# WS Basics

# 4.12 WS custom functions

Custom functions enable developers to create new functions to work on any applications like Excel, Word, etc by defining those functions in WS as part of an add-in. In this article, you will learn how to create custom functions in WS.

This section contains user-created functions that can be used with the WSOffice DLL in order to access ActiveX objects and make calls to the local system. You will learn how to create custom functions using two main concepts namely ActiveXObjects, and WS office functions.

## ActiveX Objects

These functions make calls to Microsoft COM objects

## WS Office Functions

These functions call methods from Microsoft Office to perform various tasks.

We will cover these custom functions in the following sections.

- [ActiveX Objects](#)
  The sample concept demonstrates the DITA 'concept' file type.
- [Sample Concept](#)
  The sample concept demonstrates the DITA 'concept' file type.
- [replaceText](#)
  Using the replaceText custom function with WS.
- [selectDirectory](#)
  Using the selectDirectory custom function with WS.
- [sort](#)
  Using the sort custom function with WS.
- [startApplication](#)
  Using the startApplication custom function with WS.

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