



# Deriving HTML from PDF lessons learned

Implementation challenges in reusing PDF content

# History, Evolution of PDF



- Electronic representation of paper. Based on graphical model, accurate representation(screen and print)
  - Adopted word rendering
- Marked content
  - Introducing semantic into the content
- Tagged PDF
  - PDF/UA
  - First time used different presentation model for assistive technology



#### 2019



- Problems PDF in the web, in mobiles
  - Can't control UX
  - Interactivity, navigation
  - Responsivness
- Solution Deriving HTML from PDF
  - Algorithm that produces conforming HTML from a tagged PDF
  - Derivation = HTML rendering
  - Author controls the output not the processor



# HTML Derivation - concept



- "converting" pdf structure elements to html tags
- Structure tree
  - Marked content
  - links, annotations, form fiels
- Attributes (Layout, CSS, HTML) via ClassMap too
- Associated files
- Actions
- Rolemap, Namespaces



# Valid HTML



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#### Resources



- https://github.com/Normex/PDF-Derivation
- Sample files
  - Styling
  - Associated files
  - Forms
  - Interactive
  - Fail cases
- Implementation (commandline, GUI)



# Problems - general



- Bad tagging (wrong attributes, content vs. struct tree)
- No PDF 2.0 support yet
- PDF/UA isn't Well Tagged = what is Well Tagged?
  - reusable pdfs also accessible ?
- No PDF/UA-2 yet
- Export doesn't produce Tagged PDFs (changing !!)
- No tools for manual tagging



## Problem - technical



- Elements (TOC)
- Attributes (Layout vs. CSS)
- Links across pages
- Forms, Javascript
- Annotations





Deriving HTML from PDF

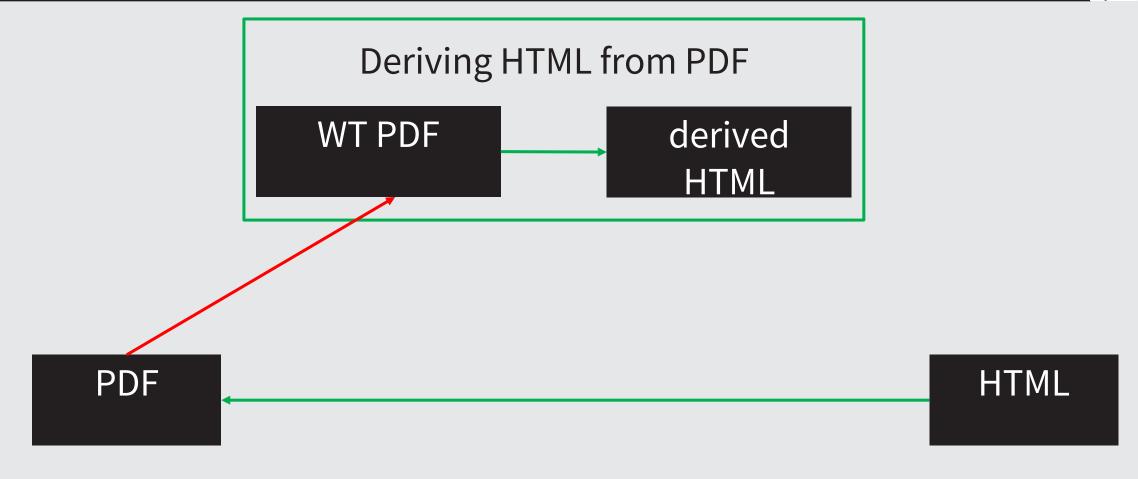
WT PDF

derived

HTML

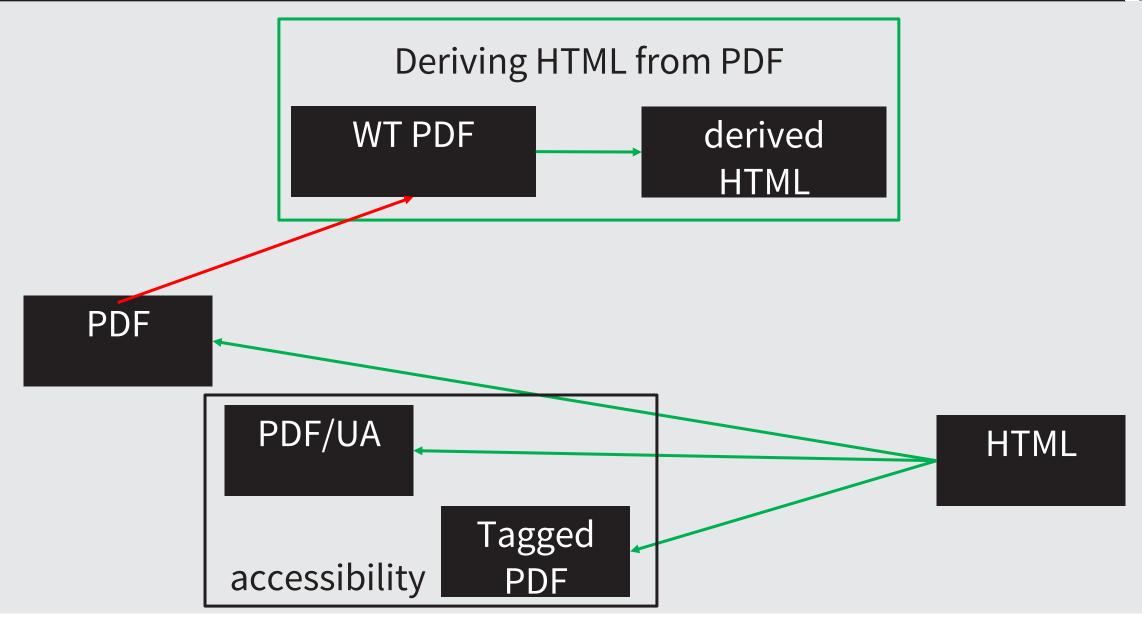






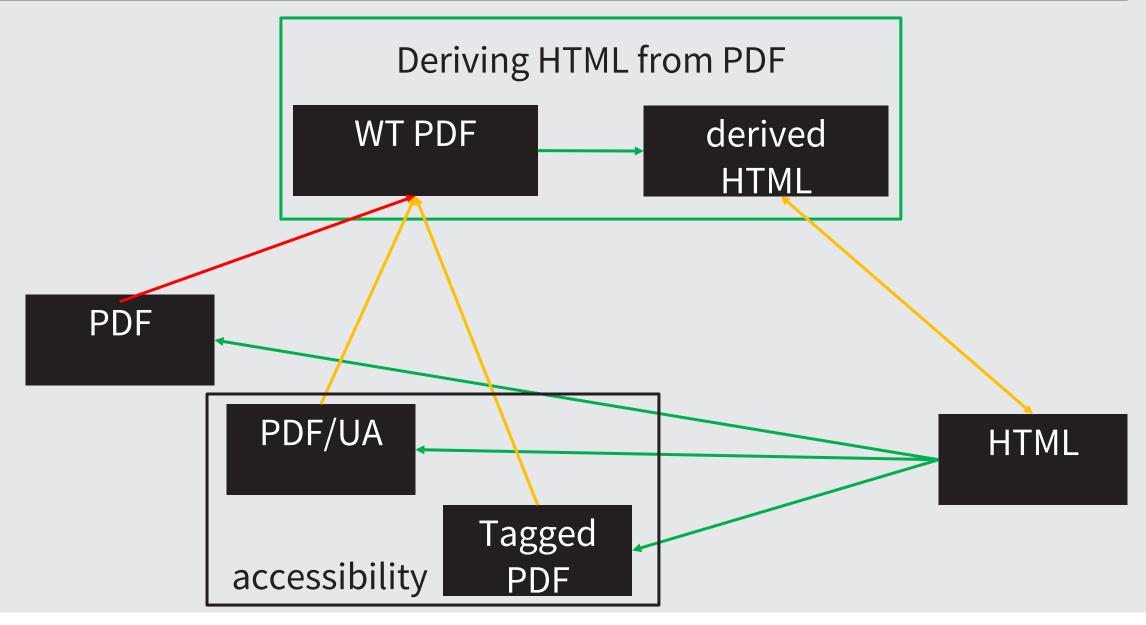






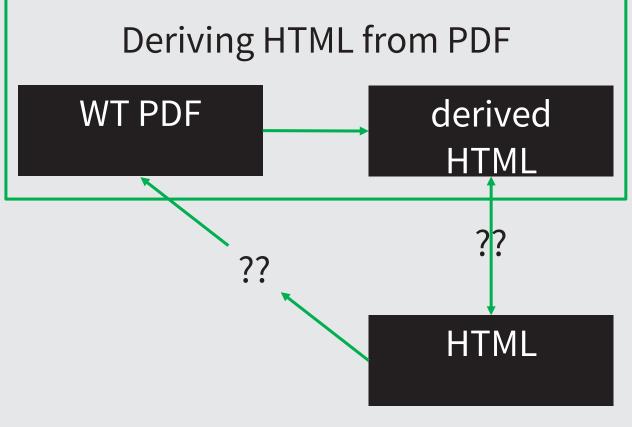


















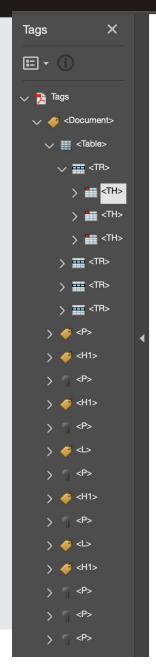


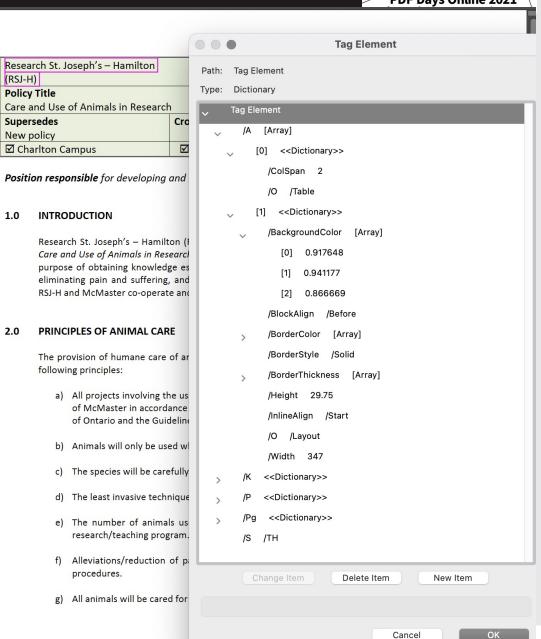
- Not a one to one conversion.
  - <div>, <span> → Div, Span
  - <b>, <i>→ Span and loosing information about tag
  - <
  - <header>, <time> → loosing semantic, no attributes to represent such
- Complex problems
  - Interactive elements
  - Javascript
  - CSS



PDF Days Online 2021

As many Layout attributes as possible

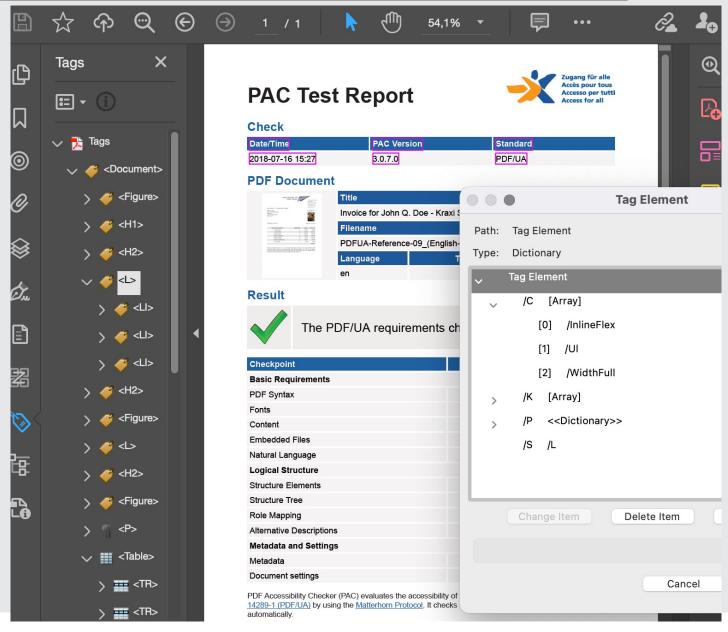








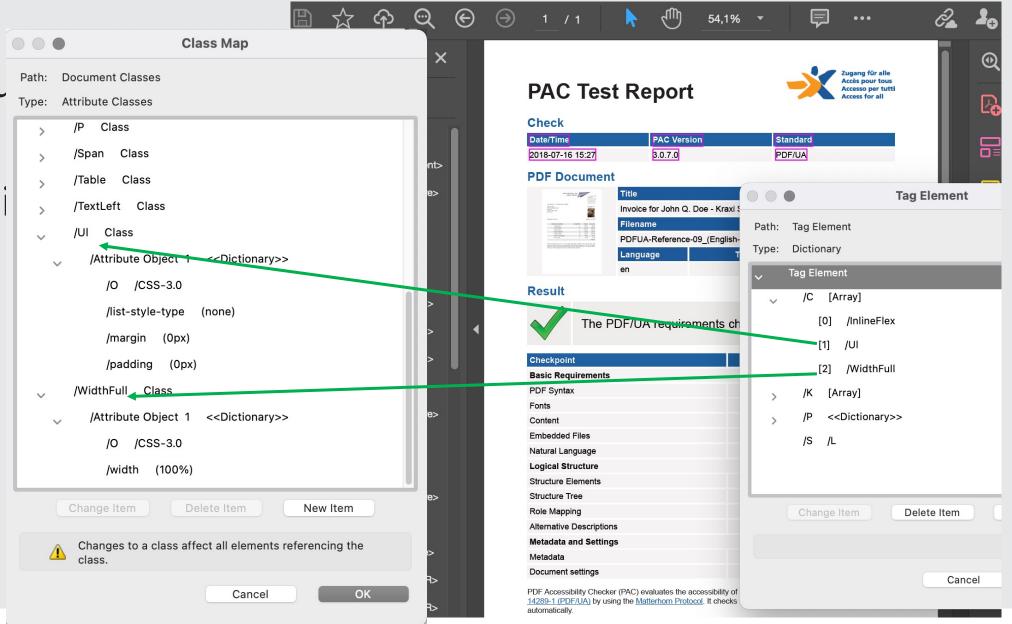
- As many Layout attributes as possible
- 2.0 allows adding CSS, HTML attributes







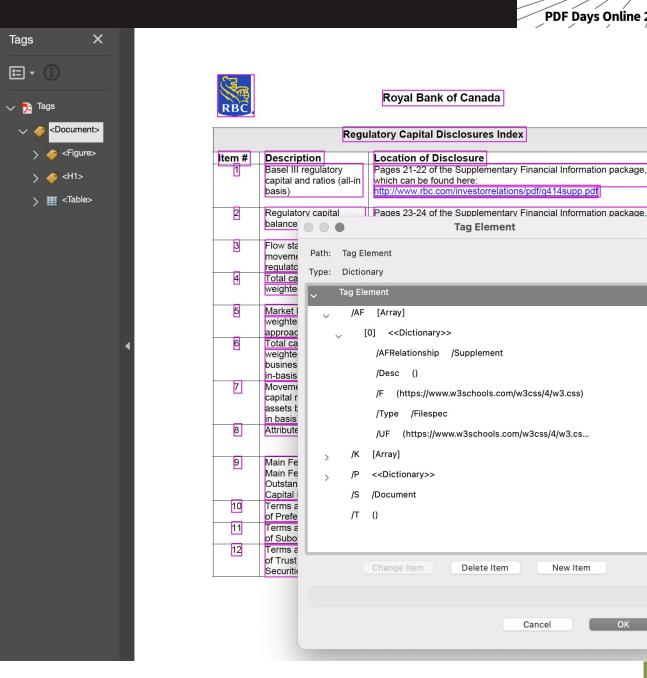
- As many Layou possible
- 2.0 allows addi attributes







- As many Layout attributes as possible
- 2.0 allows adding CSS, HTML attributes
- URL binding





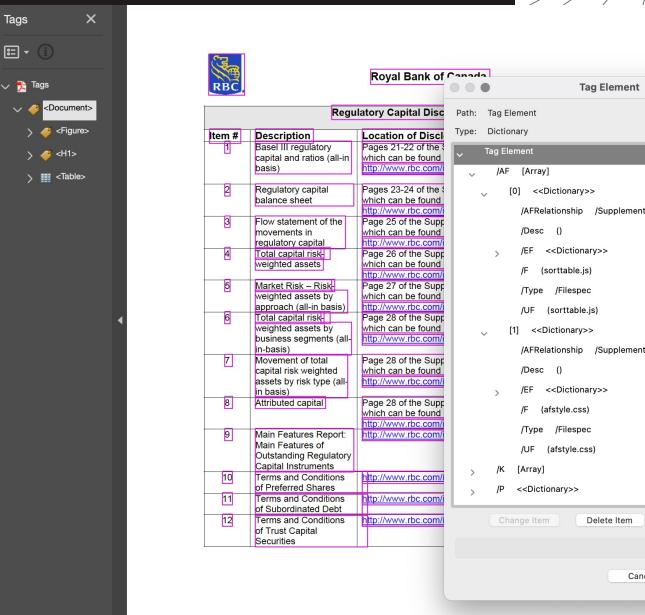
New Item

Cancel



**Tag Element** 

- As many Layout attributes as possible
- 2.0 allows adding CSS, HTML attributes
- URL binding
- Associated files





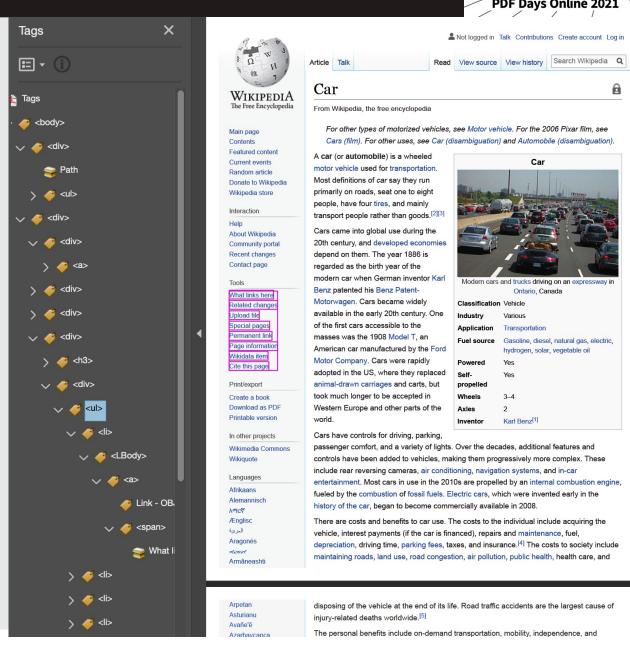
Cancel

Nev

Delete Item



- As many Layout attributes as possible
- 2.0 allows adding CSS, HTML attributes
- URL binding
- Associated files
- HTML Namespace







- As many Layout attributes as possible
- 2.0 allows adding CSS, HTML attributes
- URL binding
- Associated files
- HTML Namespace
- Forms



# Lessons learned - problems



- HTML small, PDF big
- Invalid html
- Incompatible tagsets
- complex html, css, js frameworks, media queries etc...
- Interactivity (forms, fieldsets import/export)
- Online vs. offline (in html world we reference everything by URI)
- Hard to include multiple targets (UA, WT PDF or mobile vs. desktop)



# Landscape change



- WT PDF technical working group
- Forms technical working group
- AnnexL update
- 1.7 and 2.0 Namespaces

PDF/UA-2



# Join us



- Implementation
  - https://github.com/Normex/PDF-Derivation
- Samples
  - https://normex.github.io/PDF-Derivation/
- PDF Association TWG
  - Derivation TWG
  - WT PDF TWG
  - PDF/UA TWG





Roman Toda, Normex

https://github.com/Normex/PDF-Derivation

