



## The PDF Detectives

The dynamically typed duo is on the case!

#### Who are we?



- Kevin Willems
  - Presales Engineer @ iText

- Michaël Demey
  - Research Manager @iText



## Introducing iText Software



**SDK** 



**iText 7 Suite** 

**Best documented and most feature-rich PDF library** 

Open-source library for PDF generation and management,

- PDF/A, PDF/UA,
- Digital signing,
- Security,
- HTML conversion,
- Redaction, OCR, etc.,

and closed source add-ons for rendering capabilities, advanced data extraction, advanced forms processing, PDF optimization, advanced language script capabilities, Office to PDF conversion and much more.

#### **High convenience tools**



**Fast template-based document generation** 

High convenience technology block – save time
Based on iText technology

- WYSIWYG Template designer
- Conditional logic for content visibility
- Data binding
- Advanced data visualizations (barcodes/QR codes, charts...)
- PDF/UA Compliance Assistance
- Template Manager with version, dependency and permission control
- Containerized RESTful PDF-producer API (also available as native Java SDK).





# Mission Briefing



### Goal of the Presentation



- Talk about some interesting behavior in PDF files
  - Debug
  - Explain
  - Resolve (hopefully <sup>(2)</sup>)





## The Toolbelt



### Inventory Report!



#### Analysis and Debugging Tools

- iText RUPS (+iText Core)
- Acrobat Pro

#### **Accessibility and Tagging**

- VeraPDF
- PAC

#### **Low Level Tools**

- Hex Editor
- Notepad++



## RUPS "Demo"



₽ iText RUPS - 7.2.4-SNAPSHOTFile EditHelp

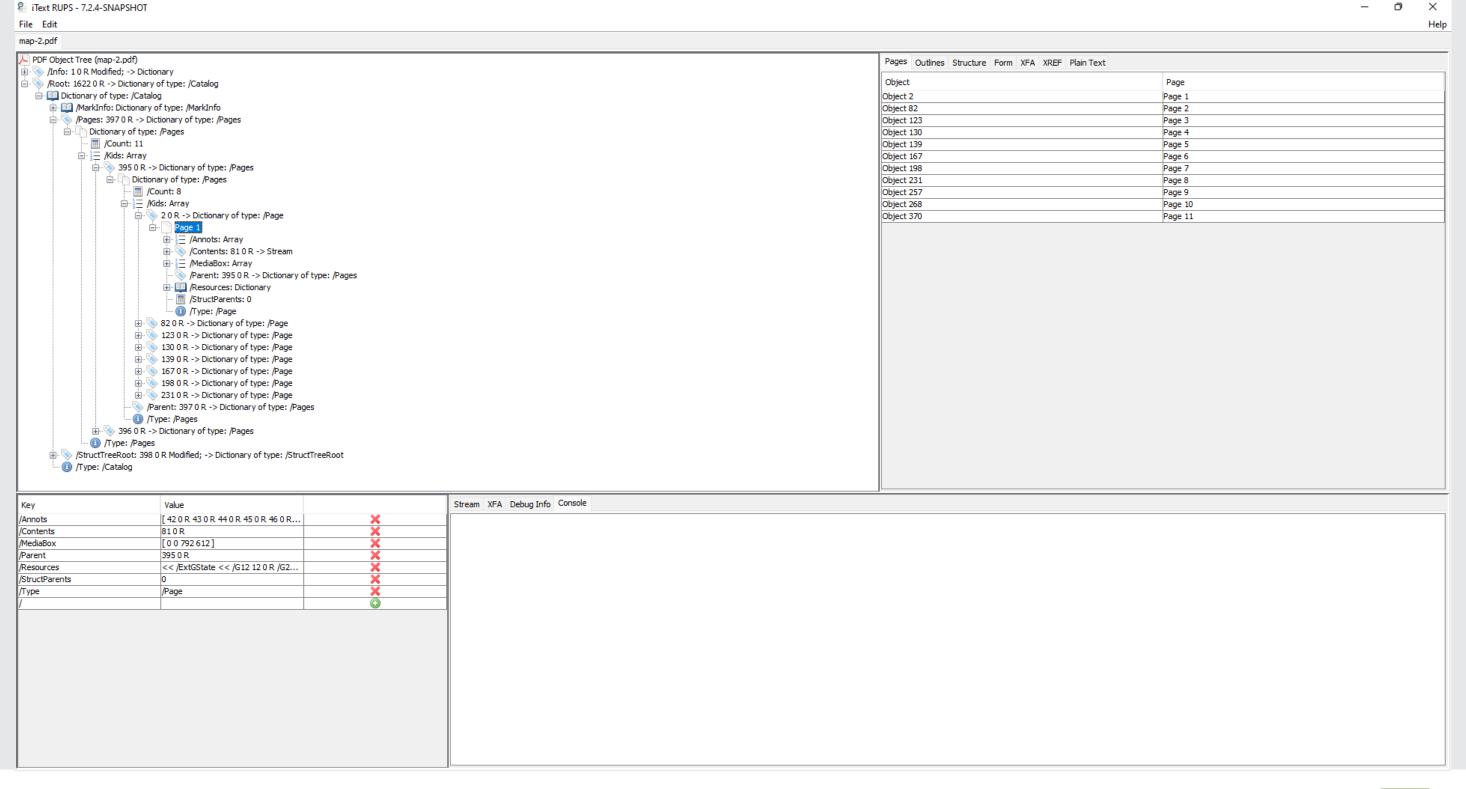
New File

Drag and drop to open new file(s).

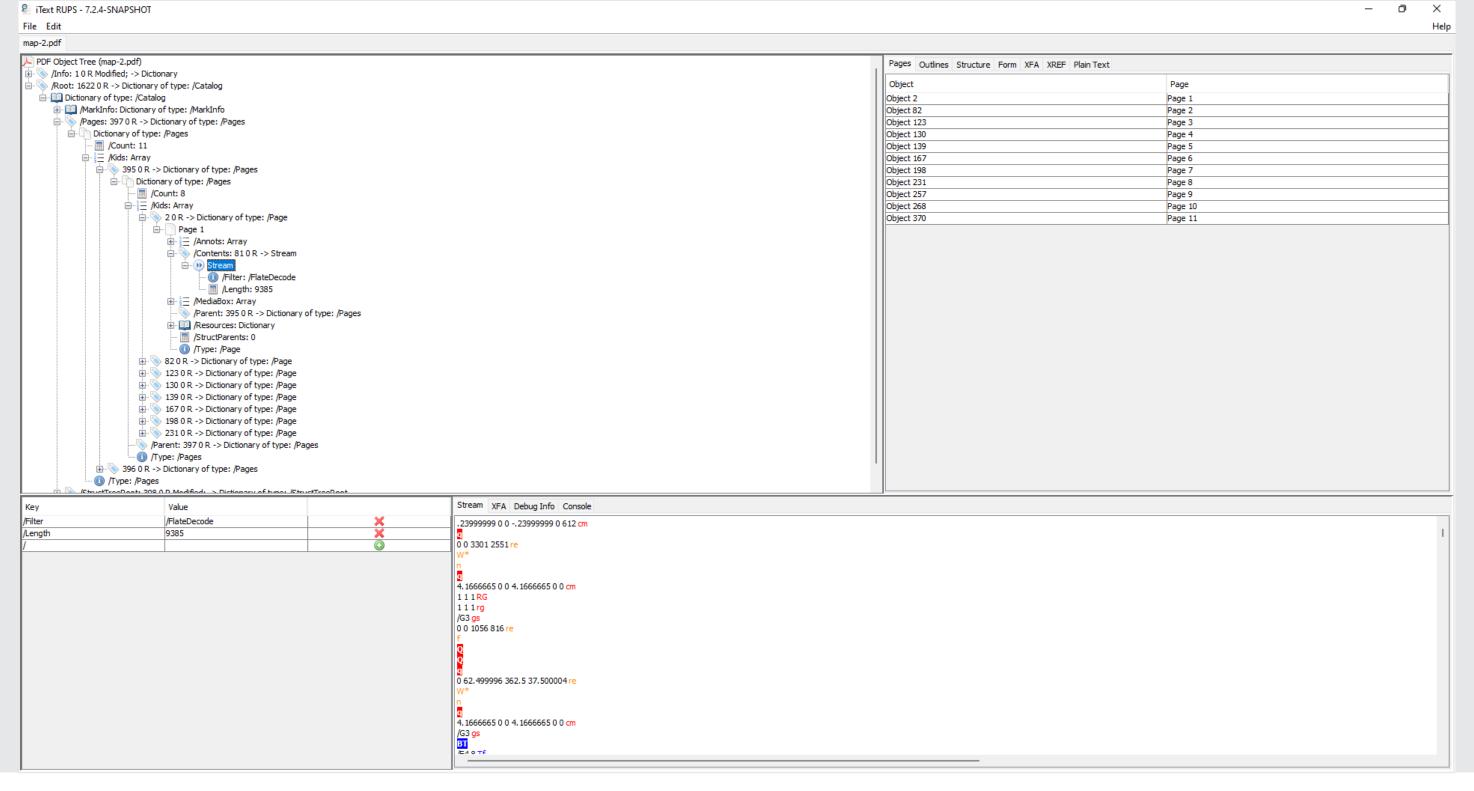


🖺 iText RUPS - 7.2.4-SNAPSHOT			-	- o x
File Edit				Help
map-2.pdf				
PDF Object Tree (map-2.pdf)		Pages Outlines Structure Form XFA XREF Plain Te:	xt	
/Info: 10 R Modified; -> Dictionary				
⊪· 🃎 /Root: 1622 0 R -> Dictionary of type: /Catalog		Object	Page	
		Object 2	Page 1	
		Object 82	Page 2	
		Object 123	Page 3	
		Object 130	Page 4	
		Object 139	Page 5	
		Object 167	Page 6	
		Object 198	Page 7	
		Object 231	Page 8	
		Object 257	Page 9	
		Object 268	Page 10	
		Object 370	Page 11	
	Stream XFA Debug Info Console			
I				











Pages Outlines Structure Form XFA	XREF Plain Text		
Number	Object	Byte Offset	
1	Dictionary of type: /Page	393729	
	Indirect object	393729	
3	Indirect object	398265	
4	Indirect object	403919	
5	Indirect object	406015	
6	Indirect object	406360	
7	Indirect object	406794	
8	Indirect object	408253	
	Indirect object	408545	
	Indirect object	408925	
	Indirect object	410680	
12	Indirect object	764116	
	Indirect object	766456	
	Indirect object	789653	
	Indirect object	789701	
	Indirect object	790215	
	Dictionary of type: /Outlines	790620	
	Indirect object	790996	
	Indirect object	791039	
	Indirect object	793419	
	Indirect object	794997	
	Indirect object	796467	
	Indirect object	797809	
	Indirect object	798356	
	Dictionary of type: /Pages	800562	
I—————————————————————————————————————	Stream of type: /Metadata	804759	
	Dictionary	804819	
	Dictionary of type: /StructTreeRoot	807378	
	Indirect object	Obj. Stream #18 ( 791039 )	
	Indirect object	Obj. Stream #18 ( 791039 )	
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1 <del>11</del>	Dictionary	IOUT PILEAUL # 10 / VA INDA 1	



## iText RUPS



■ It's on GitHub <sup>©</sup>



### Inventory Report!



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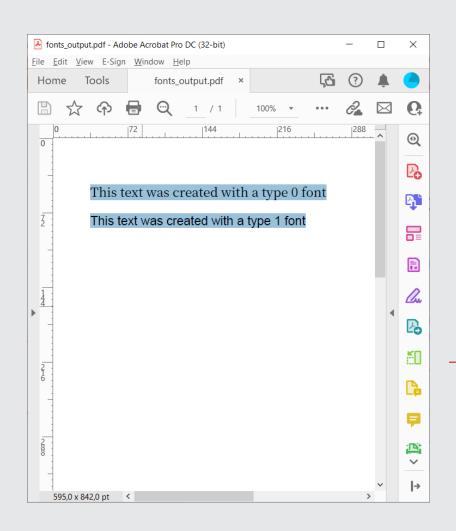


## Cases



#### Case 1 - Usecase

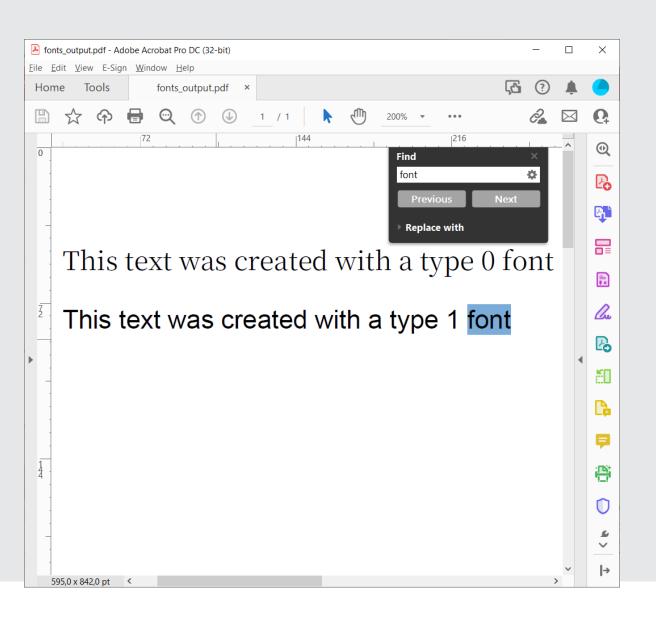






### Case 1 - Usecase









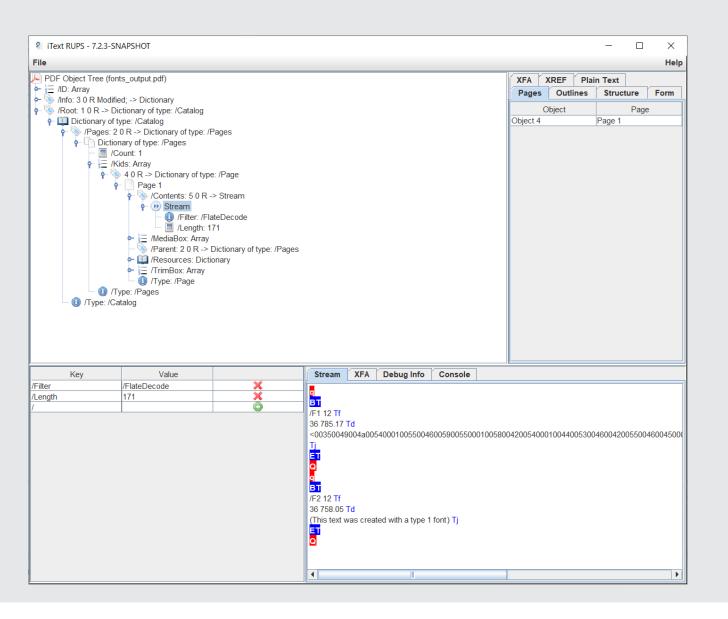
```
C:\Users\kevin\Downloads\fonts_output.pdf - Notepad++ [Administrator]
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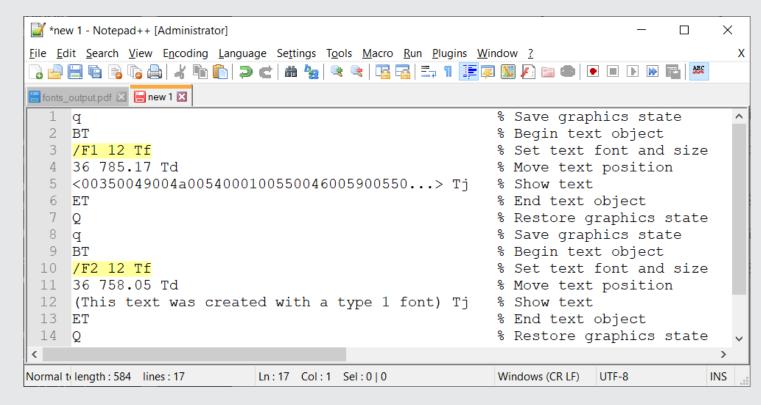
    fonts_output.pdf 

    ✓
  1 %PDF-1.7
  2 %âãÏÓ
  3 5 0 obj
  4 <</Filter/FlateDecode/Length 171>>stream
  5 xœMÍ
  6 Â0DLE,, ïyŠ=ê¥î¦I@<BSzETBòSTXÁ¦´RSaμêÛ»i"ía™åÛ™...EMÅÙ^Õ€ŞVäENO″•Î"EOTÓ^#b®DC1UÍcDC1μBDb
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  8 endstream
  9 endobj
 10 4 0 obj
 11 <</Contents 5 0 R/MediaBox[0 0 595 842]/Parent 2 0 R/Resources<</Fi>
</re>
 12 endobj
 13 1 0 obj
 14 <</Pages 2 0 R/Type/Catalog>>
 15 endobj
 16 3 0 obj
 17 <</CreationDate(D:20220908203236+02'00')/ModDate(D:20220908203236+02'00')/Producer(iText® Core 7.2.2 \(production version\), pdfCa
 18 endobj
 19 2 0 obj
                                                              length: 170.237 lines: 1.317
                                                                                                                Unix (LF)
                                                                                                                            ANSI
Normal text file
                                                                                    Ln:23 Col:8 Sel:0|0
                                                                                                                                         INS
```



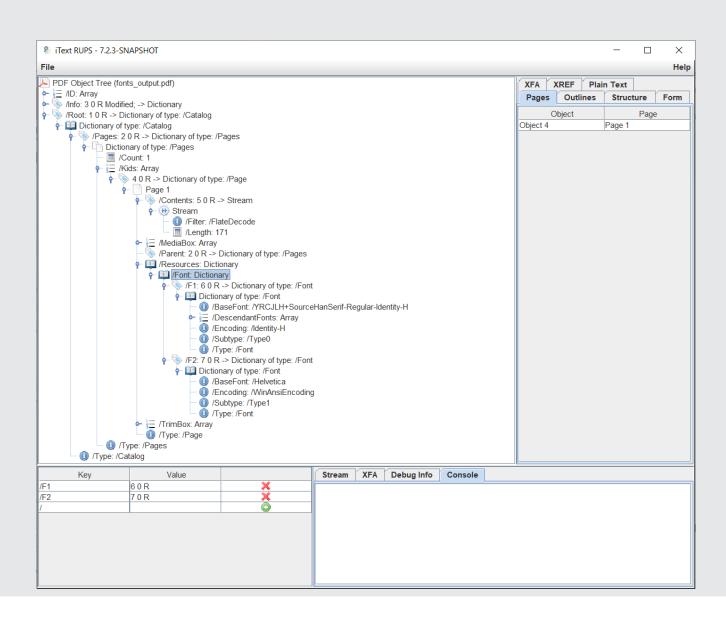








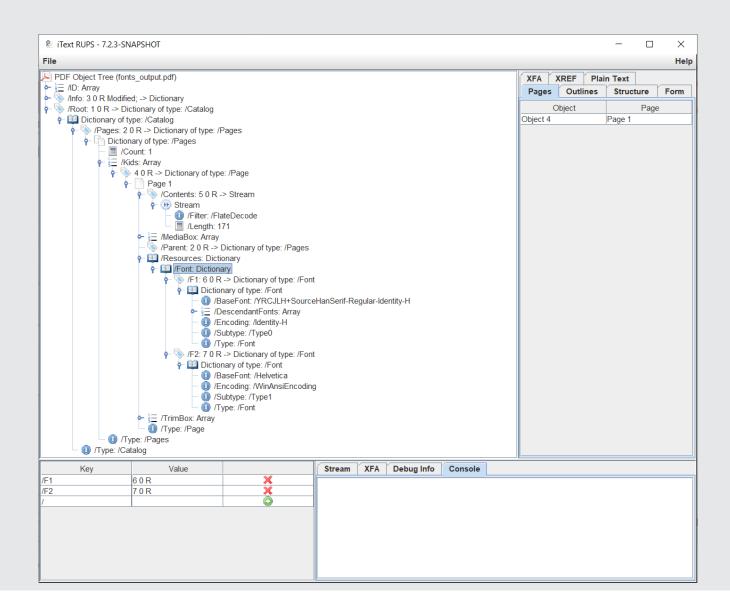








A **type 0 font** is a virtual font that references multiple component fonts.

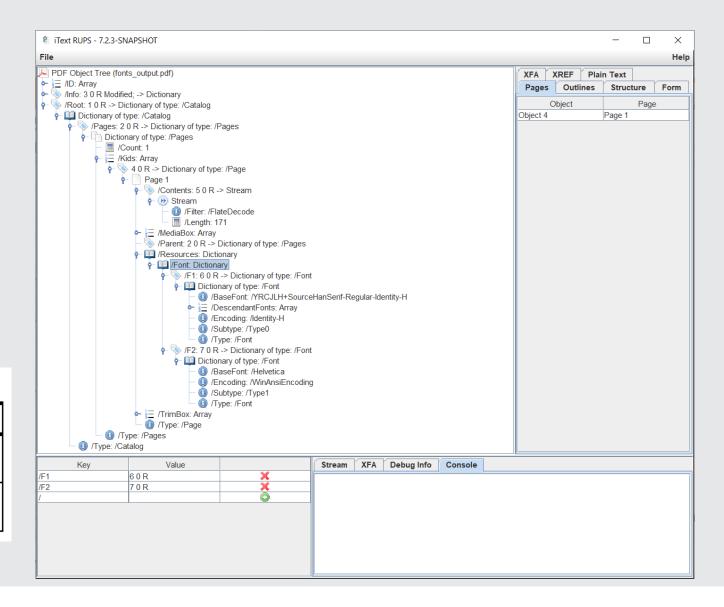






A **type 0 font** is a virtual font that references multiple component fonts.

Key	Туре	Value
DescendantFonts	array	(Required) A one-element array specifying the CIDFont dictionary that is the descendant of this Type 0 font.
ToUnicode	stream	(Optional) A stream containing a CMap file that maps character codes to Unicode values (see 9.10, "Extraction of Text Content").







CID fonts are special fonts designed to display languages with more than 256 characters.

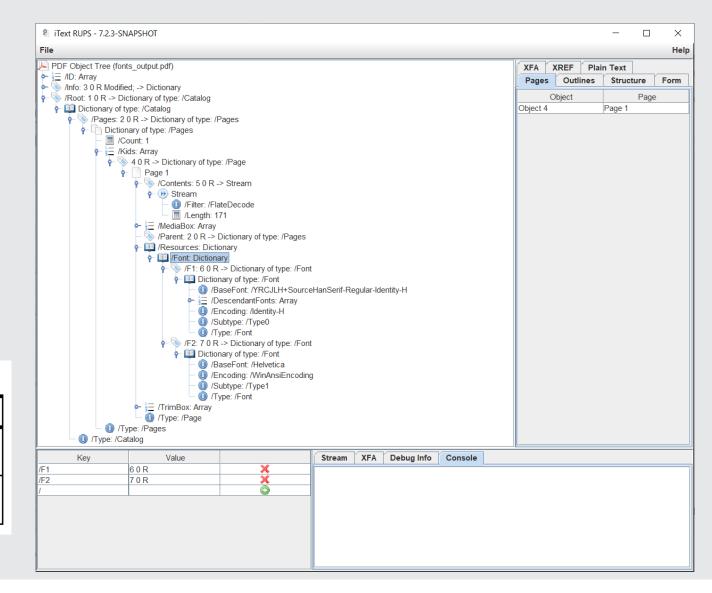
The main features that CID fonts add are the ability to have 16bit values (so 65535 separate CID characters rather than 256) and much more sophisticated and more flexible unicode settings for extraction. **Predefined CMAPs** (or custom ones embedded by the user) allow for text extraction to provide appropriate values.





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DescendantFonts	array	(Required) A one-element array specifying the CIDFont dictionary that is the descendant of this Type 0 font.
ToUnicode	stream	(Optional) A stream containing a CMap file that maps character codes to Unicode values (see 9.10, "Extraction of Text Content").







#### **EXAMPLE 1**

This example illustrates a Type 0 font that uses the Identity-H CMap to map from character codes to CIDs and whose descendant CIDFont uses the Identity mapping from CIDs to TrueType glyph indices. Text strings shown using this font simply use a 2-byte glyph index for each glyph. In the absence of a ToUnicode entry, no information would be available about what the glyphs mean.

```
14 0 obj

<< /Type /Font

/Subtype /Type0

/BaseFont /Ryumin–Light

/Encoding /Identity–H

/DescendantFonts [15 0 R]

/ToUnicode 16 0 R
```





#### **EXAMPLE 1**

This example illustrates a Type 0 font that uses the Identity-H CMap to map from character codes to CIDs and whose descendant CIDFont uses the Identity mapping from CIDs to TrueType glyph indices. Text strings shown using this font simply use a 2-byte glyph index for each glyph. In the absence of a ToUnicode entry, no information would be available about what the glyphs mean.

```
14 0 obj

<< /Type /Font

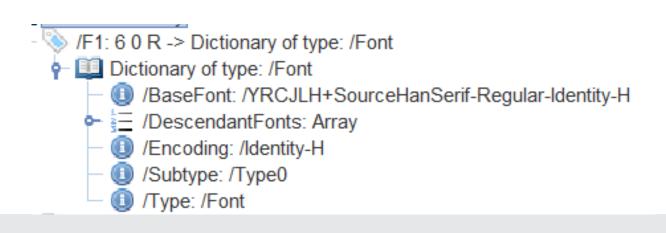
/Subtype /Type0

/BaseFont /Ryumin–Light

/Encoding /Identity–H

/DescendantFonts [15 0 R]

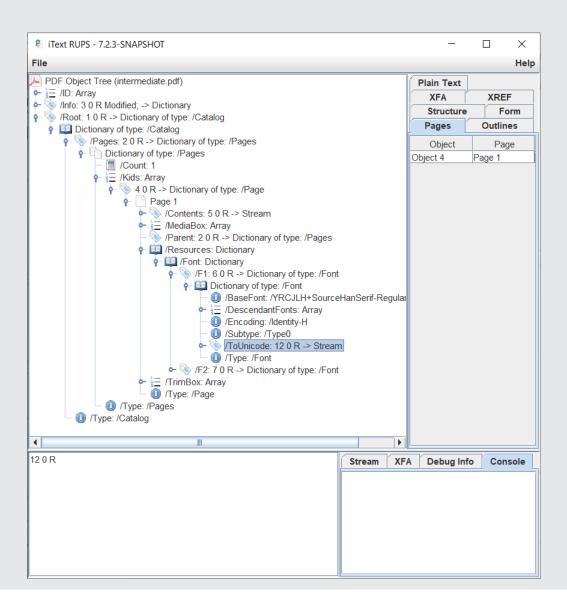
/ToUnicode 16 0 R
```

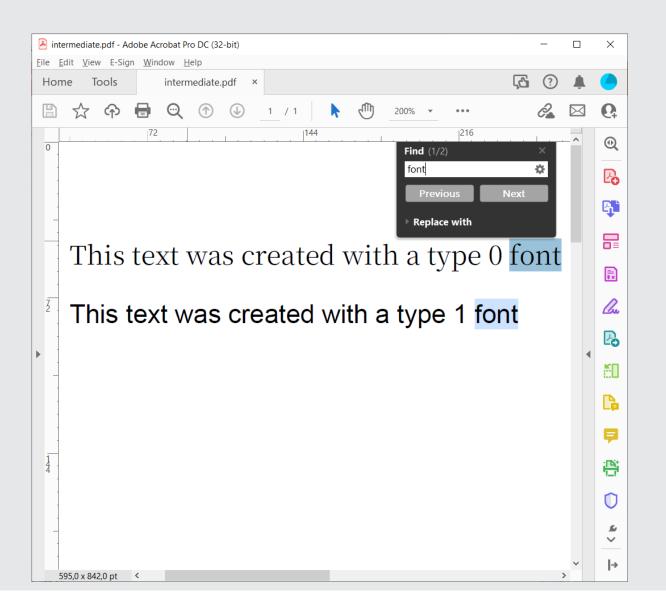




#### Case 1 - Solution



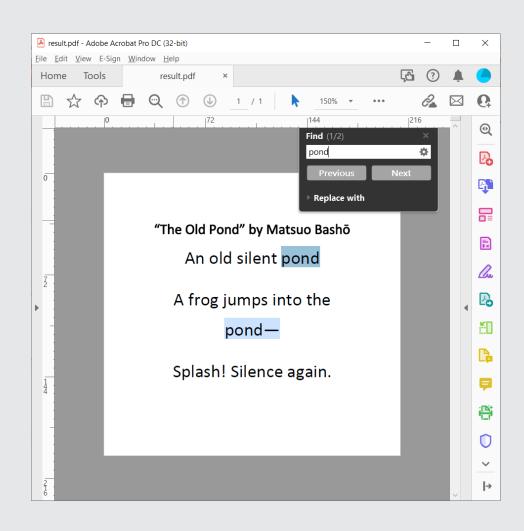


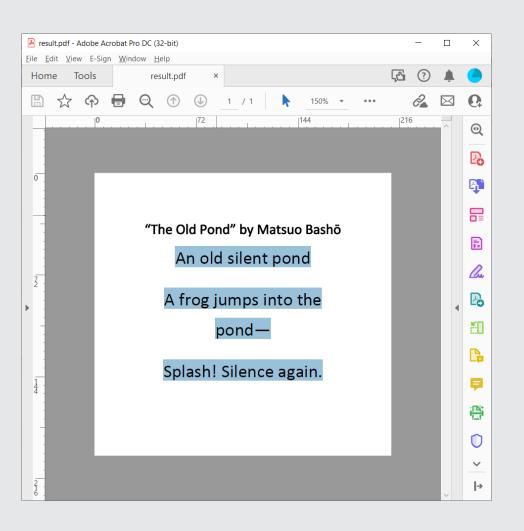




#### Case 2 - Usecase

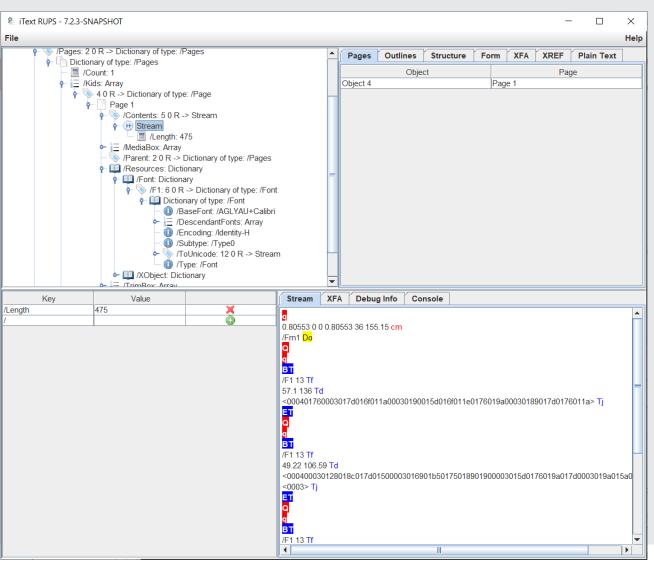












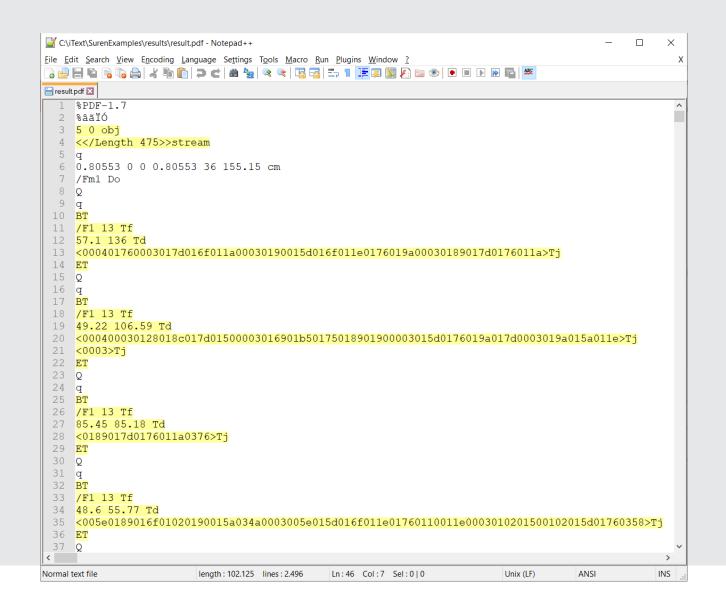
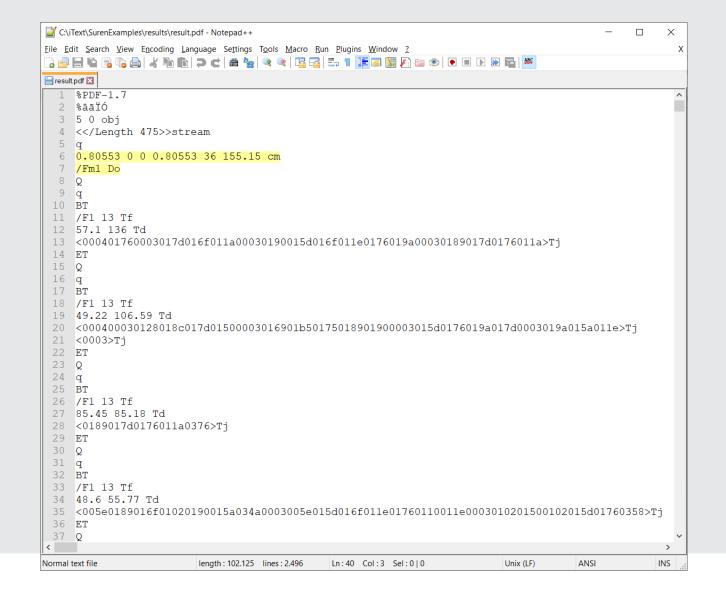




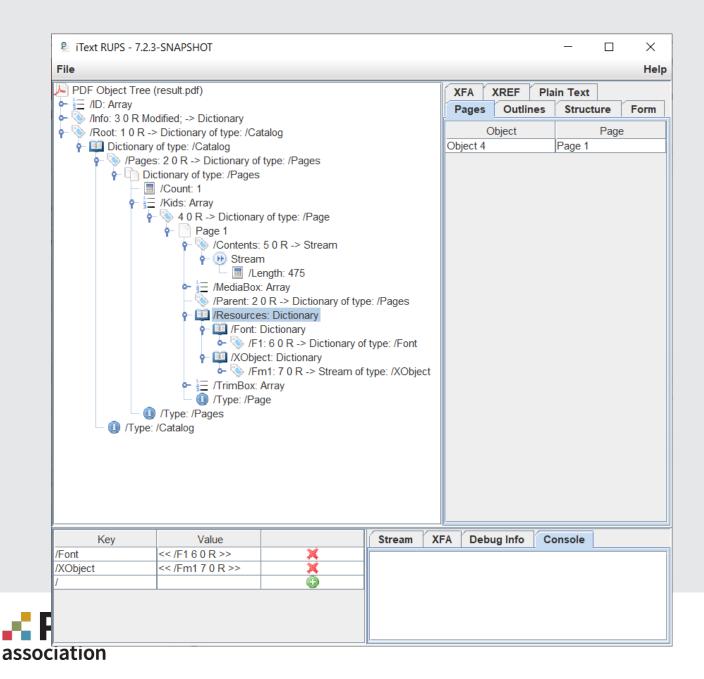


Table 87 – XObject Operator		
Operands	Operator	Description
name	Do	Paint the specified XObject. The operand <i>name</i> shall appear as a key in the <b>XObject</b> subdictionary of the current resource dictionary (see 7.8.3, "Resource Dictionaries"). The associated value shall be a stream whose <b>Type</b> entry, if present, is <b>XObject</b> . The effect of <b>Do</b> depends on the value of the XObject's <b>Subtype</b> entry, which may be <b>Image</b> (see 8.9.5, "Image Dictionaries"), <b>Form</b> (see 8.10, "Form XObjects"), or <b>PS</b> (see 8.8.2, "PostScript XObjects").



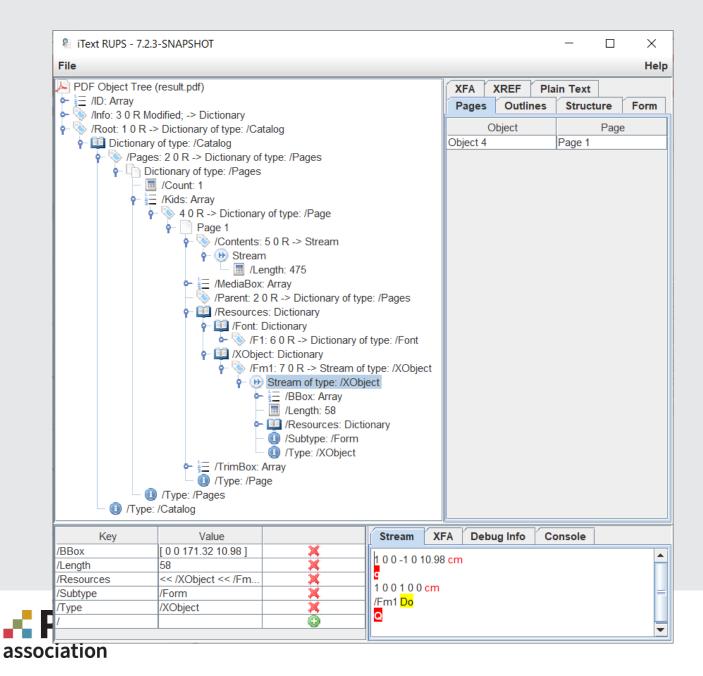


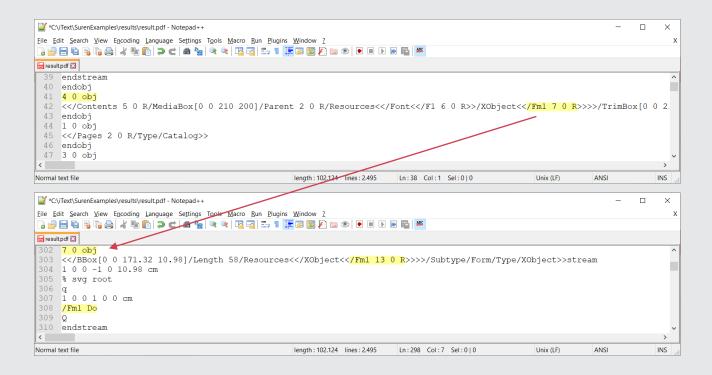




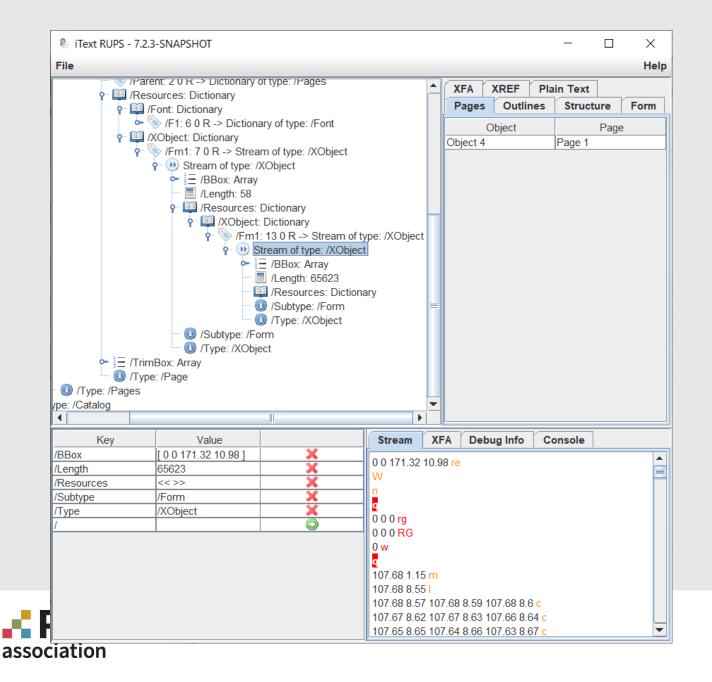
```
*C:\iText\SurenExamples\results\result.pdf - Notepad++
<u>File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Run Plugins Window ?</u>
39 endstream
 40 endobj
 42 <</Contents 5 0 R/MediaBox[0 0 210 200]/Parent 2 0 R/Resources<</Font<</F1 6 0 R>>>/X0bject<</Fm1 7 0 R>>>>/TrimBox[0 0 2
 44 1 0 obj
 45 <</Pages 2 0 R/Type/Catalog>>
 46 endobj
 47 3 0 obj
Normal text file
                                                  length: 102.124 lines: 2.495
                                                                     Ln:38 Col:1 Sel:0|0
                                                                                                 Unix (LF)
                                                                                                            ANSI
                                                                                                                        INS
```







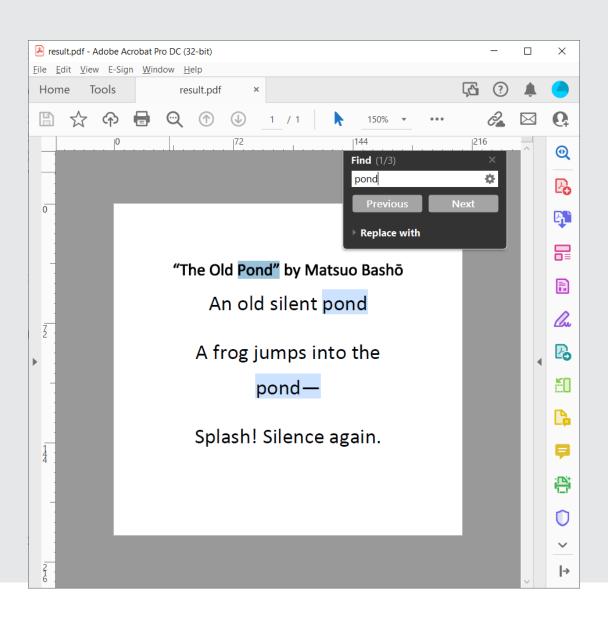




```
*C:\iText\SurenExamples\results\result.pdf - Notepad++
<u>File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Run Plugins Window ?</u>
result.pdf
 39 endstream
 40 endobj
 42 <//Contents 5 0 R/MediaBox[0 0 210 200]/Parent 2 0 R/Resources<//Font<//F1 6 0 R>>/XObject<<//Fm1 7 0 R>>>>/TrimBox[0 0 2
 44 1 0 obj
 45 <</Pages 2 0 R/Type/Catalog>>
 46 endobj
 47 3 0 obj
Normal text file
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*C:\iText\SurenExamples\results\result.pdf - Notepad++
                                                                                                                <u>File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Run Plugins Window ?</u>
result.pdf 🗵
 302 7 0 obj
 303 <</Bbox[0 0 171.32 10.98]/Length 58/Resources<</XObject<<<mark>/Fm1 13 0 R</mark>>>>>/Subtype/Form/Type/XObject>>stream
 304 1 0 0 -1 0 10.98 cm
 305 % svg root
 306 q
307 1 0 0 1 0 0 cm
 308 <mark>/Fm1 Do</mark>
 310 endstream
Normal text file
                                                length: 102.124 lines: 2.495
                                                                   Ln:298 Col:7 Sel:0|0
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File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Run Plugins Window ?
esult.pdf
 368 <</BBox[0 0 171.32 10.98]/Length 65623/Resources<<>>/Subtype/Form/Type/XObject>>stream
 369 0 0 171.32 10.98 re
 373 0 0 0 rg
 374 0 0 0 RG
 375 0 w
 376 q
 377 % path
 378 107.68 1.15 m
 379 107.68 8.55 1
 380 107.68 8.57 107.68 8.59 107.68 8.6 c
 381 107.67 8.62 107.67 8.63 107.66 8.64 c
 382 107.65 8.65 107.64 8.66 107.63 8.67 c
 383 107.62 8.68 107.6 8.69 v
                                                INS
                                                                                             Unix (LF)
```

### Case 2 - Solution

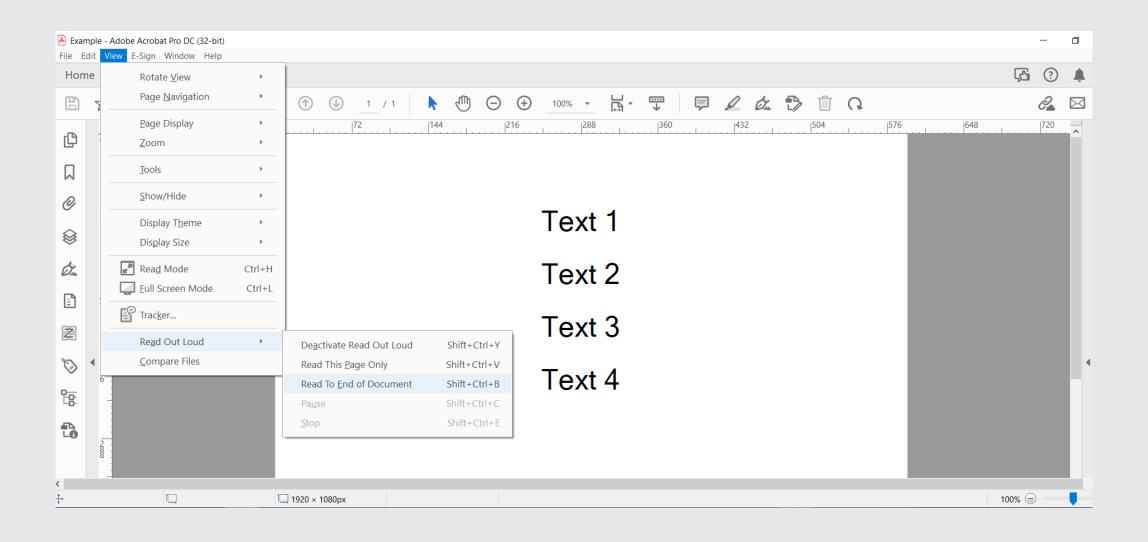






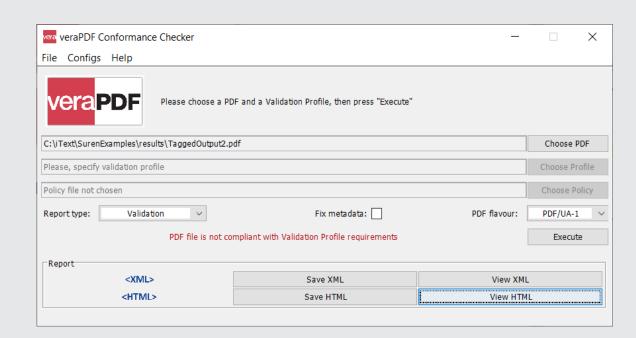
#### Case 3 - Usecase

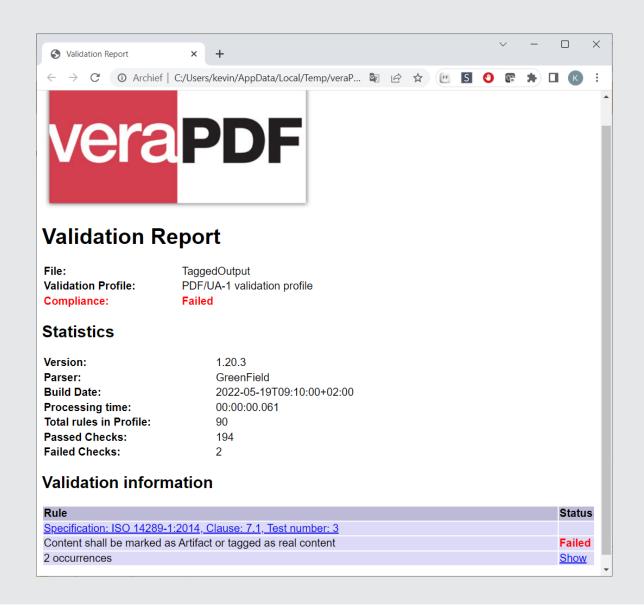








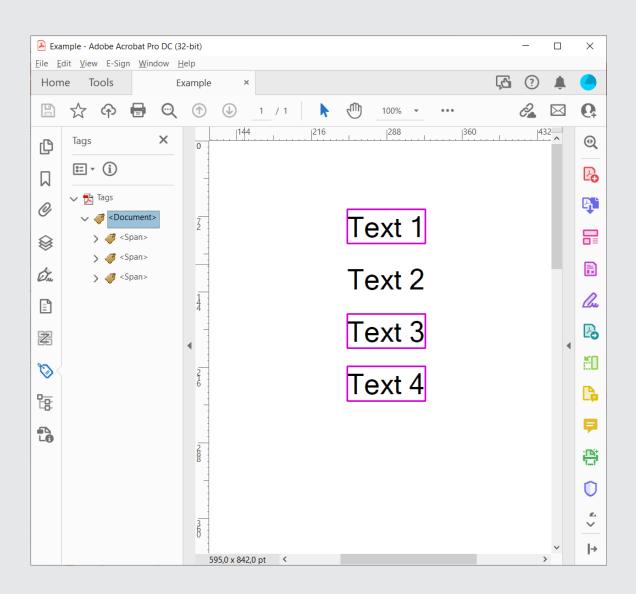


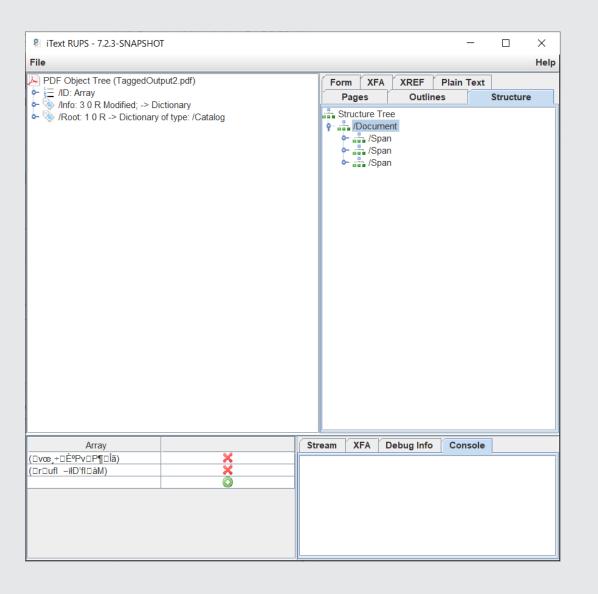




### Case 3 - Debugging



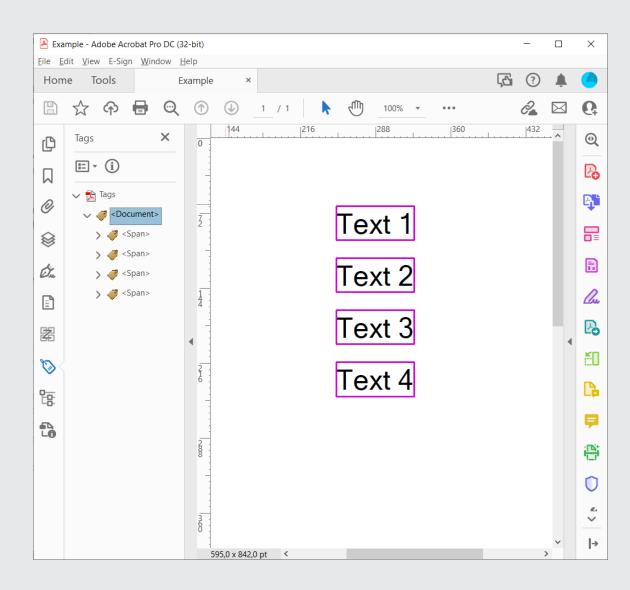


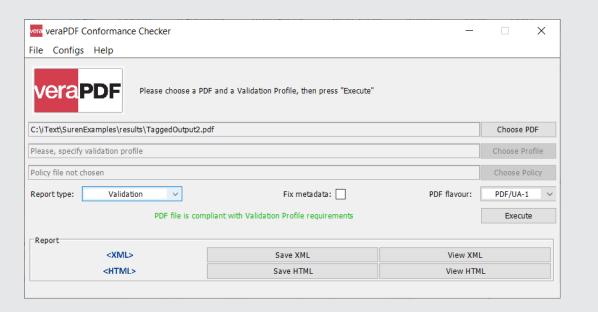




#### Case 3 – Solution?



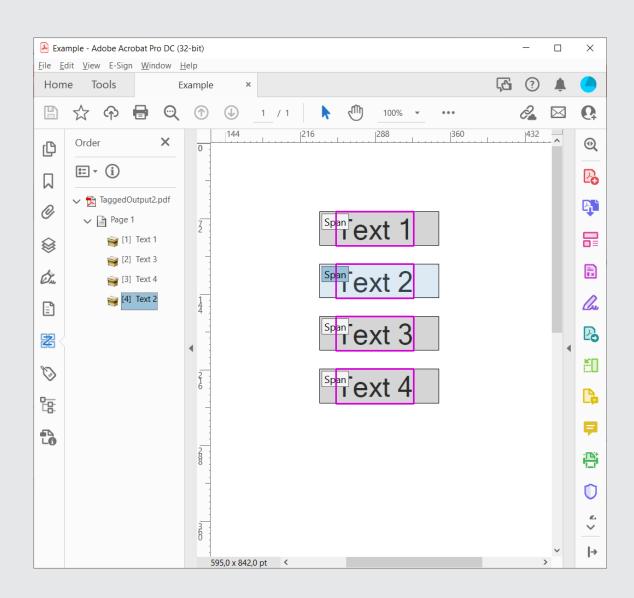


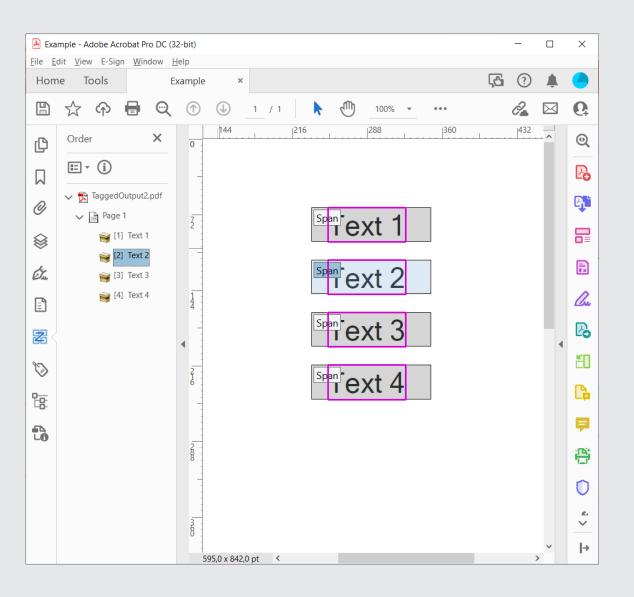




#### Case 3 – Solution!













Calling PDF devs, both commercial and open source, take a look at the file attached to:

issues.apache.org/jira/browse/PD...

This file causes infinite loops in a bunch of tools that I thought would handle this more robustly.

8:29 PM · Apr 12, 2022 · Twitter Web App



### Case 4 – Witness Report





PDFBox / PDFBOX-5415

Infinite loop in ExtractText in 2.x branch on a specific pdf

#### Description

DavidAvant reported an infinite loop in Tika and provided an example file. I can reproduce this with the latest PDFBox app 2.0.26-SNAPSHOT's ExtractText.

File: https://issues.apache.org/jira/secure/attachment/13042292/map.pdf

Adobe and a slightly out of date pdftotext also have problems with this file.



### Case 4 – The initial look



<b>■</b>		
		Find a town, a zip code,
		a department, a region in France
623	Sainte-Suzanne	Search
MAP-FRANCE.COM	French Version: http://www.cartesfrance.fr/carte-france-ville/97420 Sainte-Suzanne.html	I like Map-France.com !
Map of France Regio	ns Departments Cities Hotels Directions Satellite Weather  La Réunion > Sainte-Suzanne	
	City of Sainte-Suzanne	
Sainte-Suzanne	)	I like Sainte-Suzanne !
Samte-Suzanne	The city of Sainte-Suzanne is located in the department of La Réunion of the french region La Réunion. The city of Sainte-Suzanne is located in the township of Sainte-Suzanne part of the district of Saint-Denis. The area code for Sainte-Suzanne is 97420 (also known as code INSEE), and the Sainte-Suzanne zip code is 97441.	
Hotel	Geography and map of Sainte-Suzanne :	
Мар	The altitude of the city hall of Sainte-Suzanne is approximately 725 meters. The Sainte-Suzanne surface is 58.84 km <sup>2</sup> . The latitude and longitude of Sainte-Suzanne are 20.906 degrees South and 55.607 degrees East. Nearby cities and towns of Sainte-Suzanne are:	
Photos	Sainte-Marie (97438) at 6.09 km, Saint-André (97440) at 7.59 km, Bras-Panon (97412) at 12.26 km, Salazie (97433) at 15.30 km, Saint-Denis (97400) at 16.77 km, Saint-Benott (97470) at 17.97 km, La Plaine-des-Palnistes (97431) at 25.55 km, La Possession	
Weather	(97419) at 28.26 km. (The distances to these nearby towns of Sainte-Suzanne are calculated as the crow flies)	
Population	Population and housing of Sainte-Suzanne: The population of Sainte-Suzanne was 18 137 in 1999 and 21 856 in 2007. The population density of Sainte-Suzanne is 371.45 inhabitants per km². The number of housing of Sainte-	
Housing	Suzanne was 7 219 in 2007. These homes of Sainte-Suzanne consist of 6 823 main residences, 43 second or occasional homes and 353 vacant homes.	



### Case 4 – The initial look



3/4/22, 3:35 PM	SAINTE-SUZANNE - Map of Sainte-Suzanne 97441 France
	Find a town, a zip code,
	a department, a region in France
Sec.	Sainte-Suzanne
MAP-FRANCE.COM	Like Map-France.com
Map of France Region	ns Departments Cities Hotels Directions Satellite Weather
	> La Réunion > Sainte-Suzanne
map of France > La Reunion >	> La Reunion > Same-Suzame
	City of Sainte-Suzanne
Sainte-Suzanne	The city of Sainte-Suzanne is located in the department of La Réunion of the french region
	La Réunion. The city of Sainte-Suzanne is located in the township of Sainte-Suzanne part of
Hotel	La Réunion. The city of Sainte-Suzanne is located in the township of Sainte-Suzanne part of the district of Saint-Denis. The area code for Sainte-Suzanne is 97420 (also known as code
	La Réunion. The city of Sainte-Suzanne is located in the township of Sainte-Suzanne part of the district of Saint-Denis. The area code for Sainte-Suzanne is 97420 (also known as code INSEE), and the Sainte-Suzanne zip code is 97441.  Geography and map of Sainte-Suzanne:  The altitude of the city hall of Sainte-Suzanne is approximately 725 meters. The Sainte-
Hotel Map	La Réunion. The city of Sainte-Suzanne is located in the township of Sainte-Suzanne part of the district of Saint-Denis. The area code for Sainte-Suzanne is 97420 (also known as code INSEE), and the Sainte-Suzanne zip code is 97441.  Geography and map of Sainte-Suzanne:  The altitude of the city hall of Sainte-Suzanne is approximately 725 meters. The Sainte-Suzanne surface is 58.84 km <sup>-2</sup> . The latitude and longitude of Sainte-Suzanne are 20.906 degrees South and 55.607 degrees East. Nearby cities and towns of Sainte-Suzanne are:
	La Réunion. The city of Sainte-Suzanne is located in the township of Sainte-Suzanne part of the district of Saint-Denis. The area code for Sainte-Suzanne is 97420 (also known as code INSEE), and the Sainte-Suzanne zip code is 97441.  Geography and map of Sainte-Suzanne:  The altitude of the city hall of Sainte-Suzanne is approximately 725 meters. The Sainte-Suzanne surface is 584 km <sup>2</sup> . The latitude and longitude of Sainte-Suzanne are 20.906 degrees South and 55.607 degrees East. Nearby cities and towns of Sainte-Suzanne are: Sainte-Marie (97438) at 6.09 km, Saint-André (97440) at 7.59 km, Bras-Panon (97412) at
Мар	La Réunion. The city of Sainte-Suzanne is located in the township of Sainte-Suzanne part of the district of Saint-Denis. The area code for Sainte-Suzanne is 97420 (also known as code INSEE), and the Sainte-Suzanne zip code is 97441.  Geography and map of Sainte-Suzanne:  The altitude of the city hall of Sainte-Suzanne is approximately 725 meters. The Sainte-Suzanne surface is 584 km a. The latitude and longitude of Sainte-Suzanne are 20.906 degrees South and 55.607 degrees East. Nearby cities and towns of Sainte-Suzanne are: Sainte-Mane (97438) at 6.09 km, Saint-Denis (97400) at 7.59 km, Bras-Panon (97412) at 12.26 km, Salazie (97433) at 15.30 km, Saint-Denis (97400) at 16.77 km, Saint-Benoît (97470 at 17.97 km, La Plaine-de-Palmistes (97431) at 25.55 km, La Possession
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Map Photos Weather	La Réunion. The city of Sainte-Suzanne is located in the township of Sainte-Suzanne part of the district of Saint-Denis. The area code for Sainte-Suzanne is 97420 (also known as code INSEE), and the Sainte-Suzanne zip code is 97441.  Geography and map of Sainte-Suzanne:  The altitude of the city hall of Sainte-Suzanne is approximately 725 meters. The Sainte-Suzanne surface is 58.48 km². The latitude and longitude of Sainte-Suzanne are 20.906 degrees South and 55.607 degrees East. Nearby cities and towns of Sainte-Suzanne are: Sainte-Manie (9748) at 6.09 km, Saint-Denis (9740) at 7.59 km, Bras-Panon (97412) at 12.26 km, Salazie (97433) at 15.30 km, Saint-Denis (97400) at 16.77 km, Saint-Benoît (97470) at 17.97 km, La Plaine-des-Palmistes (97431) at 25.55 km, La Possession (97419) at 28.26 km.  (The distances to these nearby towns of Sainte-Suzanne are calculated as the crow files)
Map	La Réunion. The city of Sainte-Suzanne is located in the township of Sainte-Suzanne part of the district of Saint-Denis. The area code for Sainte-Suzanne is 97420 (also known as code INSEE), and the Sainte-Suzanne zip code is 97441.  Geography and map of Sainte-Suzanne:  The altitude of the city hall of Sainte-Suzanne is approximately 725 meters. The Sainte-Suzanne surface is 58 48 km <sup>2</sup> . The latitude and longitude of Sainte-Suzanne are 20.906 degrees South and 55.607 degrees East. Nearby cities and towns of Sainte-Suzanne are : Sainte-Marie (97438) at 6.09 km, Saint-Denis (9740) at 7.59 km, Bras-Panon (97412) at 12.26 km, Sainzie (97433) at 15.30 km, Saint-Denis (97400) at 16.77 km, Saint-Benoît (97470) at 17.97 km, La Plaine-des-Palmistes (97431) at 25.55 km, La Possession (97419) at 28.26 km.  (The distances to these nearby towns of Sainte-Suzanne are calculated as the crow files)  Population and housing of Sainte-Suzanne:  The population for Sainte-Suzanne was 18 137 in 1999 and 21 856 in 2007. The population
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It crashes the viewer



### Case 4- Break out the tools



- Reproduce the issue as-is
  - Run PDF Box code
  - Encounter reported behavior



### Case 4 – Switch up the tools



- Run the same code on iText 7
  - Is the bug only in PDF Box or is it a file issue
  - Encounter the same behavior



### Case 4 – Dissecting the body





## Case 4 – Examining the Blood Work



```
.23999999 0 0 -.23999999 0 612 cm

/G3 gs

/G336 gs

/X334 Do

/G8 gs

/G337 gs

/X334 Do

/G8 gs
```

### Case 4 – Drilling down into blood results



```
.23999999 0 0 -.23999999 0 612 cm

/G3 gs

/G332 gs

/X330 Do

/G8 gs

/G333 gs

/X330 Do

/G8 gs
```



### Case 4 – Noticing the oddity



```
.23999999 0 0 -.23999999 0 612 cm

/G3 gs

/G328 gs

/X326 Do

/G8 gs

/G329 gs

/X326 Do

/G8 gs
```

### Case 4 – Crunching the numbers



```
I Jenkinsfile
                                                public static void main(String[] args) throws Exception {
 # LICENSE.md
                                                    PdfDocument pdfDoc = new PdfDocument(new PdfReader( filename: "page10.pdf"));
 page 10.pdf
                                                    System.out.println(countXobjDepth(pdfDoc.getFirstPage().getResources()));
 Imx.mog m
 README.md
                                               public static int countXobjDepth(PdfResources res) {
 root.iml
                                                    if(res == null || !res.getPdfObject().containsKey(PdfName.XObject)) {
 ruby-test.pdf
 📶 sonar-project.properties
                                                        return 0;
 testout.pdf
 Uagrantfile
                                                    int curMax = 0;
 weirdxmp.pdf
                                                    for(PdfObject child : res.getPdfObject().getAsDictionary(PdfName.XObject).values()) {
External Libraries
                                                        PdfStream stm = (PdfStream) child;
Scratches and Consoles
                                                        int childDepth;
 Extensions
                                                        if(PdfName.Form.equals(stm.get(PdfName.Subtype))) {
 ✓ I Java
                                                             childDepth = 1 + countXobjDepth(new PdfFormXObject(stm).getResources());
      predefinedExternalAnnotations.
                                                        } else {
       predefinedExternalAnnotations.
                                                             childDepth = 1: // image -> depth 1
    Scratch
     SLF4J: Failed to load class "org.slf4j.impl.StaticLoggerBinder".
     SLF4J: Defaulting to no-operation (NOP) logger implementation
     SLF4J: See <a href="http://www.slf4j.org/codes.html#StaticLoggerBinder">http://www.slf4j.org/codes.html#StaticLoggerBinder</a> for further details.
     24
     Process finished with exit code 0
```



#### Case 4 – Conclusion



- The PDF file isn't broken
- Implementations aren't broken
- PDF files can have complex and intricate constructs
  - Flexibility of the spec
- Parsers need to find ways around this
  - Cache XObjects
  - Lazy Loading of XObjects



### Case 5 – The One with Crowd-sourcing



- Customer reports "broken text extraction"
  - The text was perfectly legible in viewers





- Customer reports "broken text extraction"
  - The text was perfectly legible in viewers
  - When extracting, only some letters would be incorrect
    - Yet, consistent incorrect





- Customer reports "broken text extraction"
  - The text was perfectly legible in viewers
  - When extracting, only some letters would be incorrect
    - Yet, consistent incorrect
  - Across tools
    - So, not an iText issue





- Customer reports "broken text extraction"
  - The text was perfectly legible in viewers
  - When extracting, only some letters would be incorrect
    - Yet, consistent incorrect
  - Across tools
    - So, not an iText issue
  - Through the same producer



### Case 5 – Resolution



The mapping was completely off

- Erroneous behavior of that producer?
- Obfuscation?





# Mission Report

