XWord-Muggles: Creating Components of and Posting Metas

A typical set of components to post for your meta may include the following:

- **crosshare** link

- **PUZ** file

- **PDF** file

- **spreadsheet** file

- **PNG image** file of the PDF

What follows are instructions for creating and posting **Muggle Meta Mondays**, **MMM**, & **Smooth Sailing Sundays**, **SSS**, links and files, but are universal for posting all meta puzzles to www.XWord-Muggles.com. Other creators are free to vary to their tastes.

Further, the instructions for creating **Excel spreadsheets** & for posting them to www.XWord-Muggles.com are made available to all solvers for any meta puzzle. **Going forward, creators can choose to create spreadsheets for their solvers, or not.** The only meta spreadsheet that will be created will be for the weekly **Wall Street Journal Contest Crossword**, **WSJCC**. Should it not be posted, solers can create it.

• <u>crosshare</u> link

Consult muggle creators or crosshare.org on creating metas on **crosshare**.

CREATING FILES (save as **YYYYMMDD-TYPE-TitleWithNoSpaces**)

• <u>PUZ</u> file

Consult muggle creators or crosshare.org on creating **PUZ files** for metas.

Get the **PUZ** file from the **crosshare** form: **Begin   •••More   Download .puz File**

Save the **PUZ** file to your drive: **YYYYMMDD-TYPE-TitleWithNoSpaces.puz**

CREATING FILES (continued)

• PDF file

Create your **PDF** using the [Crossword PDF Editor](#) site, with the following options (note differences between **MMM** & **SSS**):

CHOOSE FILE ⌃

Select your puzzle file to export as a PDF:

Choose File   Select **PUZ** file you have saved on your drive

HEADER CONTENT ⌃

Main Header Content 📄

Empty field will default to title from puz file - do not include " - META" in your title. If included in crosshare title, enter title, alone, here

🔵 Add Right Header Content

The puzzle's entire meta prompt.[+/-5 spaces]Muggle Screen Name

🔵 Add Subheader Content

IF META PROMPT IS VERY LONG: Add the meta prompt here after clicking on the Add Subheader Content button above - align RIGHT

BASIC OPTIONS ⌃

Main Header Font Size (pt)
20   Adjust font size to nearest 0.1 pt so title width matches width of left Clues column.

Right Header Font Size (pt)
14   Adjust font size so "Meta prompt   muggle screen name" match width of grid or have the name match the Title font size.

Subheader Font Size (pt)
14   If used for a very long meta prompt, adjust size to match width of grid.

Number of Columns
3   Use for MMM and SSS

🔵 Include Copyright   Adjust @ content to match width of grid

@Proper Name • Muggle Meta Mondays or meta type (& ###) • www.XWord-Muggles.com (or creator's site)   Month DD, 2024
Delete if space is needed
Add or delete spaces as needed

🔵 Align Grid to Bottom-Right   Only for SSS metas
⚪ Align Grid to Bottom-Left
🔵 Inksaver Mode

ADVANCED OPTIONS ⌃

— Margins

Top Margin (in.)
0.2

Bottom Margin (in.)
0.2   0.3 for SSS

Side Margins (in.)
0.3

— Padding

Header-Subheader Padding (pt)
4

Header-Body Padding (pt)
4

— Fonts

⚪ Add Custom Header Font

Header Font
Nunito Sans

Grid Font
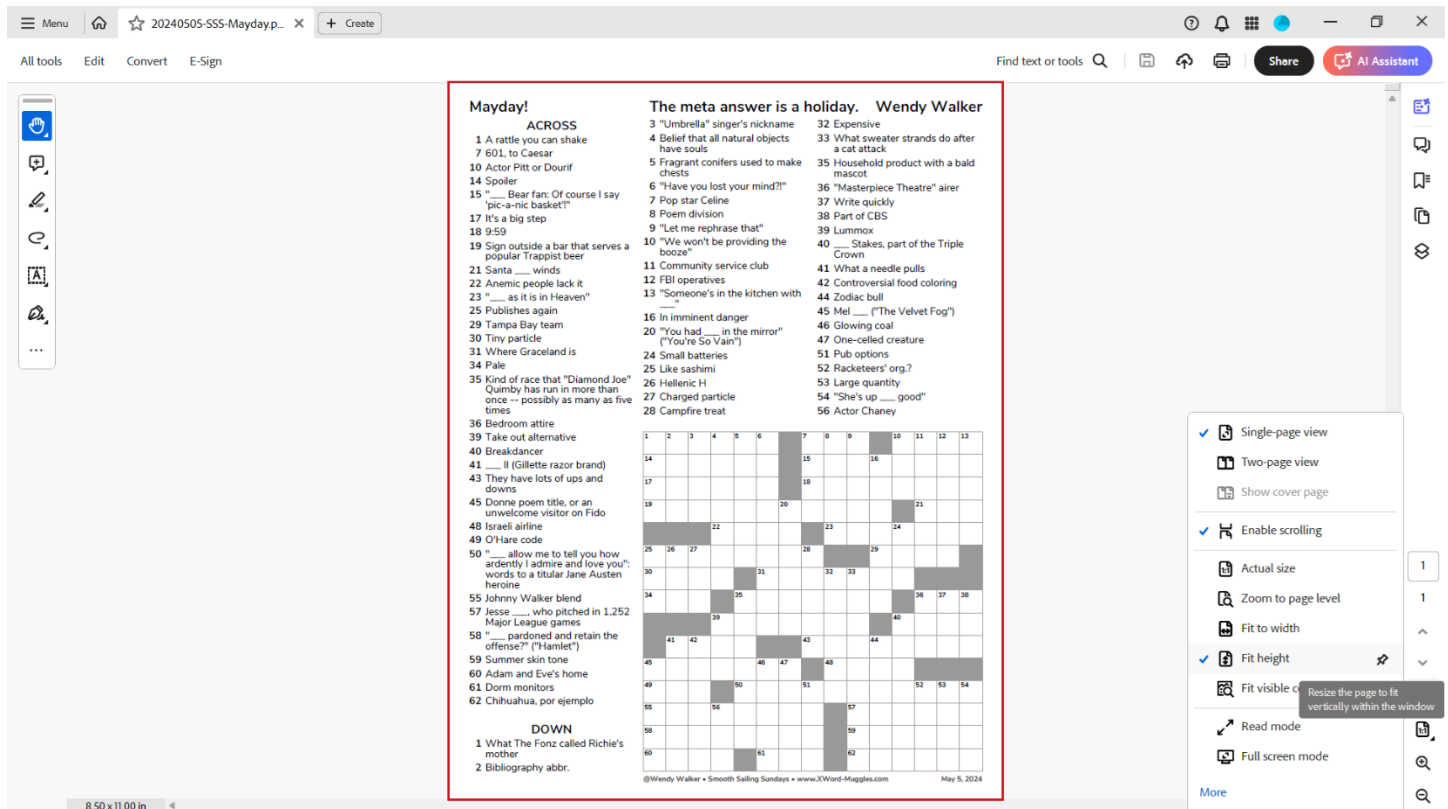Nunito Sans

Clue Font
Nunito Sans

Use the **Preview** button after making adjustments noted above, repeatedly, until acceptable.

Download button to save **PDF** to your drive. It will have the **PUZ** file's name.

CREATING FILES (continued)

• PNG image file of the PDF

Open the **PDF** in the **Fit Height** view (or **Full Screen Mode**):

Use your computer's **screen capture app** to capture the entire **PDF**.

Paste the capture of the entire **PDF** to an **image editing app** (**MS Paint** in Windows).

Create a **1-pixel border** at the edge of the image.

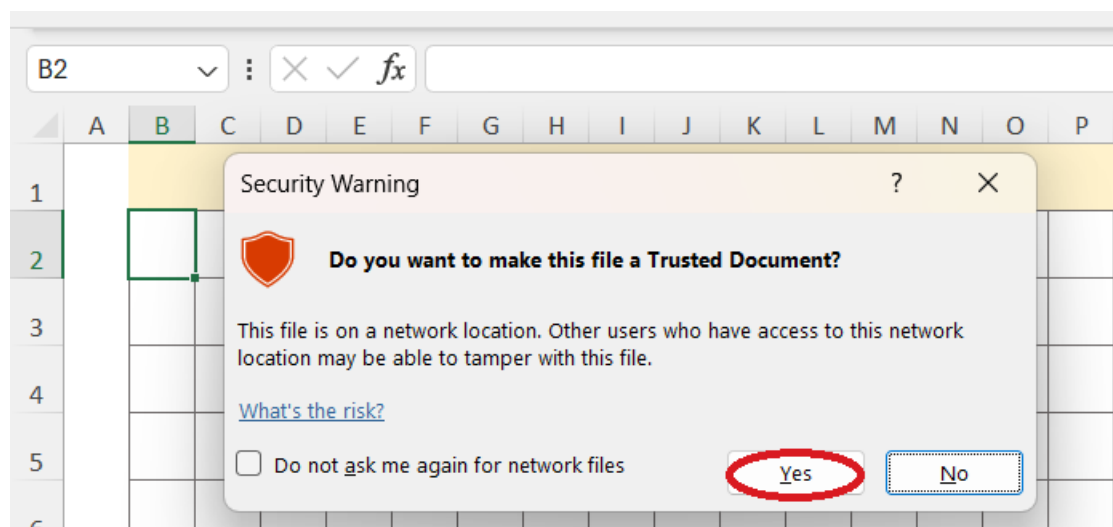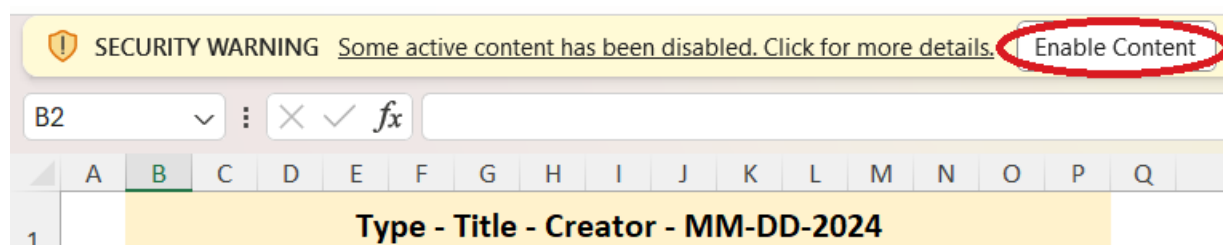Save the file as a **PNG** file to your drive. **YYYYMMDD-TYPE-TitleWithNoSpaces.png**

CREATING FILES (continued)

• Excel **spreadsheet** file

Instructions for altering the spreadsheet templates for individual metas are included on the spreadsheet templates.

As of today, there is a **15x15 grid template** on **www.XWord-Muggles.com**. **17x17** and **19x19** grid templates will be created after feedback from solvers and creators.

After opening the template, give the following & similar permissions, which allows the use of necessary **VBA** content and **macros**.

IMPORTANT: The next step is to **File... Save...** the **spreadsheet** file to your drive before editing.   **YYYYMMDD-TYPE-TitleWithNoSpaces.xlsm**

Continue with the instructions on the first sheet / tab through all instructions on all sheets / tabs, in order. Double-check that the **Puzzle** & **ClueNos** sheets are protected.

END CREATING FILES.

POSTING LINKS on www.XWord-Muggles.com

- **ATTACH ALL FILES TO THE POST**

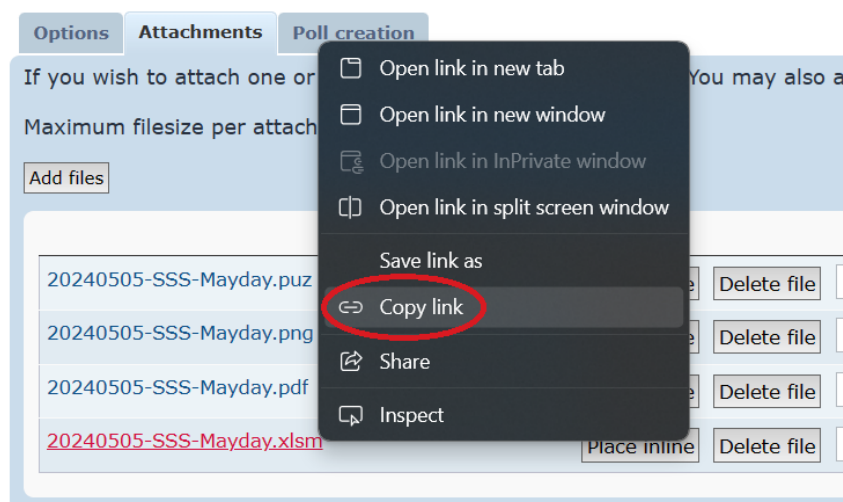Open the post in the correct topic. Click on the **Full Editor & Preview button**
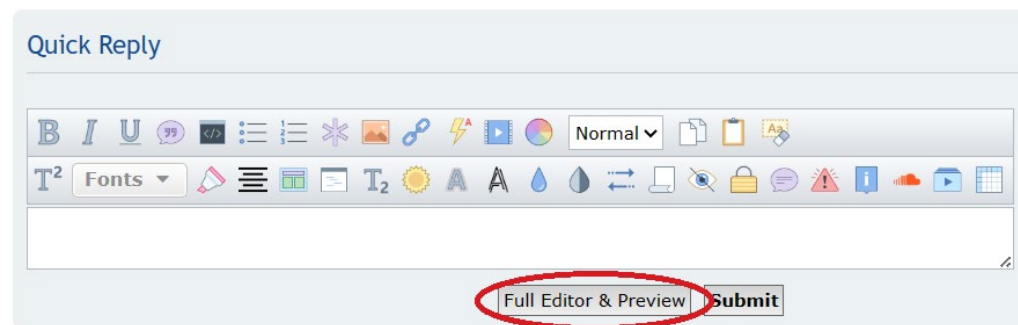
Click on the **Attachments** tab and the **Add files** button.
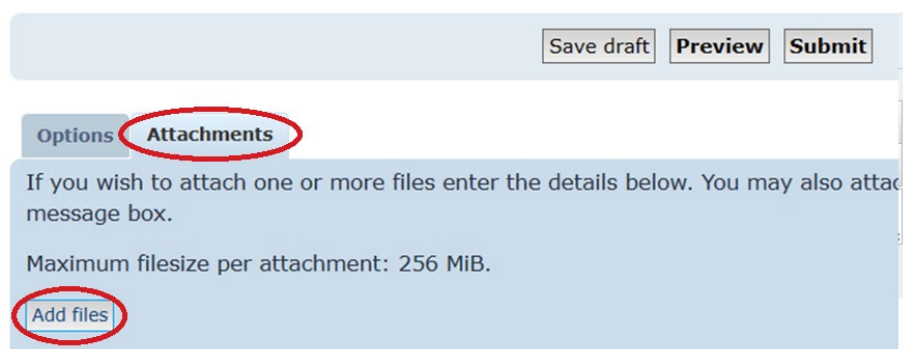
Select the **PUZ**, **PDF**, **PNG**, & **XLSM** files on your drive, then click on the **Open** button.

- **FILES' LINKS ARE EASILY COPIED**

Right-click on an attached file's name, click on **Copy link** from the pop-up list.

POSTING LINKS (continued)

- ## POST LINKS TO Post #1

  Order of posting of links:

  crosshare

  PUZ

  PDF

  spreadsheet

Click on the **Link icon** above the posting window.

Enter a site URL and the **Optional description**. (The file description is **not** optional.)
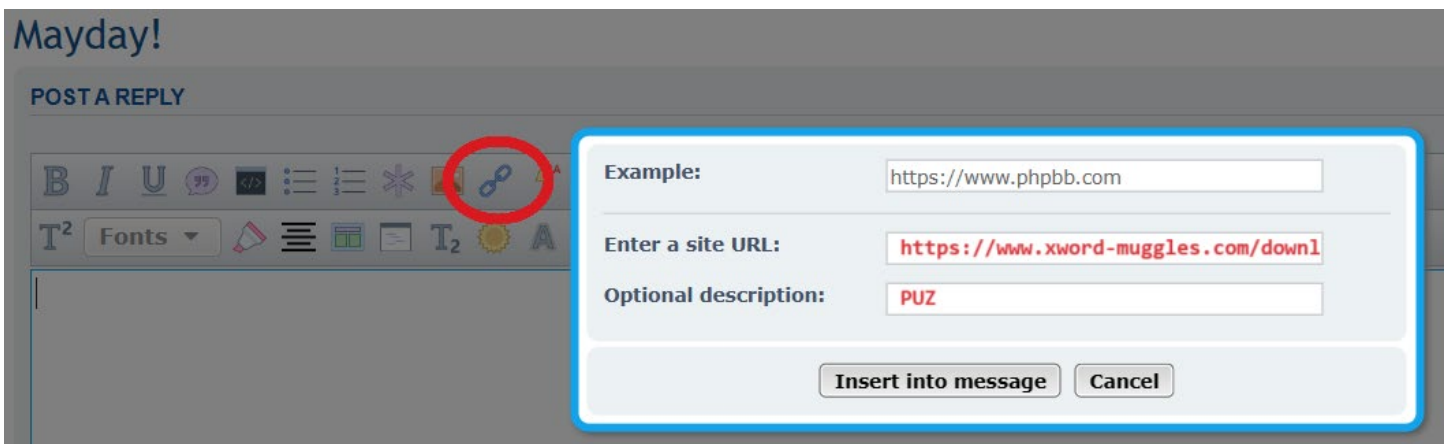
Select all links, choose the font **Arial Black**, add the **Title** above the first file link.
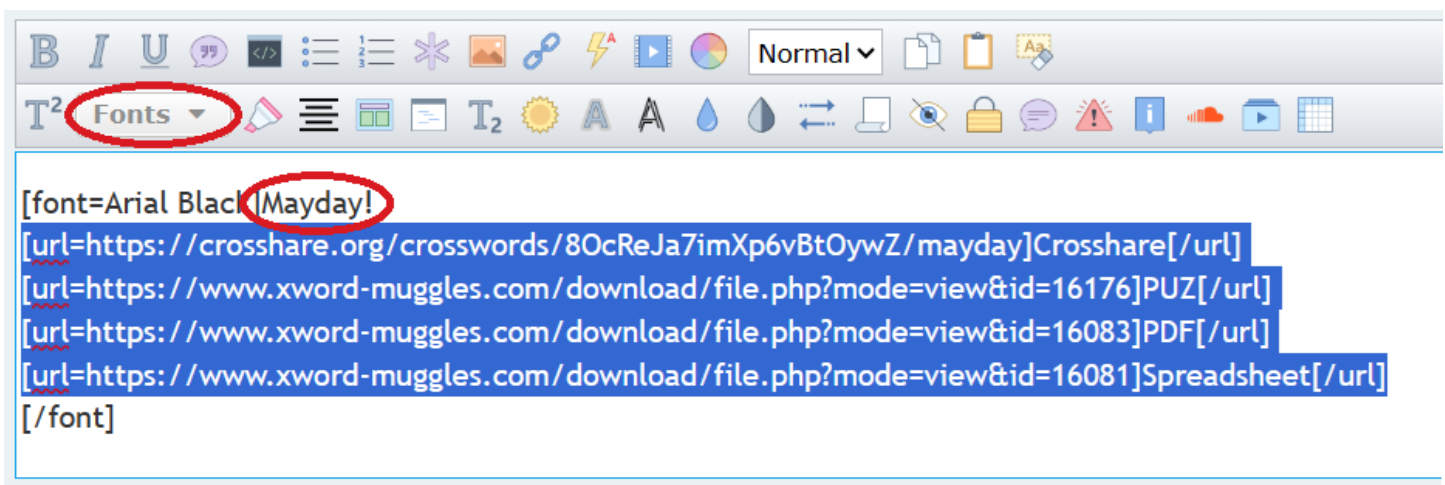
POSTING LINKS (continued)

- **Place Inline the PNG image file of the PDF**

Add a couple of blank lines after the **spreadsheet link**, then click on the **Place Inline** button next to the **PNG** file, placing the image at the end of the post.

END POSTING LINKS.

NOTE: **Solvers creating spreadsheets for personal use can use these posting instructions so other solvers can download the spreadsheet for their use.**

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