

Adobe PDF Accessibility

Terrill Thompson

tft@uw.edu

These slides: <http://staff.washington.edu/tft>

What makes an electronic document accessible?

- Text alternatives for non-text content
- Information, structure, & relationships
 - Headings
 - Lists
- HTML, Word, & PDF all support these features

Adobe PDF

- Three general types:
 - Image
 - Image with embedded fonts
 - Tagged (optimized for accessibility)

To Create an Accessible PDF

- Use an authoring tool that supports:
 - Creating documents with headings & subheadings
 - Adding alt text to images
 - Exporting to tagged PDF
- Use these accessibility features anytime you create a document

Which authoring tools support tagged PDF?

- Microsoft Word and PowerPoint 2010 (Windows only)
 - Save as PDF
- Microsoft Word and PowerPoint prior to 2010 (Windows only)
 - Adobe PDFMaker plug-in
- Maybe a few others:
 - <http://lists.w3.org/Archives/Public/w3c-wai-gl/2011AprJun/0061.html>

With Adobe Acrobat, you can
make an accessible PDF from
an inaccessible one

PDF Accessibility Check

1. Check whether document has text
 - Is document skewed?
 - Is the font clear or fuzzy?
 - Can text be selected?
2. Check whether document is tagged
 - File > Properties (Ctrl + D)
3. Run an accessibility check
 - Edit > Accessibility (in Adobe X Reader)
 - View > Tools > Accessibility (in X Pro)

PDF Accessibility Repair

1. Recognize text (if needed)
2. Tag document (if needed)
3. Touch up reading order
4. Touch up structure
 - Add headings
 - Add alt text to images

Where to find Acrobat's Accessibility Features

- Recognize text:
 - View > Tools > Recognize Text
- Read Out Loud:
 - Built-in screen reader, not very useful for blind users but may help to spot problems
 - View > Read Outloud
- Accessibility Tools
 - View > Tools > Accessibility
 - (Prior to Adobe X, Advanced > Accessibility)

Working with PDF Tags

- Use Adobe Acrobat Professional to:
 - View > Show/Hide > Navigation Pane > Tags
 - View and manipulate the tag tree
 - Change elements that are incorrectly tagged

More Details

- UW IT Accessibility (coming soon)
 - <http://uw.edu/accessibility>
- Adobe Accessibility
 - <http://adobe.com/accessibility>
- WebAIM on PDF Accessibility
 - <http://www.webaim.org/techniques/acrobat/>
- California State University PDF Tutorials
 - <http://tinyurl.com/y2dnyl2>