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## Talk

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PDF version of Guardian

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Started by **will789** at 10:18am Jul 26, 2003 BST

There has not been much detail on the proposed digital version of the Guardian for sale later this year. Apparently this will offer graphics such as illustration and photography.

Will it be PDF? So far there are occasional PDF links from this site but no consistent policy I can make out. The Zinio reader is in use by some magazines but you can't copy graphics out to the clipboard or save text. Adobe Reader is better I think.

Emily Bell will be at /liveonline Wednesday. This topic to start things off

<http://media.guardian.co.uk/presspublishing/story/0,7495,993435,00.html>


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**xbodnotbodx** - 02:20pm Jul 26, 2003 BST (#1 of 22)

What will it cost?

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**will789** - 09:47am Jul 27, 2003 BST (#2 of 22)

Look at this link as an example.

[http://image.guardian.co.uk/sys-files/Books/documents/2002/07/12/review\\_130702\\_page37.pdf](http://image.guardian.co.uk/sys-files/Books/documents/2002/07/12/review_130702_page37.pdf)

hint, left and right pages have sequential numbers but this PDF is not easy to find through any search.

Clifford Harper's books can be found at <http://www.agraphia.uk.com/home.html> It is a Flash site. To get past the first page, you have to move the mouse around till you find a red dot. I'm sure PDF would sell if it was available, understood and promoted.

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**xbodnotbodx** - 01:40pm Jul 27, 2003 BST (#3 of 22)

Look at this link as an example.

Don't like the idea of something that has type so small I have to use the magnifier which, in turn, means that the whole width of the page is not on screen at one time.

Scrolling up and down we're all OK with, but sideways scrolling annoys.

Admittedly I'm on an old 15 inch monitor, and most people have at least a 17 inch now.

If I were going to introduce an innovation I would think along the lines of the Internet Movie Database's 'page turner'. It allows you to follow links related to a film sequentially. You could introduce a similar thing to the Guardian web site so that supplements and the paper had this 'like the print version' facility tacked on.

I think people would balk at being charged for an 'idiot's link guide' thing, though. So, er, I'll just go away quietly now...

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**will789** - 11:43am Jul 28, 2003 BST (#4 of 22)

Are you using Acrobat Reader? You can use any magnification up to 6000. Fit page width, whatever.

If you are looking at the page I linked to, it is true this was not designed to be viewed onscreen. For some reason this is a rare example of a page the Guardian decided to offer in PDF.

They could have set it up in columns so the view looked at one set of text at a time. These are issues to look at.

The illustration works ok though.

P

df is only one option. It works better with larger screens, and broadband of course.

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**will789** - 03:59pm Jul 30, 2003 BST (#5 of 22)

This was in the wrong place.

Actual talk as at /online

Link could be <http://talk.guardian.co.uk/WebX?230@140.2HDpbcVF41n.0@.597aa292>

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**will789** - 09:45am Jul 31, 2003 BST (#6 of 22)

InDesign so now what?

I am continuing this topic heading after the Emily Bell online occasion as there are still a few things I don't understand.

Printweek today page 18 covers the relative design merits of InDesign and Quark. There is a reported move to InDesign from NatMags and Reed. The Guardian is the only newspaper mentioned.

You are signed in as **will787**

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Detail on the "Digital Edition" of the Guardian still seems a bit vague. If PDF is an option will there be a different design? The idea of 'just a PDF' comes from a dump of something intended for print. Jakob Nielsen has rightly been criticised in the weblog at Planetpdf for ignoring both design issues for online PDF and training in how to use Adobe Reader.

<http://www.planetpdf.com>

In theory, using InDesign could make it possible to create PDF directly for the web or plate or export XML for whatever. Actually the design issues don't seem to have been sorted. If you think Quark could do this just as easily, please point to some examples.

I work on a website around Acrobat <http://www.acrobat-services.co.uk> so there will be some material through this.

The idea of a Guardian in PDF is already a help in imagining more PDF use in the UK. Sometimes it seems that 'planetPDF' is far away.

Any other news on PDF publishing in the UK?

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**will789** - 01:40pm Aug 1, 2003 BST (#7 of 22)

Extracts from other messages in one handy PDF

I have done a collection in PDF of the bits that I think are interesting. Hope that's ok. Could be deleted if anyone objects. This topic continues on the PDF version of The Digital Edition. Issues include -attitudes to books as media -PDF design

I think this could be of wider interest. If the price level of £98.50 is about right, there must be quite a lot involved.

Direct link <http://www.acrobat-services.co.uk/extract.pdf>

Please continue comments on this spot. The pdf version though could be a demo of the 'collaboration' features that Adobe may explain one day. Currently too expensive to be widely used.

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**will789** - 03:23pm Aug 7, 2003 BST (#8 of 22)

PDF takes digital workflows online

I am trying to add in most of the connections which convince me this discussion around a PDF Guardian is significant.

This autumn there are two events around digital printing. I will be involved with the Acrobat User Forum meetings during Digital Solutions in October. The Guardian will be featured at another show called Digital Print World, along with the Financial Times and other case studies in printing.

My guess is that by November discussion may have moved on so that PDF is not just considered as part of a print workflow. Web publishing will be a major concern and PDF will be part of this. As mentioned previously, 'Media Uncovered' in the Sunday Express has reported that the FT now loses money on the print version but has recently covered costs on the web. Unless I hear different information I will continue to believe this is roughly credible. It may be part of a trend that will reach other titles.

By the way, what has happened to 'Media Uncovered'? It used to be a PDF download from the web, then it went from two pages to one, then it vanished. I haven't bought a copy since this happened so please let me know if it starts up again. It did tend to dwell on other people's problems, but the coverage of the web was often interesting.

<http://www.digitalprintworld.co.uk/>

<http://www.ondemandexpo.co.uk/>

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**will787** - 05:48pm Sep 29, 2003 BST (#9 of 22) | [Delete](#)

Today's announcements from Adobe on their 'Creative Suite' included a quote on the possible benefits for journalists of using InCopy -

"Adobe InCopy CS will be vital to our ability to publish across media," said Nick Passmore, Head of Editorial Systems Development at Guardian Newspapers Ltd. "Its native file format is XML, opening up exciting possibilities for generating new types of products and publishing more cost-effectively by using material in multiple presentations and media such as print and the Web."

What can this mean? Can we expect some speculation on the pages of Guardian Media or Online as to what intention there may be to make use of this stuff? A PDF version with graphics would be one possibility.

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**will787** - 12:00pm Oct 2, 2003 BST (#10 of 22) | [Delete](#)

<http://www.metronews.com/metropdf.html>

At least one newspaper is now available as PDF

30 meg download but there is an option to just try one section at a time. San Jose base, but includes movie reviews that may turn up anywhere.

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**will787** - 01:09pm Oct 7, 2003 BST (#11 of 22) | [Delete](#)

I started this topic in the BBC section by mistake. However I now realise how it might be relevant

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/online/story/0,3605,1056546,00.html>

If the BBC archive is to go way back in time, surely the Radio Times and The Listener could be scanned and made available?

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**xbodnotbodx** - 04:58pm Oct 7, 2003 BST (#12 of 22)

I started this topic in the BBC section by mistake.

I can't help but feel you're fighting a one man battle.

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**will787** - 04:17pm Oct 9, 2003 BST (#13 of 22) | [Delete](#)

Not really. I am puzzled by the lack of comment from others, especially people from the Guardian. Postscript and PDF is a twenty year story. Both were ignored by pre-press for a while. There are a few hundred million people reading PDF, mostly outside the UK. There will be some form of digital Guardian eventually, when some of this will make more sense. Is the Guardian Online discussion completely different to this one? They seem to have their own space. An early mention of PDF was from Jack Schofield complaining he would be forced to download the Reader to get a manual for a game. I think he decided not to bother.

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[xbodnotbodx](#) - 05:50pm Oct 9, 2003 BST (#14 of 22)

I think you'll get a lack of comment until the Guardian people make some sort of statement.

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[will787](#) - 09:25am Oct 14, 2003 BST (#15 of 22) | [Delete](#)

There is a Guardian publication in PDF, as linked at the famous weblog at Planet PDF

<http://www.planetpdf.com/mainpage.asp?MenuID=196&WebPageID=2002>

You get one free sample chapter, including a map and an intro by a real Guardian journalist.

So why can't we have more like this?

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[will787](#) - 11:00am Oct 29, 2003 BST (#16 of 22) | [Delete](#)

Planet PDF reports recent use of PDF by the Los Angeles Times

<http://www.planetpdf.com/mainpage.asp?webpageid=3184&n>

The pages on the fires show good use of maps and photography.

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[IanD](#) - 05:54pm Oct 31, 2003 BST (#17 of 22)

Has anyone seen this from the telegraph:

<http://screenprint.telegraph.co.uk>

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[will787](#) - 05:25pm Nov 4, 2003 BST (#18 of 22) | [Delete](#)

There is a sample you can try from April. Uses 'Liquid Paper' so I had a hard time finding a way around it. It seems not possible to save pictures or copy out text though this may just be for the sample.

The help file shows an option to download a PDF but this is not there for the sample.

Interesting approach. I'm not sure why they don't offer PDF, maybe the file size is too big.

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[will787](#) - 12:12pm Nov 5, 2003 BST (#19 of 22) | [Delete](#)

Curiosity got the better of me and I have subscribed to a test week of the Telegraph. There is no PDF option on the menu. I think the help for the sampler may be out of date or I imagined something. The interface is better than I thought. You can get an article in a box and print to PDF if you choose. Not sure if they expect this but the photos work ok.

Surely the Guardian will be just as good, eventually. Is this stuff worth reporting somewhere as well as memories of the Mirror or the latest on games?

By the way, IanD, not sure I agree with your views on the Telegraph and BBC (see other topics) but thanks for this link.

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[Julsb](#) - 03:37pm Nov 5, 2003 BST (#20 of 22)

Personally, I'd rather that GU rejigged their information architecture and maximised the advantages of digital content, rather than giving us PDFs. When I'm browsing & reading content online, I love hyperlinks and meta-tags. Really, some way of calling up the images that show up in the printed version makes more sense to me, as does a more intelligent search/archive system.

PDFs will only be useful to me if I'm going to print the paper out, in which case I'd rather buy the printed edition.

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[will787](#) - 11:56am Nov 6, 2003 BST (#21 of 22) | [Delete](#)

PDF has more potential than is generally in use. It can have hyperlinks and/or embedded media such as sound or movies. The structure in PDF allows connections with XML and all the search / metatags anyone is prepared to set up. The images from the printed version are the aspect missing from the free web version of the Guardian at present. PDF is the best way to display this on screen as it relates to Postscript as used for hard copy.

However my experiment with the Telegraph shows that their pages load very quickly, probably faster than PDF would. You can print to PDF from either the text mode or a page view. Both include photos. The page view is not as clear, not sure why, could be the fonts.

Trouble is the illustration in the Guardian seems a bit more interesting but maybe I've been living in a closed world. This is day two of my Telegraph reading and there hasn't been much original illustration so far.

Beebwatch includes the shocking news that the BBC has started to use metric measurement rather than imperial. Sorry, this should be in another topic.

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[will787](#) - 12:25pm Nov 6, 2003 BST (#22 of 22) | [Delete](#)

More about Active Paper has turned up

[http://www.active-paper.com/media\\_030703.html](http://www.active-paper.com/media_030703.html)

It seems the workflow uses PDF or Postscript but displays as XML. The subscriber can go back to PDF but this is not publicised as yet.

Meanwhile Guardian Online is still going on about how record companies need

to adjust to digital downloads etc. Surely they could cover what the Telegraph is up to?

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