

**PDF/UA (Universal Accessibility) Working Group
(DRAFT) Meeting Minutes**

**February 14, 2006
2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. EST**

Conference Call

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Introductions

Joe Clark	Independent Accessibility Consultant
Renee Georges	AIIM
Shannon Rapuano	IBM
Loretta Guarino-Reed	Adobe Systems
Richard Herring	Independent Accessibility Consultant
Duff Johnson	Document Solutions, (Chair)
Greg Pisocky	Adobe Systems
Neil Soiffer	Design Sciences

Approval of Agenda for February 14, 2006 PDF-UA 2006-104

Approved Johnson/Soiffer

Approval of Minutes for January 30, 2006 PDF-UA 2006-103

The previous minutes were late in arriving; they were subsequently approved upon delivery without objection when presented by the Chair. Johnson/Pisocky

Report on Previous Meetings Action Items

Neil Soiffer asked for more information on the expenses associated with PDF/UA membership. Johnson related that he had not heard any update from AIIM since Betsy's announcement. Soiffer pointed out that some members of the committee represent very large, and some very small companies, and that this should be accounted for. Johnson discussed the highlights of the previous meeting and noted the following assignments.

- Propose Algorithm candidates. (Loretta Guarino-Reid / Neil Soiffer to propose how to associate table headers with data cells.
 - This assignment was delivered to the Committee via email from LGR, and was discussed later in the meeting (see below)
- Determine how the "Stub" proposal (per Ferg) could apply to table cases (Richard Herring)

- Dick Herrington discussed the contents of his email exchange with Steve Ferg. The committee concluded that Ferg's proposal for "stub" elements in table structure should be one of the "candidate" algorithms.
- Review the Algorithm candidates for associating table headers with data cells. (Steve Ferg)
 - Dick Herrington covered this area.
 - The Chair related that Steve Ferg conveyed his regrets, but is unable to attend this or further meetings of the PDF/UA due to his other commitments. He did offer to respond to specific questions as they arise.
- Find more "real world table" examples with Headers to lower right. (Greg Piskey)
 - Deferred.
- Find / provide samples of tables with cells with diagonal lines. (Angy Brooks)
 - Angy emailed the List prior to the meeting to excuse herself from the meeting. She did not have examples of the "cells with diagonals" per se, but suggested various examples of the Periodic table.
- Obtain tables with examples of vertical text. - (All Members)
 - None such were offered.
- Post an item on PDF/UA blog seeking internationalization assistance (Duff Johnson)
 - This assignment was not completed, and the Chair regrets this, and will focus on it before the next meeting.

Algorithm Options

Algorithm 1:

Associate data cell only with header cells at the top of its column and left of its row (including span attributes). All other associations must be expressed explicitly with PDF's id and headers attributes.

Pro: consistent with HTML and PDF spec, behavior of current screen readers

Con: many tables need id/header attributes

Algorithm 2:

Associate data cells with all header cells at the top of its column and the left of its row. That is, accommodate all headers in rows/cols 1..m before the data starts. All other associations must be expressed explicitly with PDF's id and headers attributes.

Pro: handles more tables automatically; consistent with JAWS 7.0

Con: doesn't handle many common cases, including subheaders scattered throughout the document.

Algorithm 3:

Modify algorithm 2 so that the nearest header along with header mentioned in algorithm 2 are associated with the cell.

Pro: handles many common tables automatically (eg walls.pdf assuming it was done as two side-by-side tables)

Con: doesn't handle tables that have more than one level of subheading

Algorithm 4:

Define an optional 'header level' attribute for TH cells that defaults to level 2 (1-based) for all but the first row/column. The first row/column would default to level 1. Scan row and column for closest TH at each level. All of the headers at different levels are associated with the cell.

Pro: Handles legacy table well, but still permits subtable mark-up.

Con: tables covered by algorithms 2 and 3 aren't handled properly without markup (that is, need to add level attributes whenever there is more than 1 row or 1 column of headers); more complex to explain; modifies existing PDF spec.

Note: 'thead' is considered a header cell in the above algorithm. Not sure what should happen with 'tfoot'.

Note: nested tables are not really addressed by the above algorithms except for Algorithm 4. One possibility is that data cells in a nested table are associated with the headers cells in the nested tables, plus all headers associated with the data cell containing the nested table.

Note: Algorithm 4's suggestion of a 'level' attribute has some similarities to Stephen Ferg's use of 'rowlevel' in his paper "Proposal HTP01: Adding Support for Stub Levels in HTML Tables" that he sent in email. In that paper, 'rowlevel' is used to build row headers not only to the left of a cell, but also to include headers that above the initial header. This is useful for categorized data (eg, State, Men/Women, Young/Old where you want to hear state/men/young associated with a value even though they would be in a different row). His proposal also includes a "stopLevel" attribute so that you can control the number of levels spoken. Despite the similarity, the two approaches are complementary and do not preclude the use of the other approach.

Assignments:

Joe Clark could refashion proposal in language similar to Loretta's for forward to Ian Hickson.

Duff Johnson and Joe Clark to come up with a list of problem classes. Given those classes we will test these problems against the algorithms.

Next Meeting Time:

Next meeting

February 28, 2006 3pm 5pm