JACoW Team Meeting

File Upload Using Text Conversion

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The Goal

- Provide a generic web interface for uploading the authors' paper in plain text.

- Convert plain text to PDF.

- No FTP. No Web File Upload.

Advantages

- Significantly less disk storage space required.

- Real-time conversion to PDF.

- Uniform PDFs.

- Less editor involvement.

Obstacles

- ## Wide Objects
  - – Abstract Title and Author List
  - – Images, Tables, Graphs, etc.
- ## Bullets, Numbered Lists, Footnotes
  - – Special tags required by authors.

XML Solution

Adobe Acrobat
Document

- Wide objects overlap text in next column.

Adobe Acrobat
Document

- "Spanning" available; however surrounding text wraps horizontally, not vertically.

- Headers & Footers are a possible workaround for wide Objects.

  – Objects must appear at top or bottom.

  – Height must be calculated programmatically.

  – Can not anticipate page breaks.

RTF Solution

- Microsoft Word properly wraps text in columns containing wide images.

- Problems
  - RTF file is complex and difficult to read.
  - Embedded images written in hexadecimal.

LaTex Solution

- Automatic image placement (top, bottom or middle).

- New Problems
  - Many special characters must be "escaped."
  - More complex programs.

- Advantage: No formatting required for papers already written in LaTex.

- Does not solve the bullets, numbered lists and footnotes obstacles

Conclusion

- Of the three tools tested; LaTex is the best method to accomplish the goal.

- No solution eliminates the need to upload files. (images, tables, graphs, etc.).

- New problems
  - Tables must be saved as an image or special tags are necessary.
  - Bullets, numbered lists and footnotes.

Recommendation

- Technically Feasible.

- Not Practical.
  - Changes to tables, graphs, bullets, numbered lists, footnotes, special characters, etc. adds an additional level of complication for authors.

- Alternate Methods?
  - I'm open to suggestions.