IBM: Our Move to EPUB

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IBM MobileFirst and Accessibility

MobileFirst – IBM Software Directive to prioritize mobile over desktop

Focus beyond Windows desktop platform

PDF not a usable format for handhelds

Print Fidelity less important on a mobile device

Opportunity to leverage accessibility work on open web platform for IBM Documentation

Accessibility – ePUB 3+

- The main competing eBook format (PDF).

- The new ePUB 3 standard is integrating the DAISY and Open Web Accessibility standards.

  - This means that ePUB documents will increasingly offer greater levels of 'out-of-the-box' Accessibility, including on the mobile platform.

- Use of MathML will allow access to Math.

- IBM leads ePUB Open Web component technologies such as HTML 5, SVG, WAI-ARIA.

- Teams within IBM are already deploying ePUB materials (RedBooks, TIE ID teams)

EPUB vs. PDF - mainstream

- EPUB is NOT designed for high print fidelity

- Reflow and scroll vs. pinch and squeeze on mobile

- More searchable (based on HTML5)

- Ability to create portable cloud annotation

    - Highlighting, bookmarks, notes, etc.

- Ability to increase fonts dynamically

- Easier to translate – (Based on HTML5)

- Tie speech to text (self voice)

- Future: Deliver a context aware experience

- Deliver Interactive Documentation (Already going on in Education)

- Able to phase in features as enterprise is ready

- And More: It is programmatically accessible

EPUB Adoption Today

- Second only to plain text and PDF in platform reader support

    - Kindle: Main exception but converters exist

- Document converters exist

    - Word to EPub

    - PDF to EPub

- Authoring Tools Are Available

- IBM working with Adobe to improve accessible EPUB generation in InDesign

Internal Transformation

- All Documentation is stored in OASIS Darwin Information Typing Architecture (DITA)

  - Many enterprises use DITA in part of their business

  - Use Oxygen XML Editors to author content

  - Oxygen DITA to EPUB converters

- Expanding internal web accessibility test tool to process EPUB

- Begin producing EPUB documents 3Q14

- EPUB Readers

  - Tactile: Lucifox plugin Firefox

  - Long Term Readium.js, Readium SDK (Cloud/Mobile)

The Move

- February 13, 2014 [IBM Announces Move to EPUB](#)

  - [IBM Blog Entry](#) on accessible mobile Content with EPUB

- That IBM should announce a commitment to:

  - Moving to XHTML and ePUB as the strategic output formats effective Jan 1st 2014.

  - Continue to support PDF for those requiring print fidelity

  - The motivation is accessibility and mobility

- IBM to start producing EPUB documentation in 3Q14

- Starting with Math, HTML5 and CSS components.

- Phasing in other EPUB features over time

Backup

Sample ePUB Exporters/Converters

- Document converters exist

  - Word to ePub

  - PDF to ePub

- Apache ePub exporters

  - EPUB generator – basic ePUB transform for OO XML Documents

  - WritetoPUB – converts any OO supported document to ePUB

  - ODFtoPUB – an ODF to ePub exporter

Sample ePUB Readers

- Apps
  - Apple iBooks
  - Google Play Books
  - Aldiko
  - Calibre
  - FB Reader
  - Various reader apps, such as Kobo, Nook, ...

- Web and cloud
  - Magic Software
  - Readium
  - EPUBReader
  - ...

PDF Accessibility

- Technical

    - Tagged PDF Very Hard to make Accessible.

    - Accessibility infrastructure outdated

    - Accessibility support limited beyond Windows

    - No access to Math and rich graphics

- Customers

    - Costly to remediate accessibility issues

    - Disabled users would like to see it 'go away'

- IBM had no control to fix