

Better PDFs with FrameMaker-to- Acrobat TimeSavers



Shlomo Perets, microtype.com

Additional info and examples

- **“36 Ways to Improve Your PDFs with TimeSavers/Assistants”**
www.microtype.com/ImprovePDF.html
- **TimeSavers/Assistants Showcase**
www.microtype.com/showcase.html
- **TimeSavers info, order form**
www.microtype.com/TimeSavers.html



2

Next TimeSavers/Assts webinar

Walkthrough: From static PDF to rich interactive PDF using FrameMaker-to-Acrobat TimeSavers/Assistants

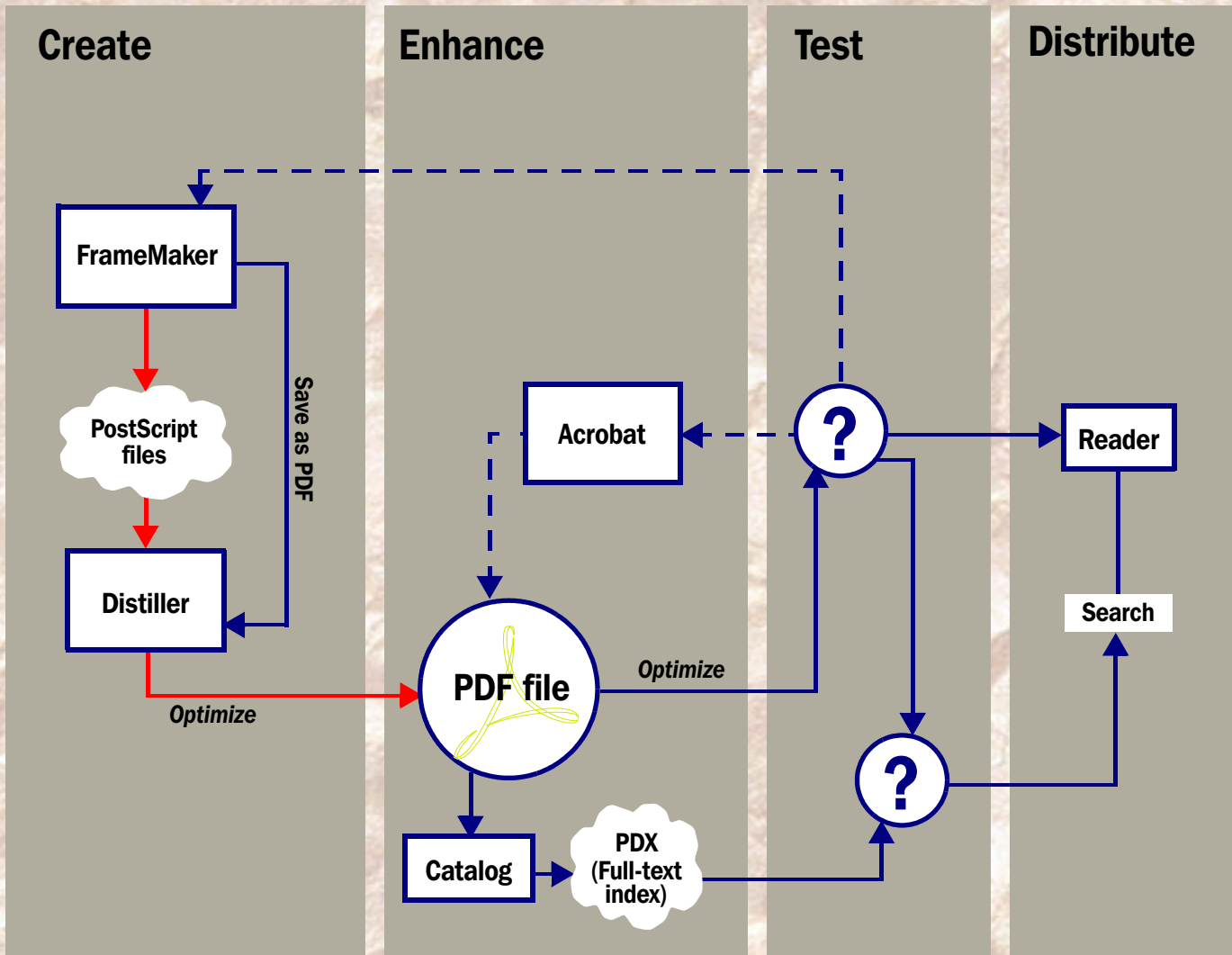
Monday, March 14, 2011
(10-11am PDT)



Four phases in PDF creation

- **Create** (the PDF from a FrameMaker source file)
- **Enhance** (additions with Acrobat tools) labor-intensive, repetitive process which cannot be re-used in future versions
- **Test** (does everything work and look OK?)
- **Distribute** (web, CD, software)





PDF = final format!

PDF is essentially a non-revisable format

- Paragraphs converted to lines, single lines might be converted to multiple segments
- No document structure and flow
- Editing text in Acrobat may result in letter spacing problems
- Some Acrobat editing operations might have unexpected results



Enhancing PDFs in Acrobat

- Features added in Acrobat “disappear” when you redistill (after changing FrameMaker source files)
- It is not practical to re-create features every time the source file is distilled
- Quality control considerations



“Avoiding” Acrobat?

- **Rely on FrameMaker automatically-generated data as much as possible**
 - **Cross-references converted to Acrobat links**
 - **Hypertext commands converted to Acrobat links**
 - **Selected paragraphs converted to bookmarks**
 - **Text flows converted to articles**
 - **DocInfo, DocView, Cropping, Destinations**

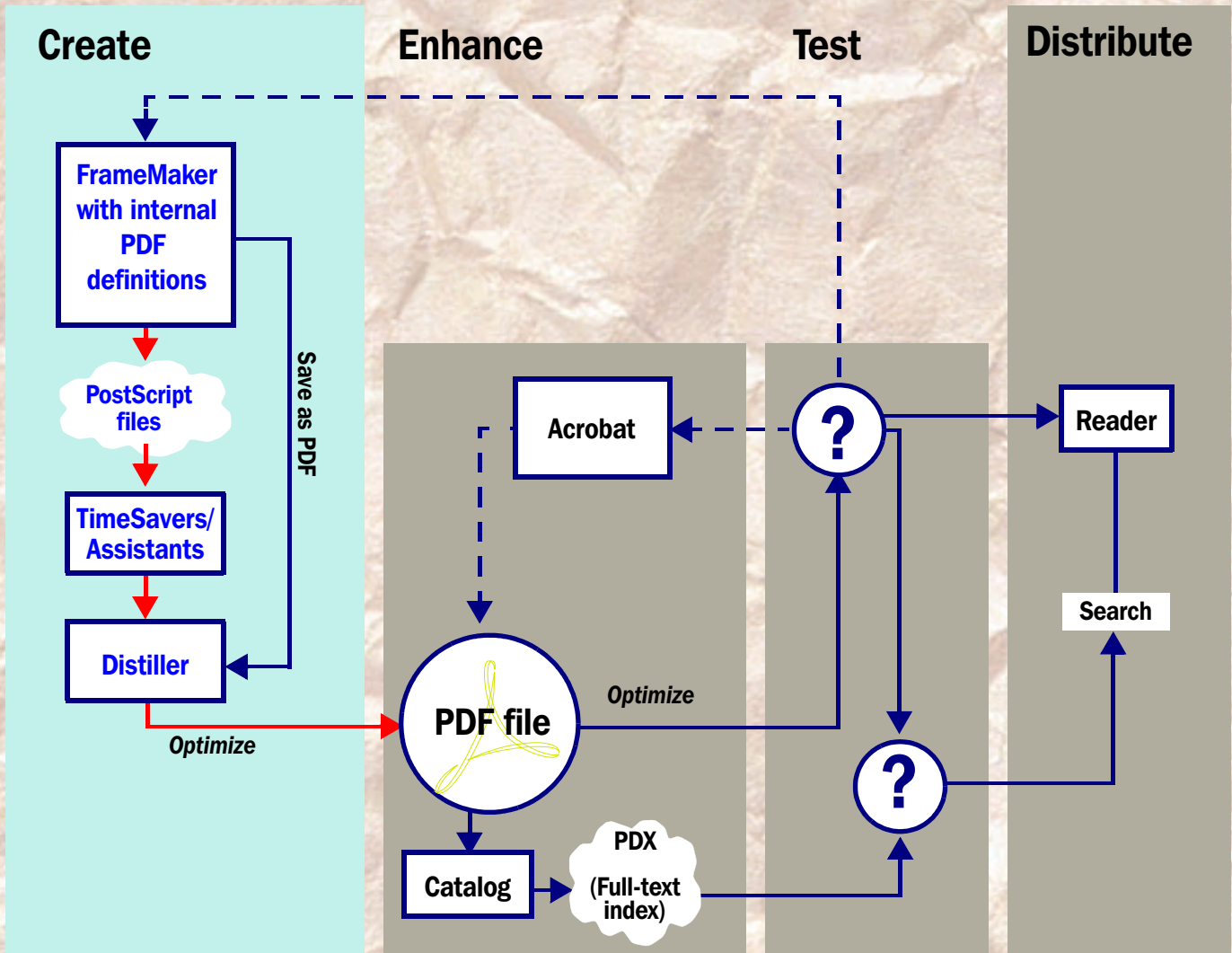


“Avoiding” Acrobat?

CONTINUED

- **Add other features to your source FM files using FM-to-Acrobat TimeSavers and Assistants (TimeSavers add-ons):**
 - **Form Assistant**
 - **Navigation Assistant**
 - **Multimedia Assistant**
 - **3D Assistant**
 - **Presentation Assistant**





Added value

For electronic documents to effectively replace printed manuals, you must provide added value:

- **Interactivity**
- **Useful bookmarks**
- **Cross-document search**
- **Multimedia**



Added value

CONTINUED

- Document initial view settings
- Document information fields
- Notes
- Custom named destinations
- Page labels
- Index (PDX) automounting



TS bookmark controller

- **Collapse the bookmark hierarchy to first or second level**
- **Remove paragraph numbering**
- **Merge bookmarks**
- **Colorize/style bookmark by text/level**



TS bookmark controller

CONTINUED

- **Extract figure/table bookmarks**
- **Add & sort quick-access bookmarks**
- **Change/remove bookmark start**
- **Re-order custom bookmarks**



TS link controller

- **Globally control link attributes, such as:**
 - **Highlight style**
 - **Border line width**
 - **Line style and color**
(underline = visible on screen, non printing)
- **Force cross-file links to open in a new window**



TS specific bookmarks/links

Using pre-defined shortcuts in hypertext markers:

- Point to URLs, e-mail feedback
- Point to other PDFs, media or data files
- Common Acrobat actions (e.g. Search)
- Acrobat JavaScript



