PDF 2.0 Interop Workshops

Preparing for next-generation PDF

- **Test your files and implementations against others**
- **Benefit from shared experience**
- **Explore the possibilities**
- **Workshops in the UK and USA**

Why support PDF 2.0?

Whenever a new version of an existing file format comes along there are some obvious questions that any software developer must ask themselves: do I need to support this new version? What specific benefits would I gain if I do, and what are the risks if I don't?

Benefits

PDF 2.0 includes many new features as well as new capabilities for existing features. Some have broad application across a variety of use-cases; others offer significant benefit for specific market sectors. Just a few examples:

- **Page-level** output intents
- **New rules** on halftones and spot functions
- **256-bit** AES encryption
- **"Unencrypted wrapper"** documents
- **State-of-the-art** digital signature features
- **New 3D,** rich media and geospatial features
- **Associated files**
- **Document parts**
- **Namespaces** for Tagged PDF
- **Support** for UTF-8

Risks

PDF 2.0 isn't just about new features. Just as significant was the effort expended on eliminating ambiguities and instances of implementation-dependence. Conforming processors from multiple vendors should behave more similarly than before; experience shows that older products will have difficulty competing.

PDF 2.0 is designed to be largely backward compatible, but older processors still won't handle new features. One example: the new page-level output intents will be silently ignored by a PDF 1.7 reader, leading to printed colour that may not be acceptable. Printers may initially limit their customers to 1.7 or earlier files, but they will eventually prefer to remove the risk by upgrading to products that support PDF 2.0 files.

The PDF 2.0 interops

In the first half of 2017, two free PDF Association interoperability workshops hosted by Global Graphics Software will provide a platform for PDF tool developers to validate their work against the ISO 32000-2 (PDF 2.0) standard by working with vendors of other tools. Open to all PDF developers wishing to attend, the PDF 2.0 interops offer a variety of benefits.

- **Explore** how your own PDF software and/or test files work with the software and/or test files of other developers
- **Gain** from shared experience and networking with your fellow PDF developers
- **Get** your questions regarding the meaning of the standard answered

PDF Association interop workshops are intended to help achieve industry-wide consensus on the meaning and application of PDF technology standards. Managed by the PDF Association and hosted by leading companies in the PDF space, the interop workshops are designed to provide an environment that provides material value to every PDF developer, from creators to processors to viewers.

About the host

Global Graphics is trusted by global brands to supply the technical innovation that adds value to printed and digital communication solutions, and participates in representing the UK on the ISO committees responsible for PDF technology. Learn more by visiting: **http://www.globalgraphics.com/**.

About the PDF Association

Founded in 2006, the PDF Association promotes the adoption and implementation of International Standards for PDF technology, and works closely with the respective ISO working groups on the development of future PDF standards. Learn more by visiting: **www.pdfa.org/join.**

PDF association

www.pdfa.org

Dates, locations, connections, schedule, costs

Each workshop will begin at 09:00 and run until 17:00. From 09:00 to 16:00 companies may perform whatever pair-wise testing they desire. From 16:00 to 17:00 a group discussion session will allow individual attendees to raise issues encountered in pair-wise testing (attendees should not identify the other party involved in the testing without permission from that other party).

The intention is to reach a consensus on any query regarding the meaning of the standard. Obviously, this will not be an official ruling because that can only be provided by the ISO committee, but should still be useful. The PDF Association may provide alternative ways of disseminating any consensus reached, including the publication of PDF Association Technical or Application Notes

Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided, and we'll enjoy a group dinner event on the evening of the first day.

Global Graphics Software will host both interops; there is no fee for attendance. Attendees must pay their own travel and accommodation expenses. We will provide a list of recommended hotels.

The first PDF 2.0 interop workshop will be held **May 2-3, 2017** in **Cambridge, UK**.

The second PDF 2.0 interop workshop will be held **June 12-13, 2017** in **Boston, USA.**

Both workshops will include dial-in connections for companies who are not able to travel to attend.

Up-to-date location information may be found at **www.pdfa.org/pdf20-interops**

Testing process

Those attending will either provide sample files that are believed to be compliant PDF 2.0 files, or will bring consuming applications that are believed to be able to consume PDF 2.0 files, or both. Attendees are also more than welcome to bring sample files specifically created to test the response of PDF processors to files that are not fully compliant to 32000-2.

Sample files and applications should be provided with information about the general market space for which they are intended and the specific PDF 2.0 features used. This data will be used to construct a matrix of possible test-pairings of file and processor.

Representatives from each company attending will work from the matrix to identify pairings they wish to test. They may discuss their intentions with the other company involved in each pairing to confirm that it's worth testing and to set a time for their testing, or not, as they prefer.

After testing the two companies involved may choose to discuss results or arrange to re-test at a later time following adjustments to their code.

Participating anonymously

Participants wishing to test consuming products anonymously may opt to utilize a PDF Association-provided brokering service to obtain specific samples identified from the matrix for them to test. Both anonymous file producers and consumer companies may then use the broker to pass anonymous comments about test results back to the other party.

The exact mechanism for files and or comments to be supplied to the broker may be arranged directly between the company and the broker.

Testing a consuming tool anonymously means that the file's producer no longer knows exactly who has received their test files. Producer companies may therefore choose to state that their sample files should not be made available to anonymous testers.

More details on the testing and participation processes will be distributed to attendees. Questions may be directed to **duff.johnson@pdfa.org.**

Facilities

A room will be provided with tables, chairs, multiple power sockets and WiFi internet access. The intention is that representatives of the companies involved in a pair-wise test can all sit together with their laptops.

For remote attendees, several small rooms with screen sharing and on-line meeting accounts will be provided to enable on-site and remote attendees to work on pair-wise tests.

Confidentiality

All participating companies will be working without an NDA in place, because requiring one would introduce significant challenges for some attendees.

On the other hand, attendees and their companies are requested to remember that their tests will be conducted largely on pre-release product. Companies attending should not therefore make any public statement about specific interop results, and should definitely not include the name of any other company attending or product in public statements without agreement from that other company.

All files and documents exchanged remain the property of their creators. Companies should not re-distribute any documents or files received without the express permission of the creator; this applies both to sample PDF 2.0 files and anything else exchanged (such as rendered output, screen grabs etc.).

There is no requirement that the two companies involved in testing any pairing of file and consumer should share their results with anyone else. In particular, the matrix will not be updated with any form of pass/fail data.

No central file server will be provided. For each pair-wise test the attendees will exchange sample files directly between themselves to ensure each company knows who has had access to their sample files.

Additional details will be provided to attendees registering for one or more interop events.

Sign up for the PDF 2.0 interop workshops today! **Visit www.pdfa.org/pdf20-interops**