

Re: "Doing" datasheets

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.design/2005-03/0649.html>

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"martin griffith" <martingriffithX@Xyahoo.co.uk> wrote in message news:c89c21pfla4ofnend1s49p434t2loao1k@4ax.com...
> *I'm think of tidying up (my lack of) procedures in making data sheets and documentation.*
>
> *And again I'm a bit lost*
>
> *I like the format that www.rane.com or Jim Williams's stuff on www.linear.com , ie text, PCB layout and schematics in the same PDF datasheet.*
>
> *How do I export/print to file diagrams from my Accel sch/pcb package. I can use a facility like pdf995 (printer look alike software) to produce a pdf file, that I can zoom into without loss of resolution. (the buzzword is Scalable Vector Graphics, according too google)*
>
> *I dont have micro\$oft word, just wordpad and Open Office. OO is not exactly intuitive, but can OO do this sort of thing? If so, how? Should I hire a typist? Do I have to blow the cobwebs off my creditcards? How many puns can John Woodgate find here?*
>
> *Thanks*
>
>
> *martin*
>
> *"An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind"*
> *Gandhi*

Here is how I do it :

1. Buy Adobe Acrobat. It is not cheap, but you don't have to keep upgrading it every year because the readers are backwards compatible. I have Acrobat V4. Acrobat gives you a couple of printer drivers just like pdf995, so you can extract output from any program. In addition, Acrobat lets you combine separate PDF pages to form a single document, so you can grab your PCB output and some text and combine them. You can also add those "bookmarks"

which let people navigate the document, although in V4 that is clumsy. Acrobat lets you extract goodies out of other people's PDFs, often even when you aren't supposed to – simply print out of Acrobat to its own printer driver and open the new PDF !

Someone else suggested a different Adobe product which also produces PDFs, and that may be worth investigating.

2. Buy MS Word. Last time I looked, Open Office was clumsy and complicated, ran slow and got confused. Word is simple, overpriced and just works. The beauty of Word is that you can copy and paste just about anything into a Word document : bitmaps, EMF (Windows own zoomable graphics format), jpg, stuff out of your web browser, printscreen, html. I copy and paste schematics out of TinyCAD (freeware) as EMF into Word and add some verbage. I copy and paste graphs out of AIM–SPICE into Word. etc etc. I can then print the Word doc to the PDF printer driver. Unfortunately, Word does not accept PDF – so eventually Acrobat is needed to combine separate PDFs.

Roger