Interactive PDF Form Creation with Scribus

Added in Scribus 0.7.5 are innovative capabilities for creating interactive PDF forms by creating Scribus document and then exporting a PDF. This is a major advance for open source as up until now, no open source application could create interactive PDF files, also known as FDF files. The best way to demonstrate this is with this PDF created with a release candidate of 0.7.5. This is by no means meant to be a comprehisive document, but a simple introduction. More elaborate examples and documentation will come in the next release of Scribus. Within the samples subfolder of the scribus program there are sample Scribus documents and PDF's

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Start by creating a text box,selecting the text box, right click "Is PDF Annotation". Then re-select and right click annotation properties. Below, is the default first dialog. Among the many choices which can be placed in the form, you can create the following:
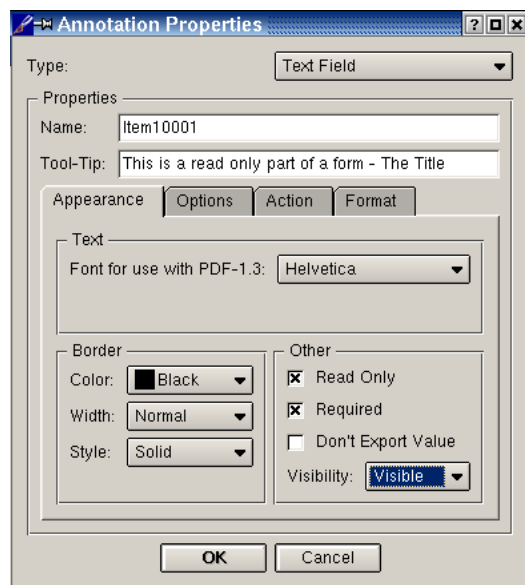Editable Combo Boxes
Fields including date, currency, percentage,
Navigation Links within a document - very handy for long documents
Submission and Reset Buttons
Check Boxes which can be checks, crosses, stars etc.

Most all of these can scripted to perform other actions with javascript. Along with this, there are options to make objects invisible, non-printing, as well as making some fields read-only or required.

Hints for the PDF Form and creation:
1) Run your mouse slowly over each object.. Some of the objects have tool tips.
2) You are recommended to use the latest version of Adobe Acrobat. There is a direct download link in the PDF export page for the latest verions for Linux now 5.0.5. It is much better than 4.0.5 and fixes many other bugs which , as well as loding faster. The install is simpler than 4.x.
3) Stick with the "Base 14" fonts which are typically distrubuted with Adobe Acrobat. This includes Courier,Helvetica, Times, Zapf Dingbat, Symbol . This way you do not need to embed them, which will make your PDF smaller for e-mailing.
4) Most text with fileds and buttons will be left justified.

5) Acrobat Reader on all platforms will not allow you to save data in form fields within the PDF itself or let you do a "save as" and retain the data. A simple workaround is to advise users to print to kprinter within Acrobat, which can create a PDF in version KDE 3, if you have CUPS installed. The other option is there is usually a button within Acrobat Reader to create a PDF through a web based interface at www.adobe..com. Within Acrobat Reader, Go to Tools> Create Adobe PDF Online. You are allowed 5 free files after registering.

Important notes on this first release of PDF forms within Scribus. To be added with the next release:
1) Radio Buttons
2) Javascript on the document level.
3) Submit Form Action
4) List Box Selection Change Action

Typical Name Address Fields - The field labels should be separate text boxes created within Scribus. Conversly, you pre populate the fileds with default info. You can also limit the number of characters within a field, as well as specify date, number, currency and percentage fields. Password fields will not display text.

The yellow box is a regular annotation. You can insert these in a document for more extensive comments for a field. the push button below is an example of a navigation button. Buttons can also be placed for reseting a form or for submission. With javascript you can embed a URL to send the form for storage.

Name

Address   Date

Below are check box examples.   Below is a combo box example, needs java-
                                                                          script to fully enable.
Yes   No

A password field.

For tool tip examples move the mouse slowly over some of the fields