www.pdfa.org

Driving interoperability –

Broadening support for full-function PDF

A PDF Association Panel Discussion

Duff Johnson,
Executive Director
PDF Association

- What is "interoperability"

- Why interoperability is so important to PDF

- Examples of interoperability problems

- "Page model" vs. "Full-function" PDF

- Making PDF attractive to web-developers

Duff Johnson,
Executive Director
PDF Association

in·ter·op·er·a·bil·i·ty (noun)

"The ability of computer systems or software to exchange and make use of information."

Duff Johnson,
Executive Director
PDF Association

PDF
association

- "It looks the same here as there"

- "It's predictable"

- "It just works"

- "It's easy to share"

- "It's independent of software manufacturer or version"

Duff Johnson,
Executive Director
PDF Association

- Interoperability is not a given for every PDF file, or for every purpose to which a PDF might be put

- ISO standards for PDF technology demonstrate a demand for more and better interoperability

Examples of interoperability problems

- Missing or poor support for a given features makes a PDF unreliable (can happen even when creating files with the same vendor's software)

- An application allows users to add comments, but (a) does not use PDF's annotations model, and (b) renders the comment as masking page content!

- An application ignores certain features in a PDF when reading it, which is OK… but then, without a warning, erases those features if the user changes and then saves the file!

Duff Johnson,
Executive Director
PDF Association

Page description model   vs. "Full function" PDF

- Basic rendering

- Nice-to-haves…
  - Outlines (Bookmarks)
  - Links
  - Page-level editing
  - Page-view support
  - Signing and encryption

- All that, and
  - Annotations
  - Metadata
  - Semantic structure
  - Forms
  - 3D annotations
  - Rich media
  - Embedded files
  - Associated files
  - …and many more

Duff Johnson,
Executive Director
PDF Association

- Mapping PDF semantic structures to HTML?

- "next-generation" PDF?

- Maybe something completely different?

- None of the above?

- …and now to our panelists!

PANEL: Driving interoperability

Boris Doubrov
- Dual Lab

Dietrich von Seggern
- callas software

Matt Kuznicki
- Datalogics

Roman Toda
- Digital Documents

Duff Johnson,
Executive Director
PDF Association

Some questions…

- Do we already have "enough" interoperability for 99% of PDF's real-world tasks? Why do we need to "drive" more?

- Is full-function PDF support a pipe-dream or (eventually) a commodity?

- Are there big needs that better interoperability could really serve?

- What's the Apple-Google-Microsoft factor? Since they dominate PDF viewing, does any of this matter if those companies don't come on-board?

- OTHER QUESTIONS???

Duff Johnson,
Executive Director
PDF Association

www.pdfa.org

Thank you!

Get in touch: info@pdfa.org
Web site: www.pdfa.org
Twitter: PDFassocation

Duff Johnson,
Executive Director
PDF Association