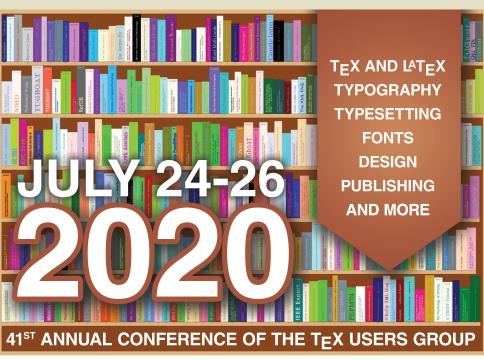


Accessibility-related talks

Ross Moore, Macquarie University, Sydney TUG 2020, Online: 25–27 July 2020







Accessibility, text-extraction







What is involved in claiming an electronic document to be accessible?

extract characters correctly



- extract characters correctly
- interword spaces



- extract characters correctly
- interword spaces
- soft semantics
- alternative text
 e.g., for Figures, Formulas, Tables
- Metadata



- extract characters correctly
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 US/English language generally OK what about other languages and scripts?
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- ▶ soft semantics Section headings, Lists, Tabular content
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Footnotes



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Footnotes, References, Hyperlinking, Table cells



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What is involved in claiming an electronic document to be accessible?

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US/English language generally OK — what about other languages and scripts?

Map to Unicode, wherever possible — CMaps, Virtual fonts, /ActualText

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For a very long time (always ?) there has been trouble with reliably extracting textual content. from many PDFs produced using T_EX .

► Why is that?



For a very long time (always?) there has been trouble with reliably extracting textual content. from many PDFs produced using TpX.

► Why is that? It depends upon the font used!



For a very long time (always?) there has been trouble with reliably extracting textual content. from many PDFs produced using TpX.

- ► Why is that? It depends upon the font used!
- Can it be fixed?



For a very long time (always?) there has been trouble with reliably extracting textual content. from many PDFs produced using TeX.

Why is that? It depends upon the font used!

Can it be fixed? Most TEX fonts have problems of some kind.



For a very long time (always?) there has been trouble with reliably extracting textual content. from many PDFs produced using TeX.

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- Is it easy to do?
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Yes (kind of), and No



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- Yes (kind of), and No (for some things).



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Yes, it can. mostly

Is it easy to do?

Yes (kind of), and No (for some things).

KOU 169 METRU SE JEDNA O NEJKRATŠI PRAŽSKÝ MOST. HIÇ BIR KELIME Ğ ILE BAŞLAMAZ! HIÇ BIR ZAMAN ILK SIRADA AĞAC KELIMESININ ORTASINDA, DAĞ.

SLOVAK: NAPOSLEDY HĽADANÉ SLOVÁ

L. DEPRIMÁCIA, PRIPEK, PREPEK, WICIŚĆÍŤ, WICHLASTANÍ, DEPRIVÁ DEPRIVOVAŤ, DEPRIVOVANÝ, NAŠKUBANÍ, KOWÁLKA, LEŽACÍ, SMÍČEŇ NEOKRÓCHANÝ, NALOŽIŤ, OKRÓCHANÝ, OKRÓCHANEC, PREGAZDOV LÁKÁWAŤ, ZRETELNI, SUPLIK, ŠUPLIKA, CHOR, RASLAVICE, POTŘÍŤ POLCETŘE, WINASNAŽIŤ SA, HODOKWAŠAN, ZVEREJŇOVAŤ, ZMOCŇ NIT, FRAGEREČKIN, ZDIEĽAŤ, PLAGIAT, ODČAROWANÍ, CEPER, NALÍ MIZMUS, VEČER, PRACHÁR, KLAVÍR, PEPŘITI, ĎÁBLOWÍ, FORMAN, SI SOBIŤ, ÚLOHA, MLSAŤ, ZAZIWICOWAŤ, IXTETO, SKROŤITEDELNÍ, POZ MLSÁ, MLSKA, ZAVIEST, ZAVIEZT, MRŇÁK, ZAVIEST, PAMLSOK, OSTI SKA, TULAČIŤ SA, EXSPIRÁCIA, EXPIRÁCIA, CHWÁTAŤ, HINČOWAŤ, I NEBO, ÚTKOST', VESELÁ, DOLNÁ KRUPÁ, DOSÁDZANÍ, VELIČENSTV MEZITI, POSTREČKOWÁWAŤ, TAKTIEZ, PAPULISKO, SŘÍWAŤ SA, USEK EVA, ASIMILACIA, ZDICHÁWAŤ, MORAWANČIN, HOTEL, WIĎEĎEŇÍ, EX LAPINDA, WEZEŃI, UČUTÍ, NATESAŤ, ČLOWESTWI, CHLEBODARCA, P POLISH: POLOŻONE JEST W CENTRUM POLSKI, NA SKRZYŻOWANI DOWYCH I KOLEJOWYCH CIAGÓW KOMUNIKACYJNYCH, GRANICZY

INNYMI WOJEWÓDZTWAMI: MAZOWIECKIM, ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKIM, ŚLJ SKIM, WIELKOPOLSKIM I KUJAWSKO-POMORSKIM 3 MIASTA NA PRAWACH POWIATU) I 21 POWIATÓW. TRZY MIASTA

ADMINISTRACYJNIE WOJEWÓDZTWO JEST PODZIELONE NA 177 G

'the bad' (p.1, p.4) (p.1, p.2, p.9)



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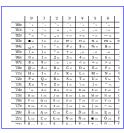
Yes (kind of), and No (for some things).

kou 169 metru se jedna o nejkratši pražský most. Hig bir kelime \tilde{G} ile başlamaz! Hig bir zaman ilk sirada a \tilde{G} aç kelimesinin ortasinda, da \tilde{G} .

SLOWNER, NATORILETY HERANGE SIZONEL WESTLENGTH, GERENAL LA LEFERRICHAN, BERTER, WESTLENGTH, WESTLENGTH, GERENAL LA LEFERRICHAN, BERTER, WESTLENGTH, LA LEFERRICHAN, DESCRIPTION, AND ADMINISTRATION, AND ADMINISTRATION, PRESENTED AND ADMINISTRATION, ADMINIS

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3 MIASTA NA PRAWACH POWLATU) I 21 POWLATÓW. TRZY MIASTA
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3 MIASTA NA PRAWACH POWIATU) I 21 POWIATOW. TRZY MIASTA

'the bad'

'the good' (p.1, p.4)

How it is done. (p.1, p.2, p.9)





The font issues fall into 3 categories:

1. small capitals: need to be mapped to ordinary lowercase letters.



The font issues fall into 3 categories:

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2. accents: need to come after the base they modify.



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- 1. **small capitals** need to be mapped to ordinary lowercase letters.
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The font issues fall into 3 categories:

- 1. **small capitals** need to be mapped to ordinary lowercase letters. This is done by attaching a CMap to a *font instance*
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The font issues fall into 3 categories:

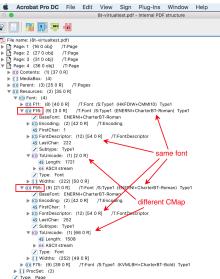
- small capitals need to be mapped to ordinary lowercase letters.
 This is done by attaching a CMap to a *font instance*;
 duplicating the (roman-style) (.tfm) font, within the small-caps virtual font.
- 2. accents: need to come after the base they modify.



The font issues fall into 3 categories:

- 1. small capitals: need to be mapped to on This is done by attaching a CMap to a for duplicating the (roman-style) (.tfm) for
- need to come after the base they modify.

3 some individual characters:





The font issues fall into 3 categories:

- small capitals: need to be mapped to ordinary lowercase letters.
 This is done by attaching a CMap to a *font instance*;
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¹Lars Hellström, tex-fonts mailing list Nov. 2011



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This latter technique doesn't work with XqTeX, since it doesn't correctly implement \special{pdf:direct ...}.



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Adding a CMap to a font is relatively easy.



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pdfTEX can create CMaps automatically, using glyph names: requires lists of the mappings of glyphs to unicode values: glyphtounicode.tex using \pdfglyphtounicode{\(\lambda\)glyphtounicode extras: glyphtounicode-cmr.tex, glyphtounicode-ntx.tex.



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- pdfTEX can attach a CMap directly to a (.tfm) font:

```
\def\attachCMap #1#2{%  #1 = CMap file  #2 = font TFM name
\immediate\pdfobj stream file{#1}%
\expandafter\pdffontattr #2{/ToUnicode \the\pdflastobj\space 0 R}%
\expandafter\ifx\sname pdfnobuiltintounicode\endcsname\relax
% LuaTe% doesn't have this primitive
\else
\expandafter\pdfnobuiltintounicode #2\relax
\fi
\pdfincludechars #2{a \char"20}% ensure the font is not discarded
}
\font\bchsmallcaps=bchr8rs scaled 800
\attachCMap{bchsc.cmap}{\bchsmallcaps} \chocksmallcaps}
\pdfmapline{= bchr8rs CharterBT-Roman " TeXBase1Encoding ReEncodeFont " <8r.enc <bchr8a.pfb}</pre>
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\expandafter\pdfontattr #2{/ToUnicode \the\pdflastobj\space 0 R}%
\expandafter\pdfnotattr #2{/ToUnicode \the\pdflastobj\space 0 R}%
\expandafter\int fontattr #2{/ToUnicode \the\pdflastobj\space 0 R}%
\expandafter\doesn't have this primitive \
\else \expandafter\pdfnobuiltintounicode #2\relax \
\fi \
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```

► X_HT_EX adds the CMap file directly to the (PDF) font:

```
\special{pdf:mapline bchr8r 8r.enc bchr8a.pfb -u bchr8r.cmap}% \special{pdf:mapline bchr8rs 8r.enc bchr8a.pfb -u bchsc.cmap}%
```





► The difficult part is knowing which is the .tfm font, to which the CMap must be attached. For example, bchr8c.vf is the virtual font for small-caps in Charter font.

But \attachCMap{bchsc.cmap}{bchr8c} does not work!! ²



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► The human-readable form bchr8c.vpl of the virtual font bchr8c.vf starts as:

```
        (MAPFONT D 0
        (MAPFONT D 1

        (FONTNAME bchr8r)
        (FONTCHECKSUM 0 1764027361)

        (FONTAT R 0.8)
        (FONTAT R 1.0)

        (FONTDSIZE R 10.0)
        (FONTDSIZE R 10.0)
```

No CMap can make this correct. Both upper and lowercase letters are drawn from the same PDF font, so all glyph names will be uppercased ones; just shown at different sizes.





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attach bchsc.cmap to bchr8rs, with CMap sending all *uppercase* letters into lowercase ones (i.e., reversing the lower \rightarrow upper of small capitals)



²Volovich, V.; cmap package README



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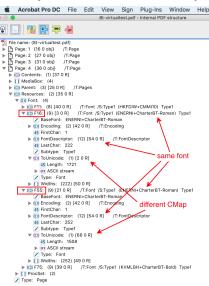
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▶ Now \attachCMap{bchsc.cmap}{bchr8rs} works, having two separate font instances.



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```
(MAP
                                            (MAP
   (MOVERIGHT R 0.025)
                                                (PUSH)
   (PUSH)
                                                (MOVERIGHT R. 0.025)
   (MOVEDOWN R -0.198)
                                                (SELECTFONT D 1)
   (MOVERIGHT R 0.07)
                                                (SETCHAR C A)
   (SELECTFONT D 1)
                                                (MOVERIGHT R 0.025)
   (SETCHAR 0 13)
                                               (POP)
   (POP)
                                                (MOVEDOWN R -0.198)
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                                                (POP)
   (POP)
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                                                (SETCHAR O 13)
```

▶ When this is changed to at right above, there is *no visual difference* within the PDF, but now the breve accent character (in slot \013 = 11) is placed *after* the base 'A', so will be extracted after it.



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   (SETCHAR O 13)
                                                (POP)
   (POP)
                                                (MOVEDOWN R -0.198)
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- ▶ In a T1-encoded font, there can be as many as 105 instances of an accented-over letter, where the accent should be moved, in this way, to coming *after the base*.



 $^{^3}$ Lars Hellström, tex-fonts mailing list Nov. 2011



► For this final technique, I'm indebted to Lars Hellström's posting³, even though the example coding does not actually achieve the 'visible space' character that was desired.



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```
(CHARACTER 0 40
                                                                      (COMMENT visible space )
(CHARACTER D 32 (COMMENT visiblespace)
                                                       (CHARWD R 0.67198)
    (CHARWD R. 0.6)
                                                       (CHARDP R 0.2085)
    (CHARDP R 0.200)
                                                       (MAP
    (MAP
                                                          (SPECIAL pdf:direct:
       (SPECIAL pdf:direct:
                                                            /Span<</ActualText<FEFF2423>>>BDC)
         /Span<</ActualText<FEFF2423>>>BDC)
                                                          (SELECTFONT D 2)
       (PUSH)
                                                          (SETCHAR 0 40)
       (SETCHAR D 32) (COMMENT space)
                                                          (MOVERIGHT R 0.025)
       (POP)
                                                          (MOVEDOWN R. 0.2)
       (MOVEUP R -0.2)
                                                          (MOVERIGHT R 0.05)
       (MOVERIGHT R 0.05)
                                                          (SPECIAL pdf:direct:EMC)
       (SETRULE R 0.2 R 0.05)
                                                          (SETRULE R 0.2 R 0.061)
       (SETRULE R 0.05 R 0.4)
                                                          (SETRULE R 0.061 R 0.4)
       (SETRULE R 0.2 R 0.05)
                                                          (SETRULE R 0.2 R 0.061)
       (MOVERIGHT R. 0.05)
                                                          (MOVERIGHT R 0.05)
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                                                          (MOVERIGHT R 0.05)
       (MOVEUP R 0.2)
                                                          (MOVEDOWN R. -0.2)
       (SPECIAL pdf:direct:EMC)
                                                          (MOVERIGHT R 0.025)
```

► Lars' code (at left) does not work upon extracting text because there is no actual font character to be selected, so the /ActualText replacement string will never be used.



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                                                       (MAP
    (MAP
                                                          (SPECIAL pdf:direct:
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                                                            /Span<</ActualText<FEFF2423>>>BDC)
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       (POP)
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                                                          (SETRULE R 0.2 R 0.061)
       (MOVERIGHT R. 0.05)
                                                          (MOVERIGHT R 0.05)
       (MOVEUP R 0.2)
                                                          (MOVEDOWN R. -0.2)
       (SPECIAL pdf:direct:EMC)
                                                          (MOVERIGHT R 0.025)
```

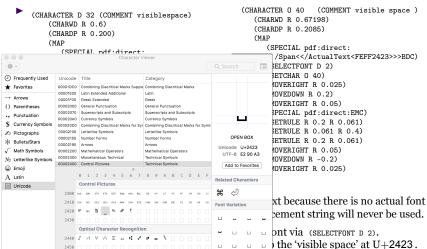
- Lars' code (at left) does not work upon extracting text because there is no actual font character to be selected, so the /ActualText replacement string will never be used.
- ► In the coding at right, we use pdfTEX's 'fake space' font via (SELECTFONT D 2). It is this character that gets selected, and mapped to the 'visible space' at U+2423.



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/ActualText for ligatures, etc.



Examples, IJ, dotless-i, and more:

```
(CHARACTER 0 234
                   (COMMENT IJ)
   (CHARWD R 0.86798)
   (CHARHT R 0.665)
   (CHARDP R 0.014)
   (COMMENT
      (KRN C A R -0.037)
   (MAP
      (SPECIAL pdf:direct:
        /Span<</ActualText<FEFF0132>>>BDC)
      (MOVERIGHT R. 0.025)
      (SELECTFONT D 1)
      (SETCHAR C I)
      (MOVERIGHT R 0.05)
      (SETCHAR C J)
      (MOVERIGHT R 0.025)
      (SPECIAL pdf:direct:EMC)
```

```
(CHARACTER O 27 (COMMENT ZWN.J )
   (CHARWD R 0.0)
  (CHARHT R. 0.491)
   (MAP
      (SPECIAL pdf:direct:
        /Span<</ActualText<FEFF200C>>>BDC)
      (SELECTFONT D 2)
      (SETCHAR 0 40)
      (SETRULE R 0.482 R 0.0)
      (SPECIAL pdf:direct:EMC)
(CHARACTER O 31 (COMMENT dotlessi )
   (CHARWD R. 0.30899)
   (CHARHT R 0.5545)
   (MAP
      (SPECIAL pdf:direct:
        /Span<</ActualText<FEFF0131>>>BDC)
      (MOVERIGHT R 0.025)
      (SETCHAR C I)
      (MOVERIGHT R 0.025)
      (SPECIAL pdf:direct:EMC)
```

/ActualText for ligatures, etc.



- Other characters can be given suitable mappings to Unicode using this technique.
- Examples, IJ, dotless-i, and more:

```
(CHARACTER 0 234
                   (COMMENT I.I.)
   (CHARWD R 0.86798)
   (CHARHT R 0.665)
   (CHARDP R 0.014)
   (COMMENT
      (KRN C A R -0.037)
   (MAP
      (SPECIAL pdf:direct:
        /Span<</ActualText<FEFF0132>>>BDC)
      (MOVERIGHT R. 0.025)
      (SELECTFONT D 1)
      (SETCHAR C I)
      (MOVERIGHT R 0.05)
      (SETCHAR C J)
      (MOVERIGHT R 0.025)
      (SPECIAL pdf:direct:EMC)
```

```
(CHARACTER 0 27 (COMMENT ZWNJ )
   (CHARWD R 0.0)
  (CHARHT R. 0.491)
   (MAP
      (SPECIAL pdf:direct:
        /Span<</ActualText<FEFF200C>>>BDC)
      (SELECTFONT D 2)
      (SETCHAR 0 40)
      (SETRULE R 0.482 R 0.0)
      (SPECIAL pdf:direct:EMC)
(CHARACTER O 31 (COMMENT dotlessi )
   (CHARWD R. 0.30899)
  (CHARHT R 0.5545)
   (MAP
      (SPECIAL pdf:direct:
        /Span<</ActualText<FEFF0131>>>BDC)
      (MOVERIGHT R 0.025)
      (SETCHAR C I)
      (MOVERIGHT R 0.025)
      (SPECIAL pdf:direct:EMC)
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▶ This technique allows you to override a mapping to Unicode, from a CMap or based upon glyph name, should it be appropriate to do so.

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      (SELECTFONT D 1)
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   (CHARWD R 0.0)
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   (MAP
      (SPECIAL pdf:direct:
        /Span<</ActualText<FEFF0131>>>BDC)
      (MOVERIGHT R 0.025)
      (SETCHAR C I)
      (MOVERIGHT R 0.025)
      (SPECIAL pdf:direct:EMC)
```

- ► This technique allows you to override a mapping to Unicode, from a CMap or based upon glyph name, should it be appropriate to do so.
- ▶ Drawback: it only works with pdfTEX, and maybe also LuaTEX.