Get to know the PDF/UA Processor Liaison Working Group

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Before we begin

For clarification:

1. This session is not a working meeting

2. The point of this session is to tell you:

    A. Who we are,

    B. Why we exist,

    C. What we're doing,

    D. What we've done,

    E. What's on the horizon,

    F. How you can participate, if appropriate.

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Who is in the group?

1. Developers providing support for accessibility needs, including remediation

   A. I'm not the entire group - I'm just the Chair

   B. I'm not a developer, either (although I work for one)

2. Developers working on PDF processors that interface with end users, including PDF viewers and web browsers

3. Assistive Technology (AT) developers and experts

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A couple of definitions

What is a "PDF/UA Processor?"

1. A <u>PDF</u> Processor is software, hardware, etc. that "handles" PDFs in accordance with ISO 32000-2 (the PDF specification)

2. A <u>PDF/UA</u> Processor "handles" PDF content (tags, attributes, keys, artifacts, etc.) in accordance with PDF/UA (the PDF accessibility specification)

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What's the problem?

Why does this group exist?

1. Confusion and inconsistency regarding how PDFs are processed

2. Web technologies typically deliver consistent results of <u>web</u> content; the same cannot be said for PDF processors

3. Results may vary when viewing PDFs in browsers vs. desktop applications

4. Different assistive technologies handle PDFs differently (on desktop, browser, and mobile)

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The current situation

1. Commonly used web technologies now target delivery of consistent results across platforms and devices

    A. Made possible, in part, by the development and adoption of high-quality APIs that have allowed AT to work across platforms

2. The same, unfortunately, cannot be said of PDF

    A. No common accessibility API for processing tagged PDF

    B. Some accessibility vendors use implementation-specific approaches

3. As a result: end users employing various devices typically do not receive an equivalent or consistent experience, which is a cornerstone of accessibility

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The goal

To provide a better end-user experience, regardless of platform

1. Bring together processor and AT developers to discuss:

   A. Current functionality <u>and</u>

   B. What can be done differently in accordance with the new PDF specifications

   (ISO 32000-2 and PDF/UA-2)

   Of course, this should also help with ISO 32000-1 and PDF/UA-1 files!

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What have we been up to?

1. Making connections between "things" in PDF and their analogous HTML elements and/ or ARIA roles

2. Using "Accessibility API Mapping" tables for "how to handle those "things"

    A. [ARIA 1.1](#)

    B. [ARIA 1.2](#)

    C. [HTML Elements](#)

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What have we accomplished?

1. We meet monthly

2. Published an [article on the PDF Association website](#)

3. Download the [Excel spreadsheet](#)representing the work thus far

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Future efforts include…

1. Possibly:

    A. Referencing PD Dom elements (although it's been noted that there are needed improvements)

    B. Ideas from other experts

2. Answering "other" questions, like:

    A. Reading order (hot topic!)

    B. When a TD (or TH) has Alt text, it stops acting link a table cell (and sometimes even a table!)

    C. When a tag has both Alt and ActualText, what should get read

    D. LaTex

    E. Contents entries being required but not exposed by AT

    F. And lots more!

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Where will this work end up?

1. We are taking what's already out there and connecting the dots, where we can, instead of inventing new wheels

   A. Then, create "new" as needed

2. We have not decided on a final end-result product yet, but we could create:

   A. An ISO standard

   B. A Technical Specification

   C. Something or "somethings" else

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Invitation

1. As stated, we are:

   A. Developers providing support for accessibility needs, including remediation

   B. Developers working on PDF processors that interface with end users, including PDF viewers and web browsers

   C. Assistive Technology (AT) developers and experts

2. And we hope to include more, because we:

   A. Welcome new ideas, and

   B. Provide a workplace for development of other industry-agreed outcomes (e.g., test files) aligned with our mission

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How do I get involved?

Participation is easy

1. PDF Association members

   A. Simply join from the "Member Area" section at pdfa.org

2. Suitably qualified non-members

   A. Free for you

   B. Contact info@pdfa.org to request access, and tell us about your interest in PDF/UA processor requirements

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If you want to chat after…

Visit the Allyant booth in the vendor hall!

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