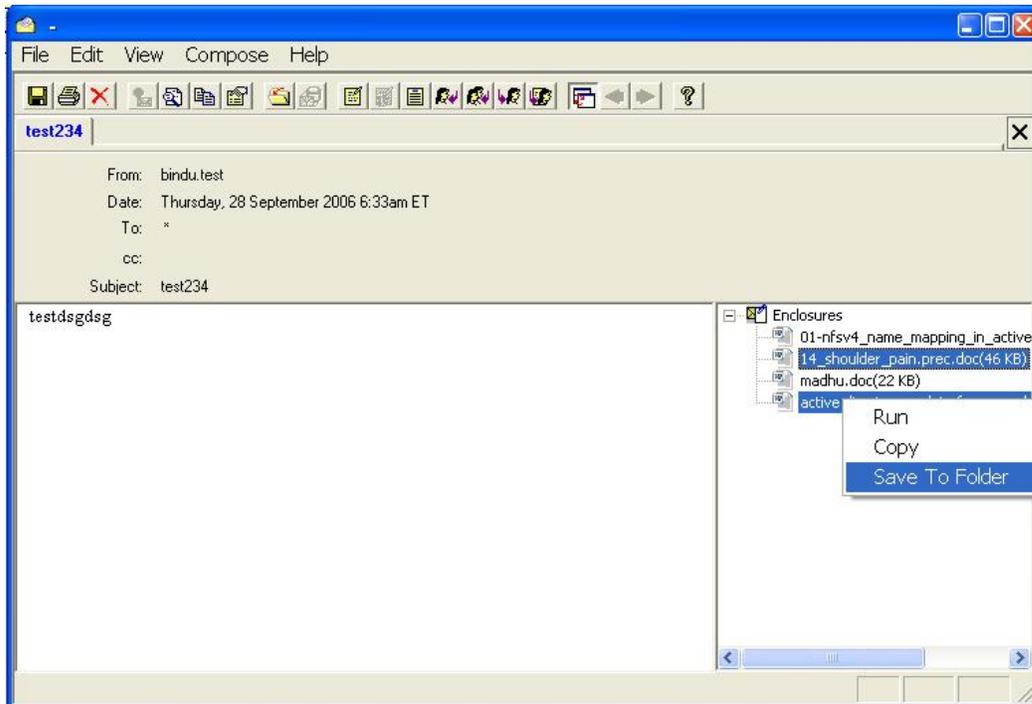
There was a requirement that the current Enclosure Window be large enough to display a longer list of attachments. One of the drivers of this enhancement was a mouse pointer geometry issue that would occasionally launch attachments below the enclosure tab due to the pointer's proximity to the enclosure window scroll bars. The new GUI allows the end user to select a preference for the size of the attachment window, so that the layout occupies the entire height of the letter window minus toolbars.



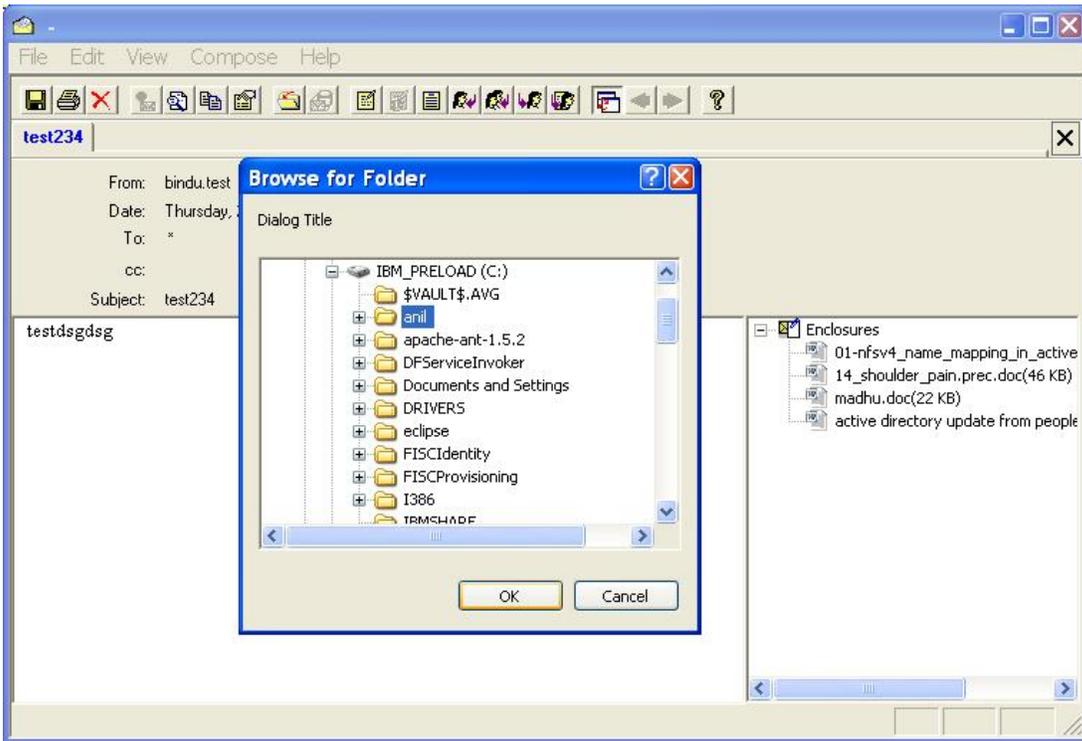
7. Attachment threading support

The TAO 5 client does not support threading while downloading attachments. This means that there is no way that one can download more than one attachment simultaneously. In TAO 6, we have implemented threading for attachment downloads.

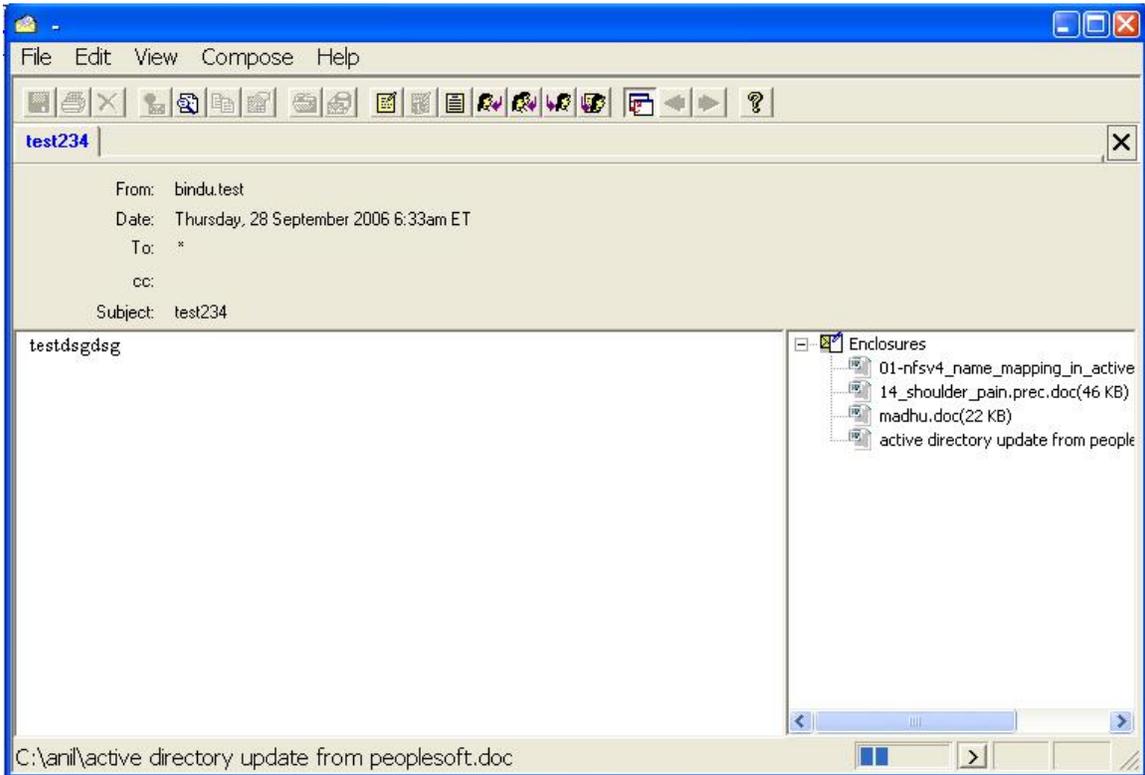
The Figure below shows the new “Save to Folder” menu item, which is used when downloading multiple attachments simultaneously.



The Figure below shows the Folder dialog which opens up when you choose SaveToFolder menu item from the context menu. All selected attachments will be downloaded to the selected folder. If files with the same name already exist, it creates a unique filename and downloads the file as the new filename.



The Figure below shows the progress indicator modifications where an adjacent button allows the user to scroll through the various attachment download progress. Notice the filename being downloaded is also displayed in the status bar.

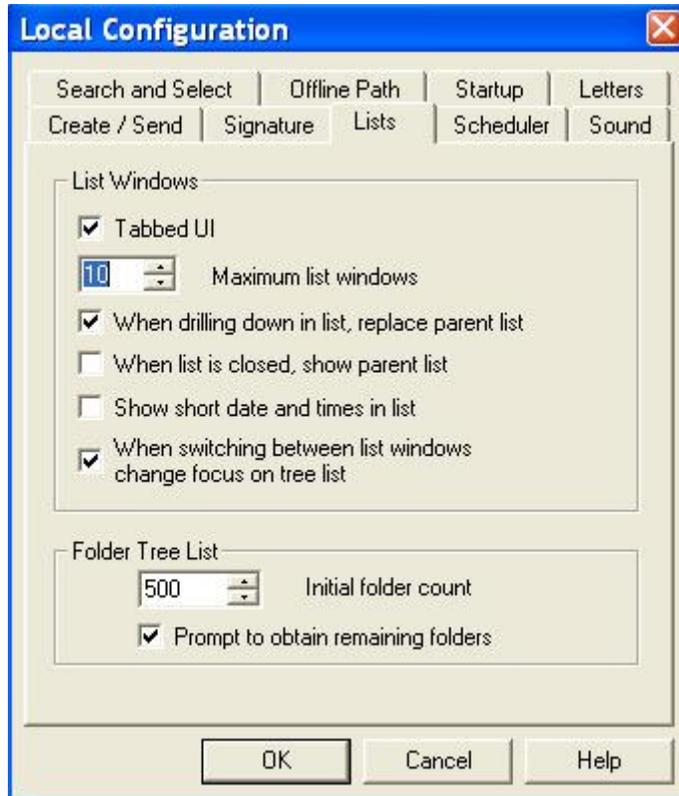


8. Enable Select/Copy from Letter Window Envelope Header

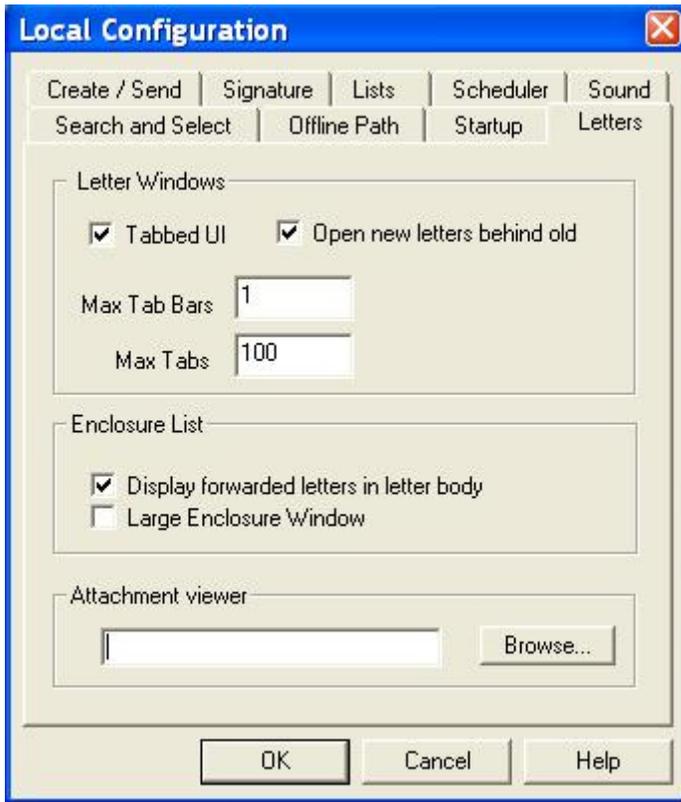
One of the complaints with the TAO 5 letter window was that there was no way in which text can be copied out of the To, From, cc fields. This has been fixed in TAO 6, by making those fields “read-only Edit controls” instead of “static controls”, thereby permitting selection of text and copy to clipboard.

9. Local Configuration Options

Enhanced local configuration options are available.



The Lists tab of the Local configuration property sheet has a new checkbox for Tabbed UI.



The Letters tab has three new checkboxes to control the newly added functionalities.

Tabbed UI – Whether or not to display letters inside a tabbed frame

Open new letters behind old – This controls how new letters are added to the tabbed frame. If this option is checked, new letters will not be shown in front, but behind the old letters. This way, the reader can continue reading a letter while others are being loaded and added to the tabbed frame in the background

Large Enclosure Window – This controls how the enclosure window is displayed. In TAO5, it is shown as a small treelist inside the envelope area. With this option, the enclosure window can be aligned along the height of the letter window, thus giving more area to display attachments.

The **Max Tab Bars** and **Max Tabs** edit windows can be used to provide the maximum number of tab bars and maximum number of tabs per bar possible in the Tabbed UI implementation of TAO letters.

10. THE LETTER COLLECTION FEATURE

With TAO GUI 6 we have added a Letter Collection Feature. This feature allows the user to save any group of open letters as a Collection. The Collection can be opened later from the file menu. This feature will aid users who routinely have large numbers of letters open simultaneously by providing a recovery failsafe in the event of power failure or system crashes. TAO 6.0 supports multiple Letter Collections. This feature will be expanded to include a dynamic crash recovery option in future updates.