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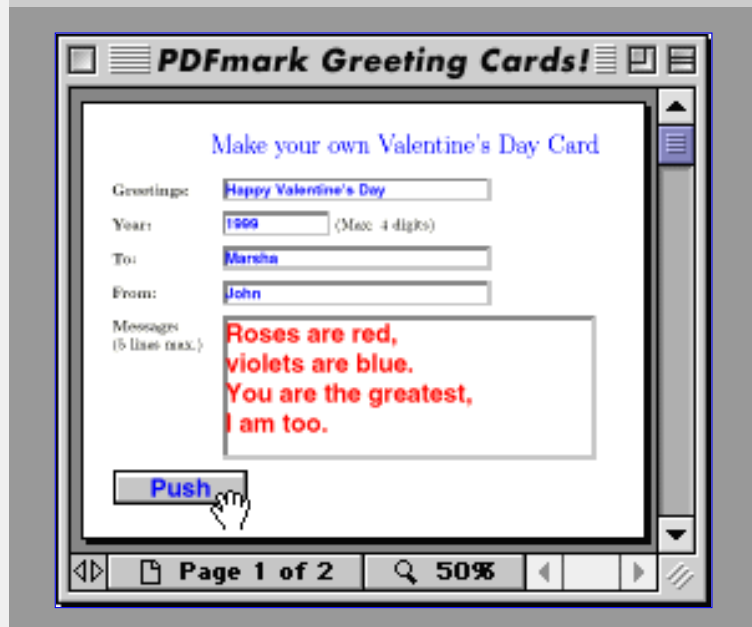
Resources



"Enhancing the Text in Text Fields using Pdfmarks"

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URL:

<http://www.math.uakron.edu/~dpstory/>

William Shakespeare undoubtedly would be proud.

After all, many of the bard's love-laced tomes are available on the Internet free for downloading in PDF. Of course, Bill of Stratford wasn't around for any of the distilling -- at least not of an Acrobatic nature.

We're fortunate to have a modern-day author to carry on the romance advocacy tradition. Shakespeare may be a few sonnets up on Assoc. Professor D. P. Story. However, when it comes to Mathematics -- and the art of distilling -- the Elizabethan wordsmith is out of his league (and century) compared to the Univ. of Akron (OH) Mathematics and Computer Science professor.

Dr. Story is well known in the World of PDF, having shared with fellow enthusiasts several informational, math-based projects and related articles he's produced in portable document format. If you haven't yet had a test drive of any of his earlier creations, download and try your hand (and brain) at being honored as the "Grand Poobah" of [Algeboard](#), his pdf-forms-based math game board (based on the Q & A format of Jeopardy).

While some frustrated users never get past the Reader download and installation phase, at the other end of the spectrum are the likes of Dr. Story, who are constantly exploring the infinity & beyond of the portable document format. His "[AcroTex](#)" Web page features many of his past PDF math projects, using Tex, a mathematics typesetting system, and Acrobat Distiller. They include interactive tools for learning Arithmetic, Calculus and Algebra.

Recently he shared with PDFzone.com one of his latest explorations working with Pdfmarks, code snippets embedded in a PostScript file prior to distilling to create special features in

the resulting PDF document:

"I've discovered a way of writing the text for text fields in ways I haven't seen before," Dr. Story says. "I can write the text by stroking and filling the text ... and it's also possible to increase the character/word spacing and to condense the letters."

To illustrate his latest Acrobat adventure, he's created an [interactive form](#) [PDF/17 kb] that takes text entered by a user -- one who has the appropriate v3.5 forms plug-in installed -- that when submitted creates a Valentine in portable document format.

NOTE: Those viewing the resulting PDF with the free Adobe Acrobat Reader will not be able to save the newly created version, due to the viewing and printing tool's lack of a "Save As" function. It can be printed, but once the file is closed, it reverts to the original template text. Using Acrobat Exchange, the file can be saved to disk.

To offer others a glimpse behind the scenes, Dr. Story has documented this specific use of Pdfmarks in a five-page article "[Enhancing the Text in Text Fields using Pdfmarks](#)." [PDF/94 kb]

The article itself may be a bit too technical for some, yet it's worth a look to anyone interested in seeing one of PDF's advanced features in action -- if only to experience the interactive examples Dr. Story has included.

If it piques an interest in pdf forms and pdfmark possibilities, follow the AcroTex" link below to browse and/or download some of his other games, tutorials and articles.

While you're calling at Dr. Story's Web home, be sure to sign his [Guestbook](#) [PDF/56 kb] -- another pdf form, of course. It utilizes a public domain cgi script to process user-entered and submitted data. When a user clicks to submit his or her information, Acrobat Reader sends the form data in HTML to the cgi for processing.

In the spirit of Feb. 14, you might also send him a Reader-ready note of affection to thank our "Grand Poobah of PDF" nominee for being such a good PDF Community citizen -- by continuously sharing his expertise and knack

for innovation.

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