

PDF Accessibility

The Sweet Spot Between Automation and Human Remediation

Peter Shikli



Introductions

- ❖ Peter Shikli

- ❖ UCLA '72, Loyola '82

- ❖ Founded Bizware Online Applications Inc. '95



- ❖ eTaskBoard

- ❖ Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, OR



Starting Point

- ❖ Accessibility, not PDFs
 - ❖ WCAG, WCAG-EM, Section 508
 - ❖ Certified Trusted Testers
 - ❖ Office of Accessible Systems & Technology
 - ❖ Structured methodology
 - ❖ 81 Objective, reliable, standards-based test criteria
 - ❖ Over 100 integrated tools available
 - ❖ Markup analysis, CSS/JS, productivity & process automation, QA, site-wide, reporting
 - ❖ Sweet spot between automation and analysis
 - ❖ Empower the analyst, not replace her.



Clients Encourage Our Expansion into PDF Accessibility

- ❖ Standards
 - ❖ Adobe Checker vs. PAC-3 vs. WCAG vs. Matterhorn vs. PDF/UA
- ❖ Less structured testing, more subjective expertise
 - ❖ Voluntary Product Accessibility Templates rare
- ❖ Tools
 - ❖ Adobe, Axes4, CommonLook, Open Access Tech, Open Text, PAC-3, etc.
 - ❖ Compared to web: under-featured, expensive, immature, not cross-compatible
- ❖ Sweet spot between automation and analysis
- ❖ Gap between automation and analysis.



Challenge: The Missing Pieces

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- ❖ Tables
 - ❖ Summaries
 - ❖ Violated only by Adobe
 - ❖ Complex Tables
 - ❖ Wizard to enter:
 - ❖ structure
 - ❖ spans
 - ❖ headers
 - ❖ batch cell associations
 - ❖ Model Existing Table with Defects/Omissions
 - ❖ Show ID/Header associations
 - ❖ Break into Simple Tables
 - ❖ Layout Tables
 - ❖ Linearize into paragraph tags.



❖ Images

- ❖ Summary Table
- ❖ Extract to Domain Experts

❖ Link Text

- ❖ Summary Table
- ❖ Progress through PDF like Adobe's "Set Alternative Text"

❖ Content Order vs. Tab Order

- ❖ User designation despite z-order problem.



❖ Page Spans

- ❖ Lasso & tag as single paragraph

❖ Chunk Tagging

- ❖ Ex: Lasso 10 items and assign all <L>, , <Lbl>, and <LBody> tags

❖ Conditional Replacement

- ❖ Nested Boolean logic
 - ❖ ex: if-then-else for markup search and replace

❖ Span Function Designations

- ❖ Underlined, strikethrough, bold, italic when conveys meaning

❖ Undo and Redo

- ❖ At least a dozen in either direction.



Challenge: The Missing System

- ❖ Integrated Accessibility Manager
 - ❖ Separate file
 - ❖ Aardvark.pdf → Aardvark_a11y.pdf (or docx or html)
 - ❖ Support Tables
 - ❖ Images, links, etc.
 - ❖ Staff maintenance instructions
 - ❖ Source document (docx, xlsx, InDesign, SQL Server DB, etc.)
 - ❖ Document family/template
 - ❖ Alternate editable PDF views
 - ❖ Display designated markup
 - ❖ ARIA-like custom tags exploding to sets of markup
 - ❖ Accessibility transaction log
 - ❖ Maintenance log
 - ❖ Audited/remediated by X on date Y with notes Z
 - ❖ Verified tags such as images and links
 - ❖ Establish data sets from commonality across numbers of PDFs
 - ❖ AI but with human guidance and editing.



Offer: A Collaboration Site

- ❖ The Elephant in the Room
 - ❖ How can we help the disabled person?
- ❖ Accessibility Analysts Need Better Tools
 - ❖ Collaborative Dev Support Site
 - ❖ www.PDFAccessibilitySoftware.com
 - ❖ Ready to move elsewhere (PDF Association?)
 - ❖ Access2online cannot build the tools
 - ❖ But we can help collect the requirements
 - ❖ Input from other analysts and service providers
 - ❖ And we can encourage cooperation.



Conclusions

1. We don't have a sweet spot between automation and the analyst
2. We have a gap between automation and the analyst
3. Access2online cannot fill that gap
-- but we would like to help do so

Questions ... Comments ... Ideas

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