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A Perspective on PDF/A-3

NDSA Standards Working Group

Presented on behalf of the Working Group

by

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PDF Association PDF/A Day

August 16, 2013

Seattle, Washington



Who?

What?

When?

Where?

Why?

How?



Who?





Caroline R. Arms
Carl Fleischhauer
William Lazorchak
Kate Murray



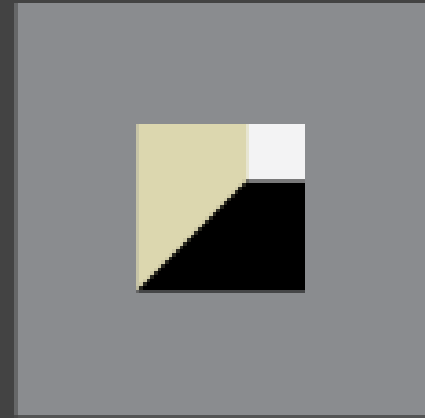
NATIONAL ARCHIVES



Don Chalfant
Kevin DeVorse



Chris Deitrich



PORTICO

Sheila Morrissey



When?



Where?





Why?

PDF/A-3 published by ISO

PDF Association | October 17, 2012 | ★★★★★

Today the International Organization for Standardization has published PDF/A-3 as ISO 19005-3:2012. Part 3 of the electronic document file format for long-term preservation is about the use of ISO 32000-1 (PDF standard) with support for embedded files.

Source: ISO

http://www.iso.org/iso/home/store/catalogue_tc/catalogue_...

About PDF Association

Founded in 2006 as the PDF/A Competence Center, the PDF Association exists to promote the adoption and implementation of International Standards for PDF technology.

[More about PDF Association »](#)

Sustainability of Digital Formats

Planning for Library of Congress Collections

[Introduction](#) | [Sustainability Factors](#) | [Content Categories](#) | [Format Descriptions](#) | [Contact](#)

The Digital Formats Web site provides information about digital content formats. The analyses and resources presented here will increase and be updated over time. The compilers, Caroline R. Arms and Carl Fleischhauer, invite [feedback](#) on the content.

[Introduction](#)

Background information and overview: What is a format? How shall we evaluate formats? What projects in other organizations are addressing these questions? >>

[Overview](#) | [Formats, Evaluation Factors, and Relationships](#) | [Papers and Presentations](#) | [Related Resources](#)

[Sustainability Factors](#)

What affects the ability of the Library to preserve content in a given format? These sustainability factors apply to all formats. >>

[Disclosure](#) | [Adoption](#) | [Transparency](#) | [Self-documentation](#) | [External Dependencies](#) | [Impact of Patents](#) | [Technical Protection Mechanisms](#)

[Content Categories](#)

The evaluation of formats must take into account quality and functionality. These factors vary according to the type of content under consideration and the categories will be expanded as time passes. >>

[Still Image](#) | [Sound](#) | [Textual](#) | [Moving Image](#) | [Web Archive](#) | [Datasets](#) | [Geospatial](#) | [Generic](#)

[Format Descriptions](#)

Documents with more information about specific formats. >>

[Browse categories](#) | [Browse alphabetical list](#)

Last updated Wednesday, 20-Mar-2013 14:08:12 EDT

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All In! Embedded Files in PDF/A

November 13, 2012 by [Butch Lazorchak](#)

Wouldn't it be great to have a single technical solution that solves all your long-term digital archiving, stewardship and preservation needs? Perhaps a [file format](#) with millions of users, widespread adoption across different computing platforms, free viewers and open documentation?



Image credit: Digitalbevaring.dk, published under a Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 Denmark license

A lot of hopes and dreams have been poured into the idea of "one preservation tool to rule them all," and many people, both inside and outside of the preservation community, have come to think of the "archival" version of the widely used [Portable Document Format](#) as this single solution.

However, a close examination of the tool shows that while it's useful and valuable for many things, it's not the only answer for long-term archiving and preservation. This can't be stated often enough, especially as awareness grows around the October 2012 release of the latest version of the PDF/A specification.

The specification, which goes by the cumbersome name of *Document management — Electronic document file format for long-term preservation — Part 3: Use of ISO 32000-1 with support for embedded files (PDF/A-3)* (or [ISO 19005-3:2012](#) for short), defines a file format based on PDF which provides a mechanism for representing electronic documents in a manner that preserves their static visual appearance over time, independent of the tools and systems used for creating, storing or rendering the files. "Static visual appearance" ultimately means that conforming PDF/A files [are complete in themselves and use no external references or non-PDF data](#).

But the scope of the PDF format has significantly expanded since a variety of organizations first met in October 2002 to begin work on the archival version of the specification. In 2011 [PDF/A-2](#) brought the specification in concordance with the [international standardization](#) of PDF itself, and PDF/A-3 now addresses expanding business concerns in addition to the specification's original strict preservation orientation defined largely by the cultural heritage community.



How?

ISO 19005-3:2012

Document

management --

Electronic

document file



The logo for the PDF Association features a stylized graphic of five red squares arranged in a 2x3 grid with the bottom-right square missing, positioned to the left of the text. The text "PDF" is in a large, bold, black sans-serif font, and "association" is in a smaller, bold, black sans-serif font below it.

PDF
association

PDF/A
Competence Center



Digital**Preservation**Coalition





What?







**What's
Next?**



Thank You!