

PORTICO



PORTICO

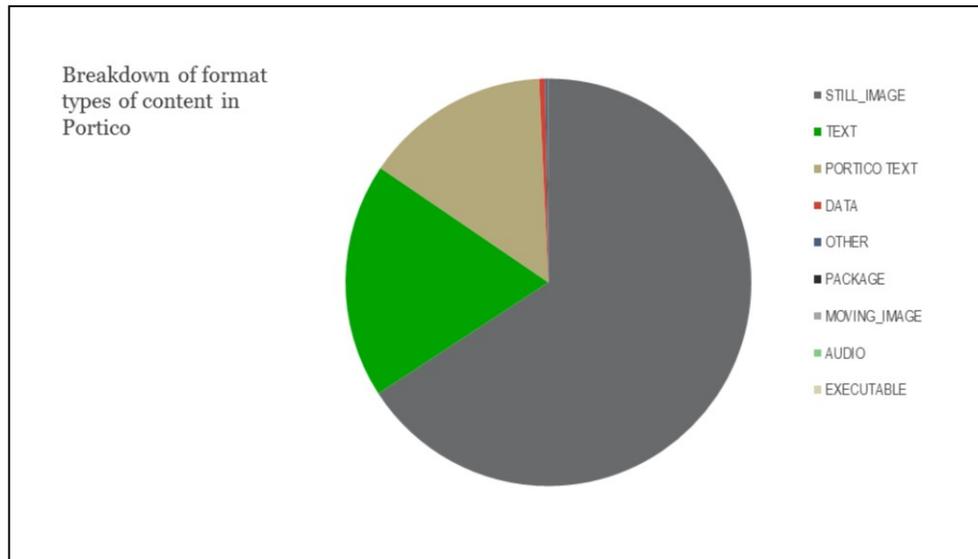
# MESSES AND MEANINGS

Sheila Morrissey  
*@sheilaMorr*

DPC Re:Format - What is file format obsolescence and does it really exist?  
York  
22 June 2016



Portico is a  
preservation service  
for digital  
publications,  
including electronic  
journals, books,  
and historical  
collections.



Text: pdf 72million 7.39 postscriptXML, SGML, Javascript, latex, perl,utf-8, css, csv, html(.3), asm, C

application/vnd.corel-draw (cdr)	13	0.00%	
application/x-ptc-paintshoppro (psp)	1	0.00%	
image/gif (gif)		10,771	39.32%
<b>image/jpeg (jpg)</b>	<b>149,779,348</b>	<b>15.33%</b>	
image/png (png)	9,170,228	0.94%	
<b>image/tiff (tif)</b>	<b>99,870,761</b>	<b>10.22%</b>	
image/vnd.adobe.photoshop (psd)	3,744	0.00%	
image/x-ms-bmp (bmp)	11	0.00%	
image/x-ms-bmp-v3 (bmp)	4,836	0.00%	
image/x-wmf (wmf)	286	0.00%	

Type	Sum of Num Files Not Well Formed	Sum of Num Files Well Formed and Not Valid	Sum of Num Files Well Formed and Valid	Sum of Num Files Not Determined	Total Files	Portion of All Files
AUDIO	75	0	1,176	1,127	2,378	0.00%
DATA	0	0	0	4,581,906	4,581,906	0.47%
EXECUTABLE	0	0	0	67	67	0.00%
MOVING_IMAGE	0	0	0	97,765	97,765	0.01%
OTHER	0	0	1,617,148	215,129	1,832,277	0.19%
PACKAGE	90	0	592,627	33,412	626,129	0.06%
PORTICO TEXT	0	0	144,398,148	0	144,398,148	14.78%
STILL_IMAGE	1,108,628	1,883,062	630,768,589	9,179,119	642,939,398	65.82%
TEXT	5,521,112	7,173,121	147,781,093	21,910,730	182,386,056	18.67%
Grand Total	6,629,905	9,056,183	925,158,781	36,019,255	976,864,124	100.00%

Type	Sum of Num Files Not Well Formed	Sum of Num Files Well Formed and Not Valid	Sum of Num Files Well Formed and Valid	Sum of Num Files Not Determined	Total Files	Portion of All Files
AUDIO	75	0	1,176	1,127	2,378	0.00%
DATA	0	0	0	4,581,906	4,581,906	0.47%
EXECUTABLE	0	0	0	67	67	0.00%
MOVING_IMAGE	0	0	0	97,765	97,765	0.01%
OTHER	0	0	1,617,148	215,129	1,832,277	0.19%
PACKAGE	90	0	592,627	33,412	626,129	0.06%
PORTICO TEXT	0	0	144,398,148	0	144,398,148	14.78%
STILL_IMAGE	1,108,628	1,883,062	630,768,589	9,179,119	642,939,398	65.82%
TEXT	5,521,112	7,173,121	147,781,093	21,910,730	182,386,056	18.67%
Grand Total	6,629,905	9,056,183	925,158,781	36,019,255	976,864,124	100.00%

Unknown/bitstream not identified

Type	Sum of Num Files Not Well Formed	Sum of Num Files Well Formed and Not Valid	Sum of Num Files Well Formed and Valid	Sum of Num Files Not Determined	Total Files	Portion of All Files
AUDIO	75	0	1,176	1,127	2,378	0.00%
DATA	0	0	0	4,581,906	4,581,906	0.47%
EXECUTABLE	0	0	0	67	67	0.00%
MOVING_IMAGE	0	0	0	97,765	97,765	0.01%
OTHER	0	0	1,617,148	215,129	1,832,277	0.19%
PACKAGE	90	0	592,627	33,412	626,129	0.06%
PORTICO TEXT	0	0	144,398,148	0	144,398,148	14.78%
STILL_IMAGE	1,108,628	1,883,062	630,768,589	9,179,119	642,939,398	65.82%
TEXT	5,521,112	7,173,121	147,781,093	21,910,730	182,386,056	18.67%
Grand Total	6,629,905	9,056,183	925,158,781	36,019,255	976,864,124	100.00%

## Undetermined

Audio: mpeg (undetermined)

## Data:

fits, maple mathematica,rtf, mathcad, stata data and programs

pdb chem cdx/cif/jmol-voxel,mol,(80K)

word 527,142

excel 136,335

ppt 141,006

open office 390K

## Executable

## **Moving Image**

**realmedia, flash, avi, mp4, mpeg, quicktime, wmv**

**Still-image** not determined: almost entirely PNG 1.4 % of our image files

**text** not determined dataset.toc, dataset.xml

**Package:** epub, stuffit

OTHER Bytestream: not identified

*“I come to praise PDF,  
not to bury it”*

*Well, maybe just a little...*

# OMG-WTF-PDF

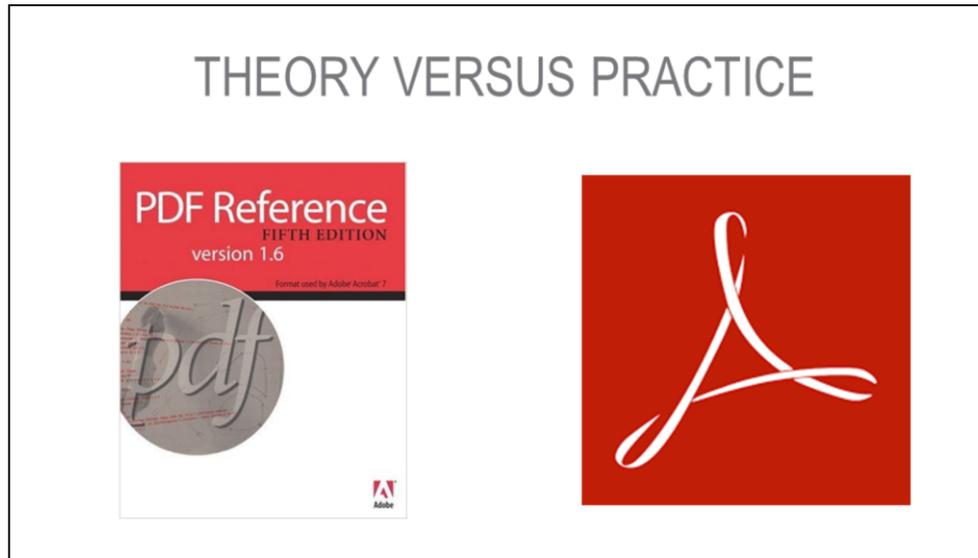
[PDF Ambiguity and Obfuscation]

Julia Wolf  
FireEye

2010 March 31  
Troopers 11

[https://www.troopers.de/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/TR11\\_Wolf\\_OMG\\_PDF.pdf](https://www.troopers.de/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/TR11_Wolf_OMG_PDF.pdf)

## THEORY VERSUS PRACTICE



1248 pages

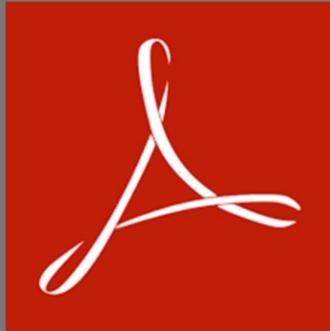
Calvin is a cataract, a primeval forest, a demonic power, something directly down from Himalaya, absolutely Chinese, strange, mythological; I lack completely the means, the suction cups, even to assimilate this phenomenon, not to speak of presenting it adequately.

-Karl Barth, [\*Revolutionary Theology in the Making: Barth-Thurneysen Correspondence 1914-1925\*](#), trans. James D. Smart (Richmond: John Knox Press, 1964), 101.

Incredible accomplishment 23 years ago 2013

Interoperable (before Java)

“Interchange PostScript” Analogous to simplification from SGML to XML  
Portable document format

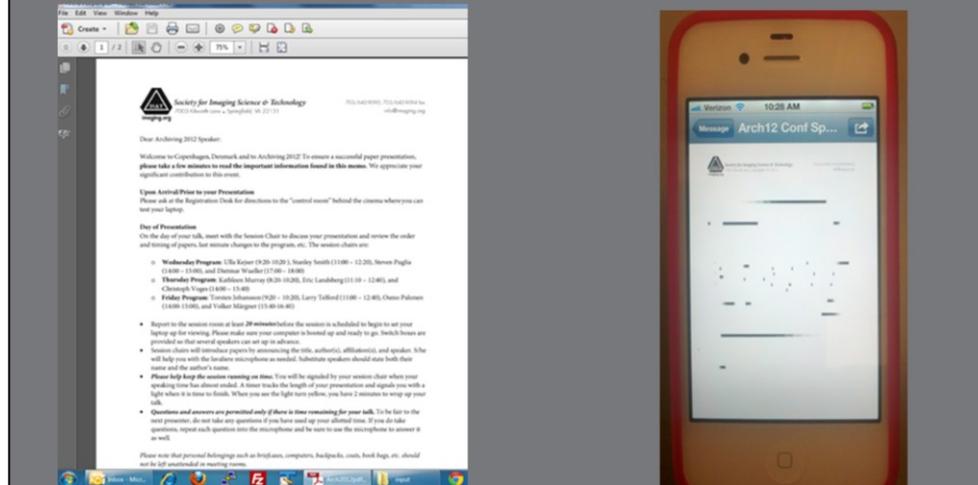


- information preceding the required file header
- conflicts between length value in stream dictionaries, and actual length of the stream content
- broken or missing cross-reference dictionaries
- duplicate object/generation numbers on objects in a stream
- missing terminators for streams and documents

- (for example, files produced on older versions of Apple’s operating system, which include Apple Single and Apple Double encoding information preceding the header)

Other developers of PDF applications clearly have struggled with the gap between PDF “in theory” and PDF instances in actual practice. Comments in the PDFParser source code from Adobe’s PDFBox Java application note some of the various compensatory actions taken silently to repair non-conforming documents.[12] The widely-used iText library includes an “isRebuilt()” method to indicate that it has “repaired” syntactic errors

# THEORY VERSUS PRACTICE



Jhove: WFV

# *“Rendering Matters”*

<http://digitalcontinuity.org/post/95747898443/revisiting-rendering-matters>

Tools break – iText, PDFBox – we just chain them split PDF files

## CHARACTERISTICS OF APPLICATIONS AS WELL AS OF INSTANCES

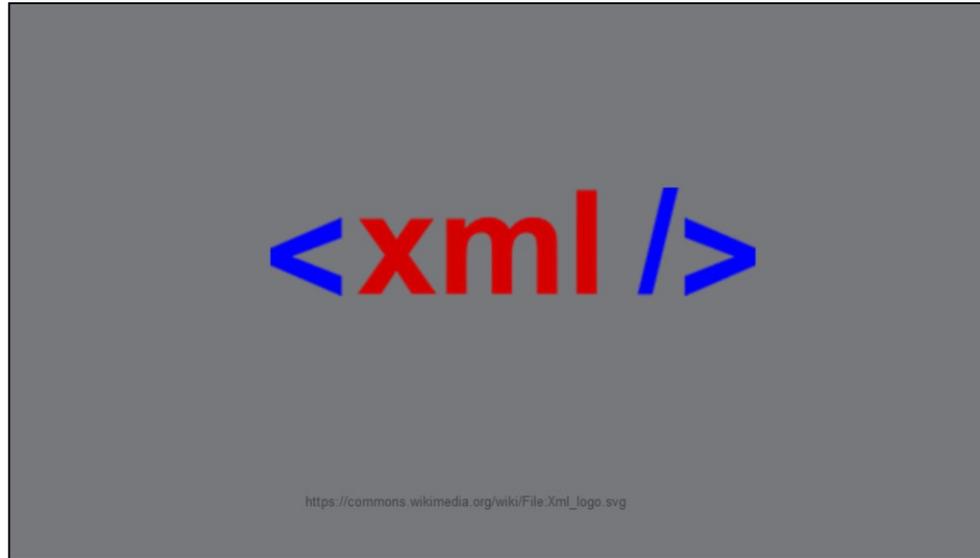
- What is “standard”?
- What is “forgiven”?
- What is “repaired”?
- What is broken?

Characterize the renderers

VeraPDF better expression of failures of conformance

Duff Johnson, PDF Association – DPC, OPF

Match it up to render characterizer



Interoperable

Never validated - NWF, WFNV, Encoding (easy stuff - -syntax)

Trickier: procedural semantics (Display italic vs regular,), "Implied text" - -boiler plate –good practice – hard for preservation (encapsulate)

1-800-TAG-ABUSE

<month>32</month>

Month 32

Impedance mismatch -- fine/coarse grain Synonymy

It's a tree

Sell-by date -- sophisticated use

SECRET  
SEMANTICS

**FIRST PHYSICS LAW OF CARTOONS**



**GRAVITY WILL NOT WORK  
TILL YOU LOOK DOWN...**

<http://blog.coyoteproductions.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/81657.jpg>

Separation of concerns -



A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte Georges Seurat - A Sunday on La Grande Jatte - 1884 - Google Art Project

<https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/asset/twGyqQ5zR-IYpA>



```
<html>
```

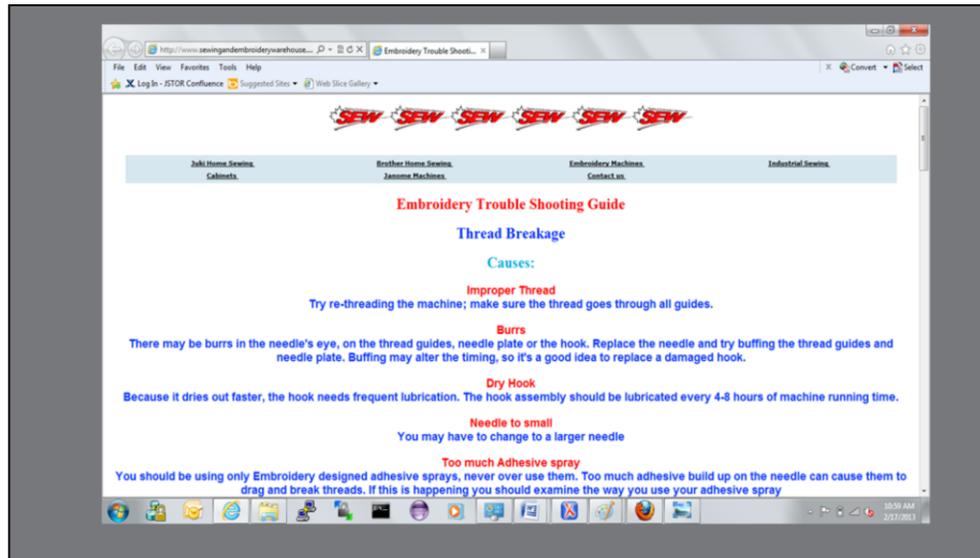
Hello, World!!

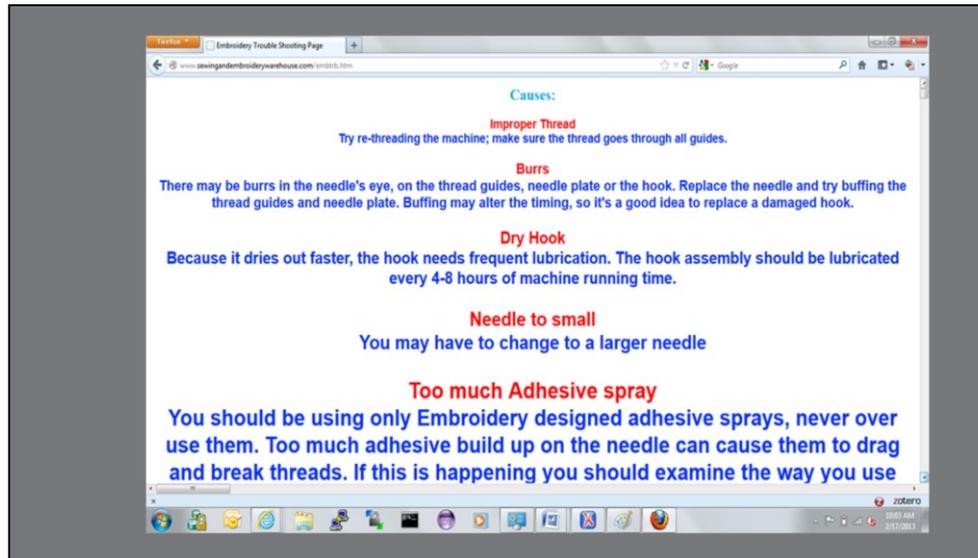


19

```
BT
/H2 <</MCID 0 >>BDC
/CS0 cs 0.31 0.506 0.741 scn
/TT0 1 Tf
-0.004 Tc 0.006 Tw 12.96 0 0 12.96 264 697.68 Tm
[(H)-4(e)-1(l)-2(l)-11(o,-)3( W)-15(or)-6(l)-11(d!)-
12(!)]TJ
0 Tc 0 Tw 6.481 0 Td
()Tj
EMC
/P <</MCID 1 >>BDC
/CS1 cs 0 scn
/TT1 1 Tf
11.04 0 0 11.04 72 682.08 Tm
()Tj
EMC
/P <</MCID 2 >>BDC
36.478 -24.185 Td
()Tj
EMC
ET
/Figure <</MCID 3 >>BDC
q
/GS0 gs
336 0 0 252 139.1000061 414.6812744 cm
/lm0 Do
Q
```

```
<html>
<head>
<style type="text/css">
<!--
  p { color: #4F81BD; font-family: serif; font-weight: bold;
font-size: 13pt; }-->
</style>
</head>
<body><p>Hello, World!! <br/><span><IMG width="447"
height="336"
src="images/Image_001.jpg"/></span></p></body>
</html>
```







*“Rendering Matters”*

# POSSIBILITIES

It was an accident

It was intentional

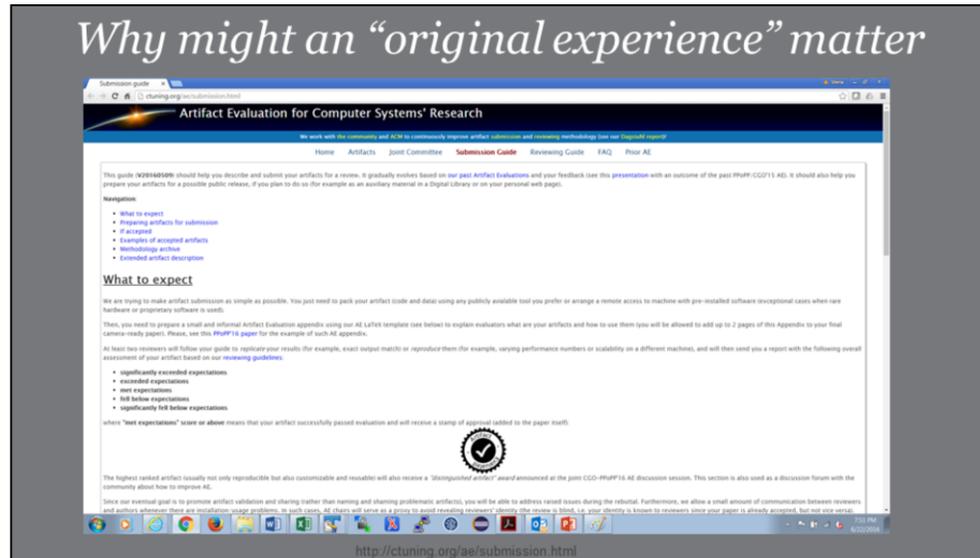
It doesn't matter

*Why might an “original experience” matter*



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:NAMABG-Aphaia\\_Trojan\\_Archer\\_1.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:NAMABG-Aphaia_Trojan_Archer_1.JPG)

# Why might an “original experience” matter



## Data, Software, & Reproducibility

This is a joint Project of the ACM Digital Library and the ACM Technology Committees



*Meanings matter*

The meaning and value of these data derive not only from the raw content, but from the ways people interact with the technologies that create them

Sara Day Thompson – preserving transactional data



PORTICO

*Questions?*