AcroTEX.Net

The AeB Pro Package

Creating a Package of Files

D. P. Story

Link testing:

- See the Euro
- See my formerly favorite number
- See the @EASE Control Panel
- View the AeST Components

The `\makePDFPackage` **command**

The concept of a PDF Package is introduced in Acrobat 8. On first blush, it is nothing more than a fancy user interface to display embedded files; however, it is also used in the new email form data workflow. Using the new Forms menu, data contained in FDF files can be packaged, and summary data can be displayed in the user interface. Consequently, the way forms uses it, a PDF package can be used as a simple database.

Unfortunately, at this time, the form feature/database feature of PDF Packages is inaccessible to the JavaScript API and AeB Pro. What AeB Pro provides is packaging of the embedded files with the nice UI.

The procedure is as follows: Embed all files files in the parent as described in aebpro_ex5.pdf, and use the command `\makePDFPackage` to package the attachments. The syntax is

    \makePDFPackage{<key-values>}

There are only two sets of key-value pairs

 initview=<label>: Specifying a value for the initview key determines which
      file will be used as the initial view when the document is opened. If
      initview=attach2, for this document, then the file corresponding to
      the label attach2, as set up in the attachmentNames environment is

the initial view. Listing `initview` with no value (or if `initview` is not listed at all) causes the parent document to be initially shown.

`viewmode=details|tile|hidden`: The `viewmode` determines which of the three user interfaces is to be used initially. In terms of the UI terminology: `details` = View top; `tile` = View left; and `hidden` = Minimize view. The default is `details`.

If you use this command with an empty argument list, `\makePDFPackage{}`, you create a PDF package with the defaults.

TIP: Use the `\autolabelNum*` command to assign a more informative description of the attachments, like so.

```
\autolabelNum*{1}{European Currency \u20AC}
\autolabelNum*{2}{\u0022$|e^\u007B\u005Cln(17)\u007D|$\u0022}
\autolabelNum*[AeST]{3}{The AeBST Components}
\autolabelNum*[atease]{4}{The @EASE Control Panel}
```

Note that there is an alternative that is commented out to the assignment of the second attachment, it is

```
\autolabelNum*
    {2}{\u\DQUOTE$|e^\u\LBRACE\u005Cln(17)\u\RBRACE|$\u\DQUOTE}
```

One can use the "helper" commands, as described in `aeb_pro.tex`; however, there is a slight problem. Within the <description> argument, we obey spaces, so if we were to say \u\LBRACE\u\BSLASH ln(17)\u\RBRACE there would be a space after the backslash. This is the reason we used \u005C.

Warning: There seems to be a bug when you email a PDF Package. When the initial view is *not a PDF document*, the PDF Package is corrupted when set by email and cannot be opened by the recipient. When emailing a PDF Package, as produced by AeB Pro, always have the initial view as a PDF document.

That's it! Hope you enjoy this feature and find a good use for it.