



Adobe Acrobat XI Accessibility Features

Matt May | Accessibility Evangelist | CSUN 2013 | 28 Feb 2013



New Accessibility Enhancements Make Content Preparation Easy

Adobe introduced several enhancements in Acrobat XI to help make the process of creating accessible PDF content easier.

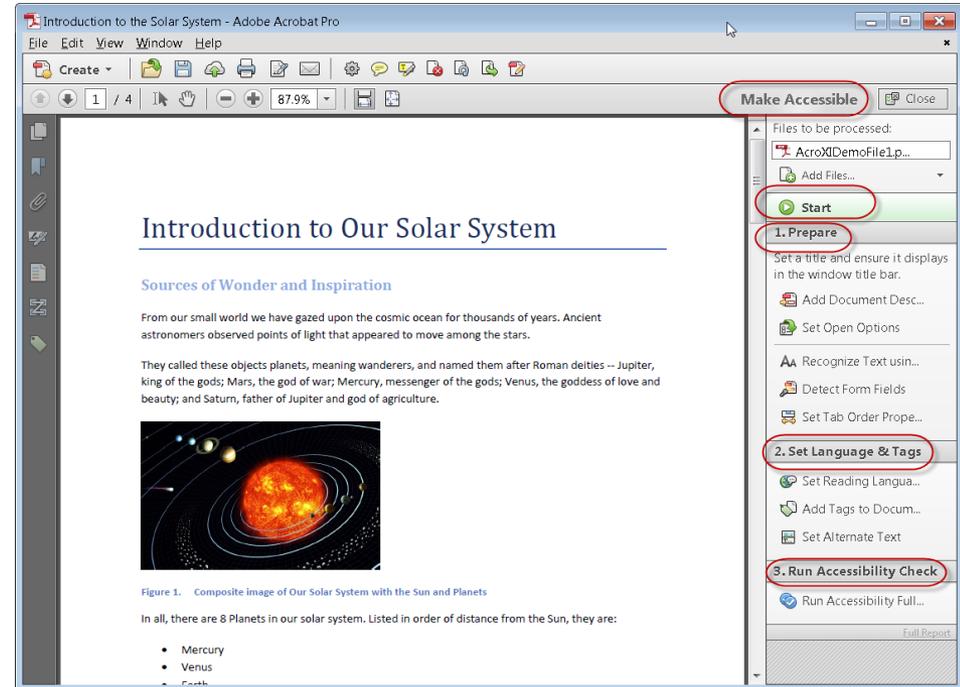
1. New Make Accessible Action – Acrobat Pro
2. New Interactive Accessibility Checking Experience – Acrobat Pro
3. Synchronized Selection - Acrobat Pro
4. Reading Order Pane Improvements - Acrobat Pro
5. More Heading Levels in the TouchUp Reading Order Tool - Acrobat Pro
6. Verification Updated for the Latest Accessibility Standards – Acrobat Pro
7. Exposure of Textual Page Labels via Accessibility APIs – All Versions
(NVDA today)

Acrobat XI Accessibility Features List

Feature	What it Does	Included With
Accessible PDF – consolidated	Simplify the creation and verification of accessible PDF documents that need to meet PDF/UA and WCAG 2.0 standards.	Acrobat Pro only
Accessibility Actions	Use the Make Accessible Action to prepare, fix, and verify accessible PDF files without extensive training	Acrobat Pro only
Tagging	Improve accessibility. Add tags to control reading order and improve navigation.	Acrobat Pro only
Validation and Standards Compliance	Check, Verify, and Adjust PDF documents based on WCAG 2.0 or PDF/UA accessibility standards.	Acrobat Pro only
Accessibility Preferences	Customize accessibility preferences with an easy-to-use wizard.	Pro, Standard, Reader
Readaloud	Read PDF documents out loud using built-in functions or working with professional screen-reading software.	Pro, Standard, Reader
High Contrast	Set high-contrast colors for better visibility	Pro, Standard, Reader
Large Type	Enable large-type display by setting text to reflow through pages.	Pro, Standard, Reader
Expose Page Labels	Screen readers will be able to read page labels in addition to page numbers. NVDA screen reader is already doing that with pre-release Reader 11.	Pro, Standard, Reader

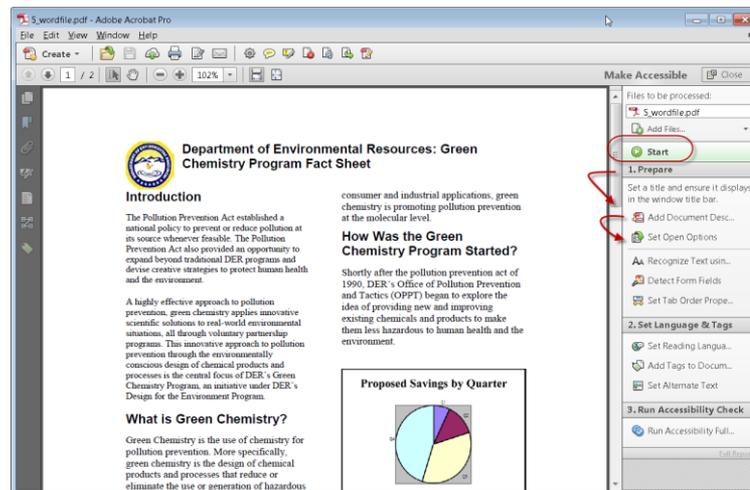
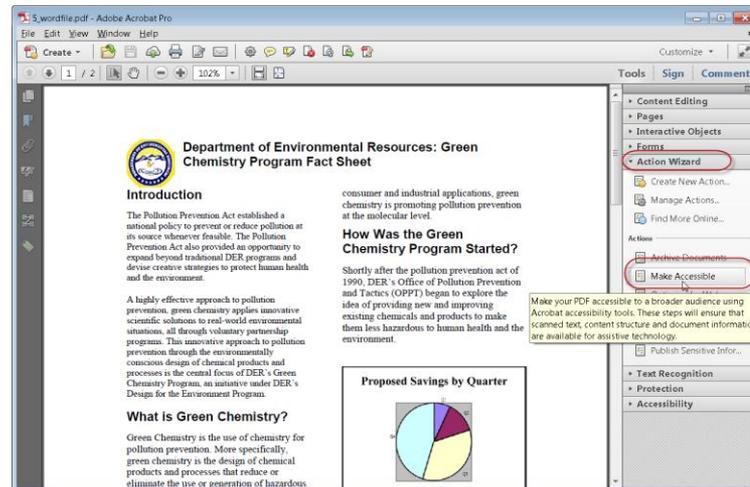
New Make Accessible Action

- One of the default Actions in the Action Wizard Panel
- Optimized to verify and fix the primary accessible elements of a document
 - Example: Displays a dialog for images that need alt text
- After running the Action, users will find that most, if not all, of the major checks have already passed.



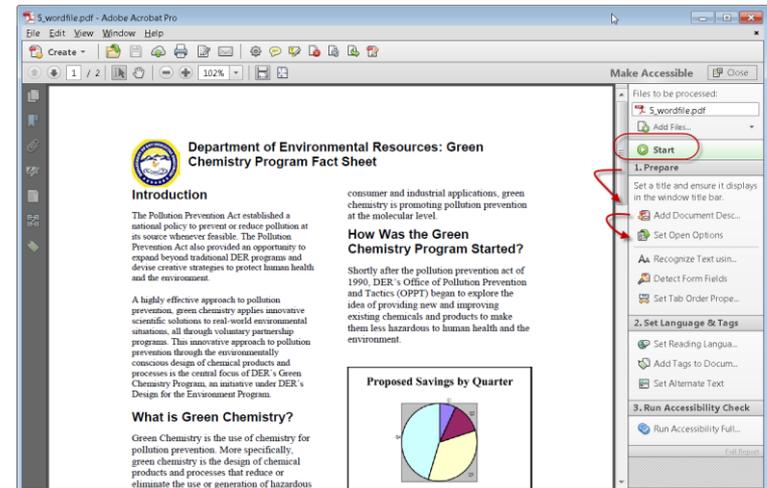
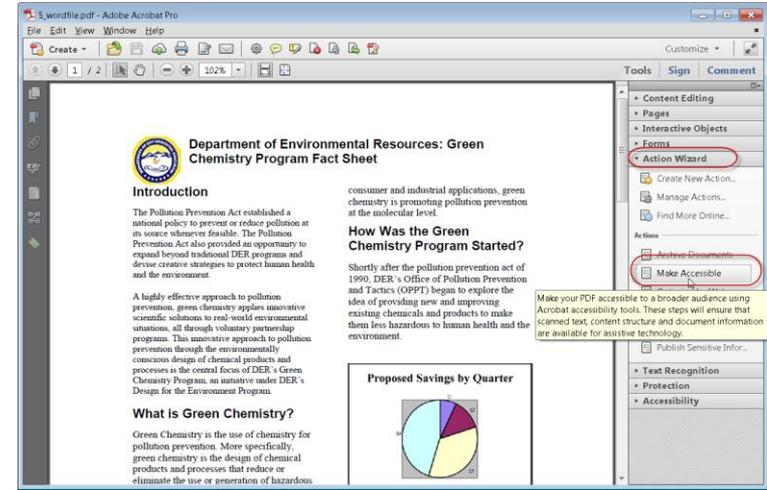
New Interactive Accessibility Checking Experience – Action Wizard

- Whether the Accessibility Checker is run as part of the Action or on its own, users will see results presented in an interactive panel.



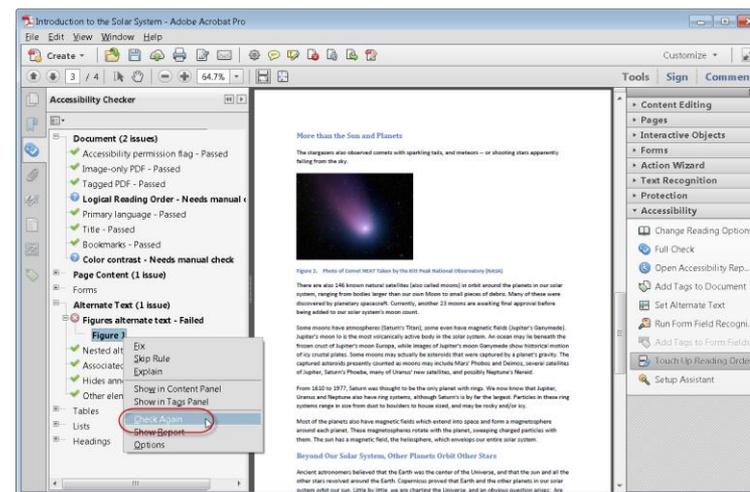
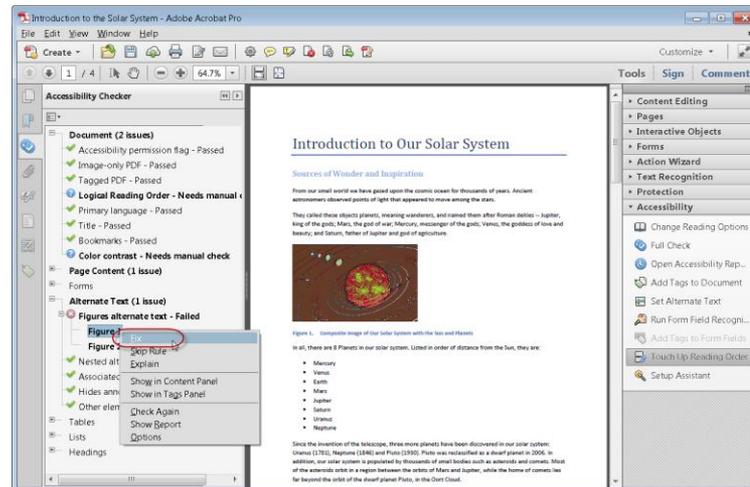
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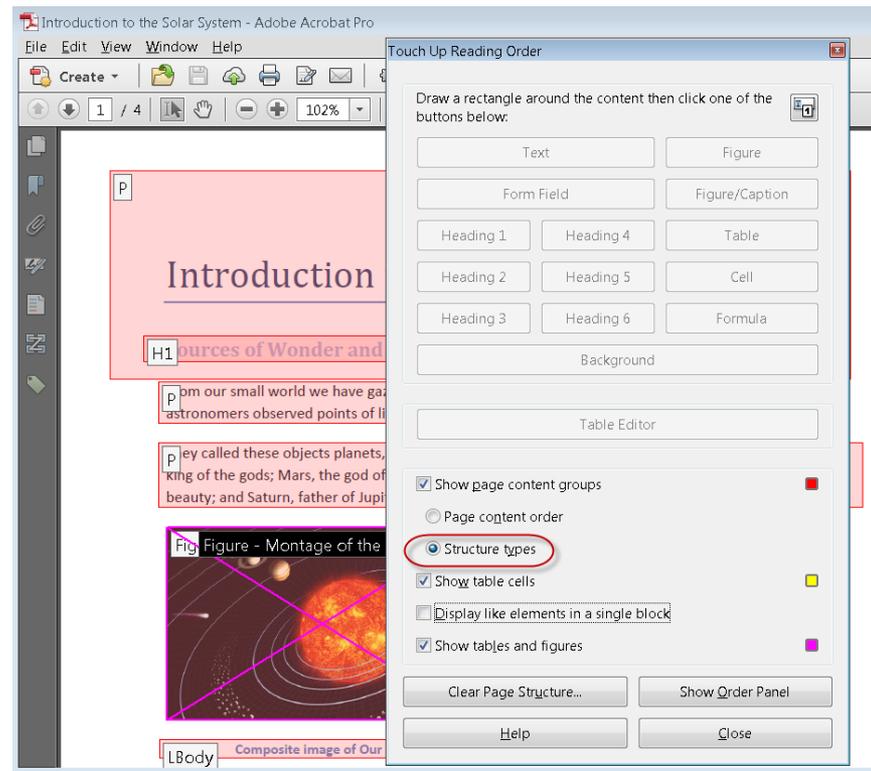
Interactive Accessibility Checking Experience – Accessibility Report

- No need to generate a report for each pass; users can expand the results tree to examine specific errors, fix them in place, and revalidate.
- Adobe recommends running a final report when checking is complete as a record of the evaluation.



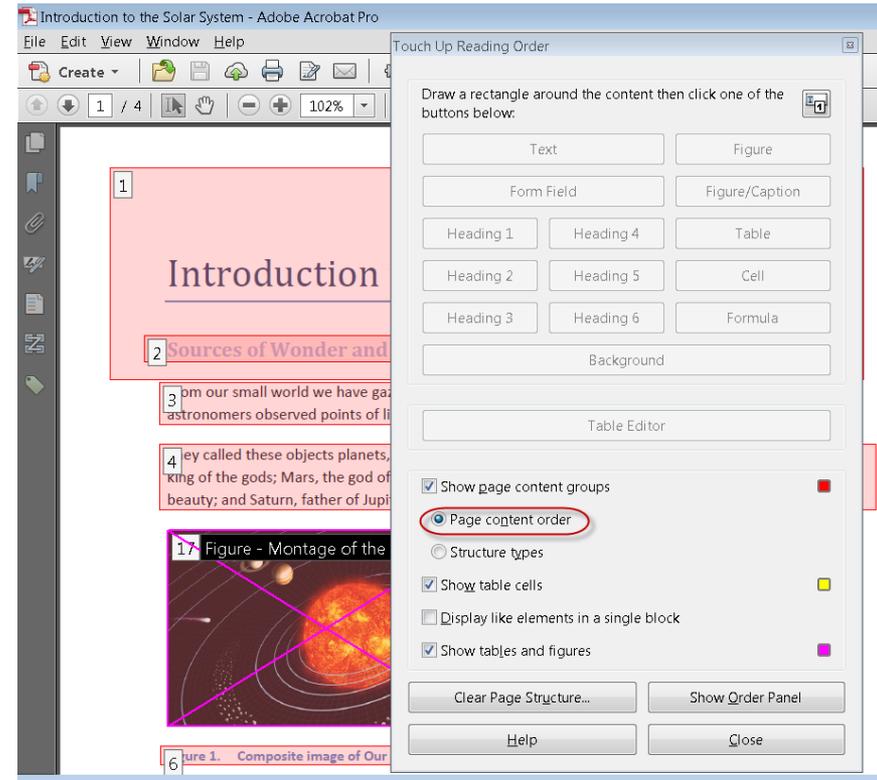
Reading Order Pane Enhancements – Display Structure Type

- Enhancements to Working with Elements in the Reading Order Pane Allows Display of Structure Type or Reading Order
 - Displayed as Structure Type



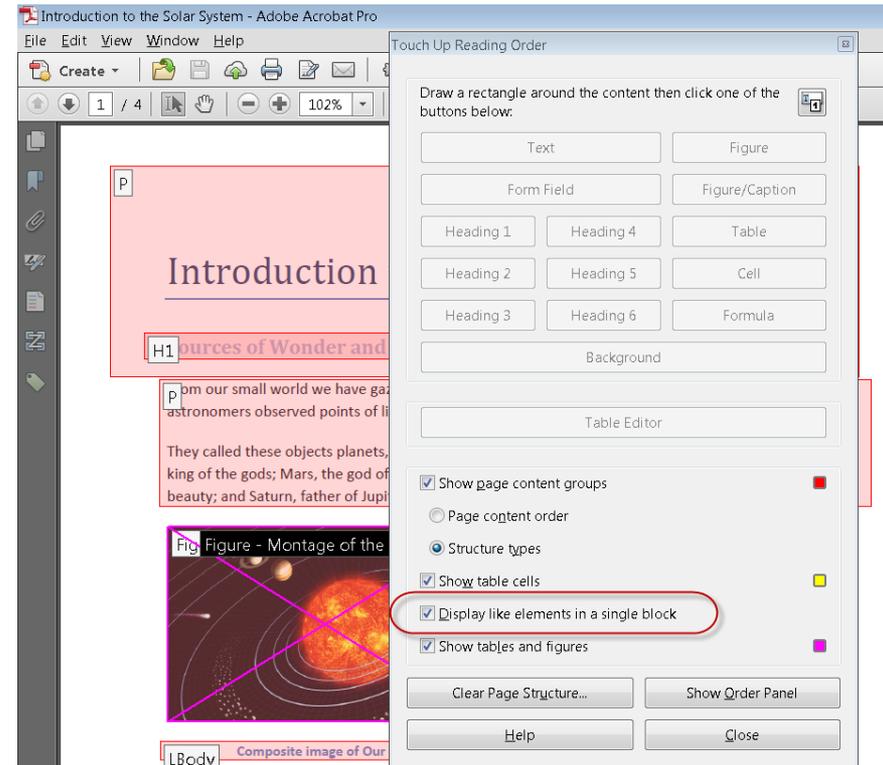
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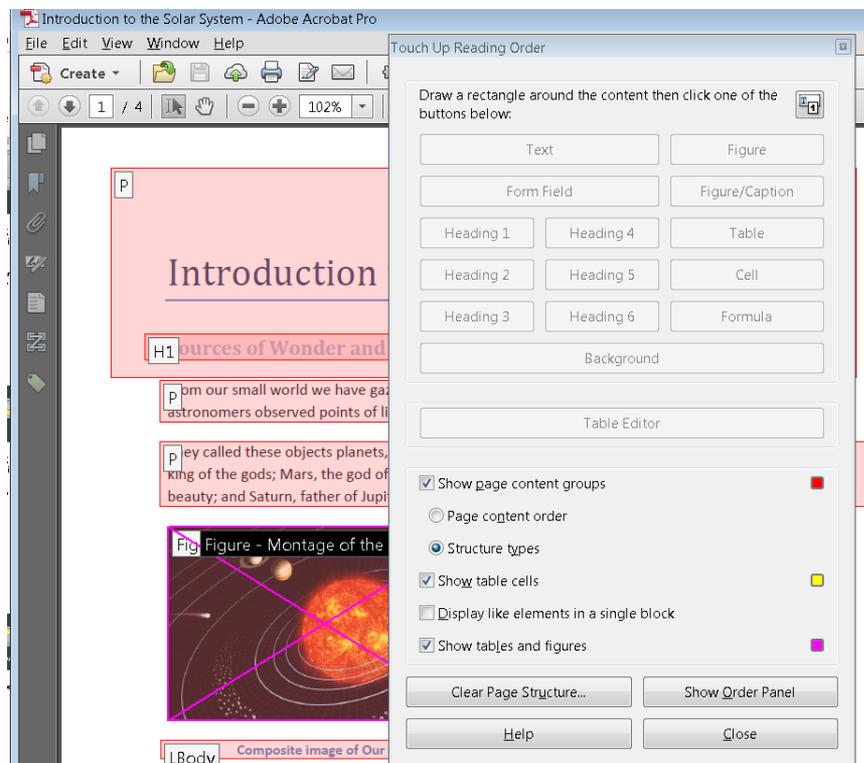
Touch Up Reading Order - Like Items Displayed as a Single Item

- Option to display like items in a single box



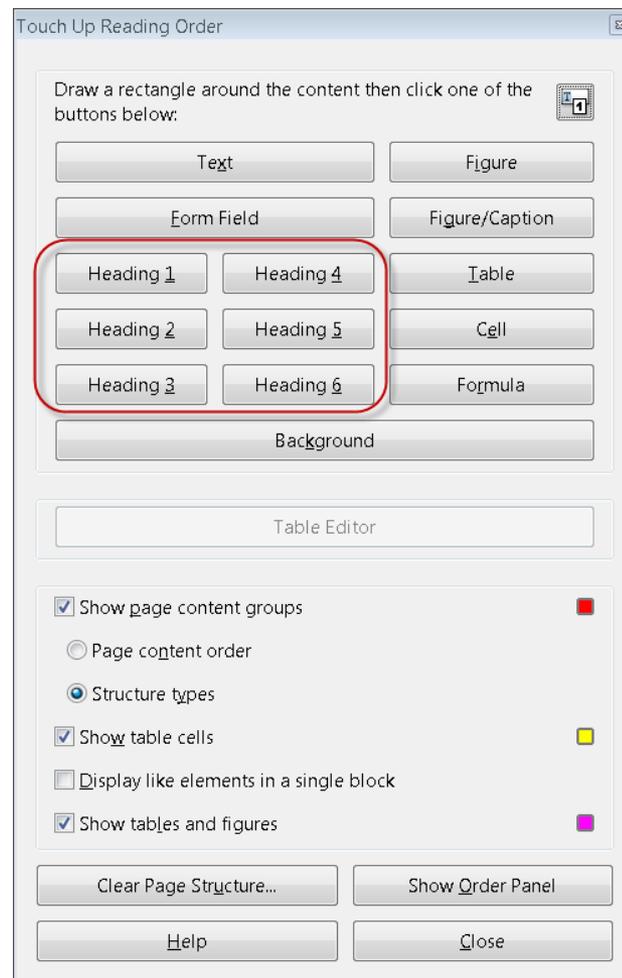
Touch Up Reading Order - Like Items Displayed as Separate Elements

- Option to display like items as separate elements



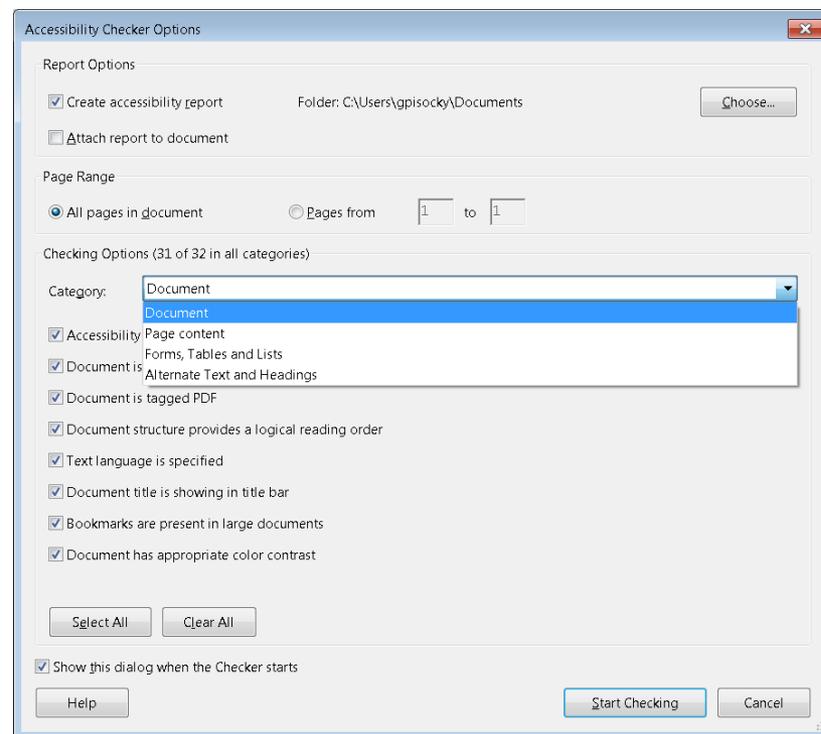
Touch Up Reading Order – More Heading Levels (H1 – H6)

- Now Heading Levels can be Set Through Level 6 – Consistent with HTML, PDF/UA, ISO 32000



Verification Updated for the Latest Accessibility Standards

- The Accessibility Checker has been updated to identify elements of PDF documents that do not conform with the latest WCAG 2.0 and PDF/UA standards.



Take care of Accessibility in source documents

- Acrobat XI Pro is the best tool for creating Accessible PDFs & other documents.
- But Acrobat isn't where you start creating your documents.
- Think about Accessibility when you start creating your documents.
- Word, Open Office Writer, etc.
- Use the accessibility features in your source editors.

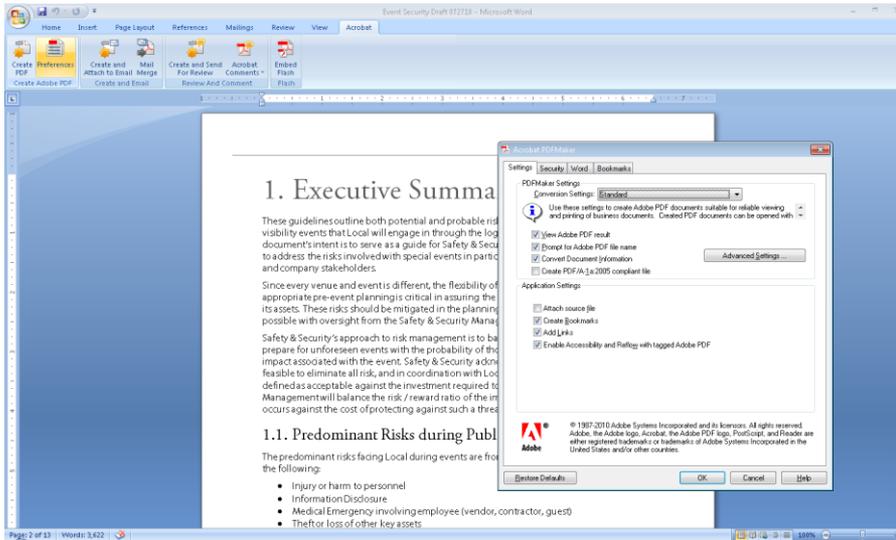
Easier & cheaper when converting to other accessible formats.

Repair after conversion is always more expensive.

Use Acrobat Pro for final checking & minor repair.



Microsoft Word to Accessible PDF – Use the Adobe PDFMaker



- Add Alternative Text to Graphics in the Word File
- Do NOT Use Spaces, Tabs to create tables, use the Table Editor
- Do NOT Use Character formatting for Headings, Use Styles
- Set Your Preferences from the Microsoft Word menu: Make sure “Enable Accessibility and Reflow with Tagged PDF” option is selected
- Convert with Adobe PDFMaker
- Check the Results in Adobe Acrobat X
- Follow the Suggestions for Repair, Repeat Until No Errors Detected

Resources

- Adobe Accessibility Resource Center
adobe.com/accessibility
- Adobe Accessibility Blog
blogs.adobe.com/accessibility



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