**TIPS AND TRICKS**

Understanding Compare Documents using Adobe Acrobat 7.0

**Description**

Acrobat 7 Professional has a great feature (Document > Compare Documents) that enables you to compare two PDFs. You can compare Page by Page visual difference, or Textual differences.

Page by Page will inspect each object location on the page. For example, if you change the font or color, you will see differences or you move information around on the page. If you select Textual difference, the tool will compare the text in the documents. Say you move a paragraph from page one to page three. It will not identify it as a ‘change’.

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This tip documents the indicators used in Compare Documents to help you understand the marks applied to the compare report.
Understanding Compare Documents using Adobe Acrobat 7.0

### Side by side reports

**Visual difference side by side report.**

- **Side by side reports**
  - **Visual difference side by side report.**
  
  Each of these objects contains JavaScript commands and actions. Adobe LiveCycle Designer will open any PDF form created with Acrobat versions 3.5 and higher. Adobe LiveCycle Designer replaces all form fields and the page content. JavaScript and actions are saved as comments.

  In this example, a button with a JavaScript action was created. In one instance, the action was set to "Run a JavaScript (this page, local)" (Figure 6b). In another instance, the action was set to "Run a JavaScript (this page, remote)" (Figure 8a).

- **Side by side Text differences**
  - **no font detection**

  First doc
  
  Second doc

  ...some methods do not map directly.

  ...some methods do not map directly.

- **Side by side Text (with font detection)**

  First doc

  Second doc

  ...methods and properties map one to one.
Consolidated Reports

Consolidated Report with visual differences

Scripting methods and properties

Adobe Acrobat and Adobe Reader software have a built-in JavaScript engine. The JavaScript methods and properties available in Acrobat as AcroForms are described in the JavaScript Scripting Reference guide. The JavaScript methods in Adobe LiveCycle Designer are described in the on-line Help accompanying that software and in the Calculations and Script document.

Although many of the JavaScript methods and properties map one to one between Adobe LiveCycle Designer and Acrobat, some do not map directly.

Take a look at some examples.

Looking at Acrobat in Acrobat 6.0, there are seven form field types (Figure 1):

- Button
- Check box
- Combo box
- List box

Each of these objects can contain JavaScript commands and/or actions. Adobe LiveCycle Designer will open an PDF form created with Acrobat professional version 5.5 and higher. Adobe LiveCycle Designer replaces all form fields and the page content, JavaScript and actions are saved as comments.

In this example, a button with a Mouse/up action was created. In one instance, the action was set to Execute Menu Item > View > Go To > Next Page (Figure 2a). In another instance, the action was set to Run a JavaScript: this.pagePanel 1 (Figure 2b).

Figure 2a. Mouse/up action: Execute Menu Item to go to next page.

Figure 2b. JavaScript action: Run a JavaScript: this.pagePanel 1.

Consolidated Report with textual differences no font detection

...some methods do not map directly.

There will be a note on the top edge of the 2nd document. Double-clicking on this will open the note showing the text change(s).

On a consolidated report this icon with the underline indicates a change to the content of the text. Double double-clicking on the icon (comment) will bring up a note indicating the changes(s).
Consolidated Report with textual and font differences

First doc

...some methods do not map directly.

Second doc

There will be a note on the top edge of the 2nd document. Double-clicking on this will open the note showing the text change(s).

FOR MORE INFORMATION
If you'd like to provide feedback on this tip or if you have questions, send e-mail to Lori DeFurio, Developer Evangelist.

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