

This week @ MobileRead:

E-books

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E-book Devices

Which one should I buy?

- eInk device most suitable for editing?

iRex iLiad

- firmware 2.9 ??????
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- iLiad only sees CF half the time
- noisy iliad?
- Merge scribbles with PDF

Sony Portable Reader

- \$20 discount, free shipping
- Another problem with the screen
- How to delete pages from a LRF file?
- rss2book release 20 now available
- Pretty good review of the Reader
- My Reader is jacked up...
- Media bias? Sony CONNECT choices...
- new sony reader freezes my connect software
- Buying reader from japan
- PRS-500 power consumption measurements
- Features for future rss2book?

- is it possible to read rss feeds on my reader ?
- turning project gutenbergtxt files to pdfs
- Can I read Japanese text with it?
- New owner (Dec. 22) + some tricks of bookloading
- \$50 Connect coupon/bonus?
- can we save rss feeds on our pc ?
- Take off the cover...
- Connect Reader Crashing- won't start
- Sony Reader binary-compatible with Starebook?
- Mountable Sony Reader Filesystem
- Sony Reader Guide for creating optimized PDF content - Exclusive Preview (*)
- Need to Crack a Password-Protected PDF? Ask Elcomsoft.
- Span tags in LRS and LRF files -- do I understand them?
- Make: HOW TO - Make PDFs for the Sony Reader (Ebook e-ink device)

HanLin eBook

- Announcement Hanlin V9 (DIN A4 E-Bookreader)

eREAD STAReBOOK

- First week with the STAReBOOK (*)

Mobile Devices

General Talk

- New mobile chip technology reduces power requirements up to 80% (*)
- Is voice control part of our mobile future? (*)

Handhelds and Smartphones

- Free 3-D golf game for Windows Mobile (*)

Portable AV

- Explay micro-projector

Web to Mobile

Mobile Sites

- More mobile sites at Wap Review (*)
- HIP HOP goes MOBILE

Sunrise

- www.avclub.com
- sxl not saving entries from clips

iSilo/X

- 2007 State of the Union

Miscellaneous

Introduce Yourself

- Hello from Cepeceng.Com
- Greetings from the Czech Republic
- Hey from Canada!
- Well, I suppose it's about time ...

Lounge

- Microsoft will provide more years of support for Windows XP (*)
- Free quality fonts which could used for e-book devices
- The top 100 fonts

Feedback

- MobileRead newsletter - your input is needed! (*)

Dutch school to launch iRex iLiad experiment (*) ^^

#1 Alexander Turcic said on 25/01/07@8:54 am:

We've received word from MobileReader Martijn that the Dutch school Bonnefanten College (<http://www.bonnefantencollege.nl/>) will run an e-paper experiment this February. Initiated by Edupaper (<http://www.edupaper.nl/>), the project will involve a bunch of students who will upload a selection of their school textbooks and homework notes to an iRex iLiad e-reader device. There are some more details (http://www.edupaper.nl/inhoud/onze_diensten/onderwijs_en_Edupaper) available, and we invite our Dutch friends to provide us with a translation for it (trust me, you don't want to hear the nonsense Babelfish came up with).

#2 nekokami said on 25/01/07@5:30 pm:

The students will have to upload their textbooks? That seems odd.

#3 JDSaffer said on 25/01/07@11:06 pm:

I imagine the author meant to say "download". This should be interesting. I'd love to try something like this with one of my university "English" classes.. only something with sound support would be excellent (read an e-book and listen to the sample phrases / sentences)...

#4 Anchoku said on 25/01/07@11:11 pm:

This is the first e-paper trial in a university I've heard of. I hope it works out and generates more demand, increase production rates and drop the price. @_@' Heh.

On a related topic, I predict tablet PCs will finally, after spending years outside the mainstream in niche markets, come into their own and start shipping in serious volume in the next year or two. Intel's Santa Rosa platform should enable a lot more time unplugged, and HSPDA and 802.11.n will also help with mobility. I've been hearing how several universities are requiring freshmen to purchase tablets.

The things a tablet can do E-ink can't are full color, video, sound, and digitizer and keyboard input. Highlighting and page marking key sentences or scribbling notes in the margin sounds pretty attractive. The only real drawbacks of the displays in tablets are outdoor visibility and the easiness on the eyes. At least, that's how I see it.

#5 Almagne said on 26/01/07@1:05 am:

I guess that this is one of the b-to-b applications that iRex is spending all their resources on. Hopefully it will be a success!

#6 Martijn said on 26/01/07@3:10 am:

Ok, let's see if I can manage a translation:

Start Translation:

Project "3 ounce backpack" starts in februari

Press release 23 januari 2007

Schoolchildren will be able to spare their backs

The company Edupaper.nl from Maastricht will ensure that, very soon, schoolchildren will no longer have to lug around backpacks of 10 kilograms or more.

A project in the Bonnefantencollege in Maastricht will start in februari where, for the first time in history, children will be using electronic paper during class. The electronic paper is an invention of E-ink and Philips and is produced by the firm iRex based in Eindhoven.

Pictures: Currently a 10kg backpack, later a 3 ounce bag.

Easy use of hundreds of digital books

This device, with the name Edupaper, has the size of half an A4 and can store all schoolbooks (of all courses and all years!) and users can read them digitally.

Thanks to a new technique using electronic blobs of ink the screen reads as easy as paper, has no reflections, and the text can even be read in full sunlight!

In contrast to laptops the device will not heat up, its weight is negligible and the battery will last for 15 hours.

This makes the use of the device during class a lot easier.

This technology will disturb the educational process less than laptops would do.

Thanks to a touchscreen the students can make notes in their digital books and, in contrast to paper, any mistakes in these notes can be easily removed.

Every course will use one big PDF document which contains both the theory book and the exercise book like the ELO Dokeos (a electronic learning environment).

Handwritten notes can be stored and converted automatically to a Word document on the PC.

Multiple choice tests can be made and automatically graded by the central computer.

It is also possible to fill in open questions in a special form, after which they can be send to the teacher. Thereby the teacher does not have to lug around with a big stack of papers.

Every morning and evening there will be a synchronization with the central computer to make a backup and to exchange new information.

There will be an experiment with the use of newspapers. The application of current news in the classes could prevent "disreading". A financial contribution has been requested from the province of Limburg for this project.

The price of the package of books can decrease 300,- E per year Cooperation with several publishers, like ThiemeMeulenhoff is going on.

It is expected that the Edupaper will reduce the current price of books with 30% because of savings on printing costs and logistics.

Because China and India have been using more and more paper it is expected that the price of paper will rise as quickly as the price of energy.

This leads to increased savings, which could mean E 300,- per year for an average family with two children!

This is very interesting, especially since the politicians are heavily discussing free educational books.

Contribution to solving the climate problem

This solution can also provide an enormous benefit to the reduction of CO₂, which will reduce global warming.

Currently 70% of all forests are cut down to produce paper.

Numerous solutions unrelated to education

Edupaper.nl is a company that provides services for mobile devices and is the first company to specialize in providing and applying electronic paper in educational processes, knowledge management and the innovation of organisations (paperless office etc.).

The average civil servant uses 58 kilograms of paper per year, which equates to E 630,- of printing costs. So substantial savings are possible.

Will e-paper cause a revolution in education?

Article for the magazine Onderwijs innovatie, december 2006, see <http://www.ou.nl/eCache/DEF/15/152.html>

By Frits Hoff

The author is project manager at the Open Universiteit Nederland and

director at Edupaper and Dokeos Nederland

...

End translation

Some notes:

Sorry, my english is usually better, but it is hard to translate a text truthfully and still produce good english. Especially when the quality of the dutch is low (for a press release that is).

Okay for the more constructive notes:

Although it is called "Bonnefantencollege" it is actually a high school, not a university. Dutch high schools often stick "college" to their name.

I don't see anything about downloading or uploading books, I guess they come pre-installed or fall under the "synchronizing with the central computer".

The "unreadable" mentioned in the text refers, I guess, to the problem that less and less teenagers read newspapers and books.

I did not translate the last part of the site since the part after "Will e-paper cause a revolution in education?" is from an article in an educational magazine and has no direct bearing on the project. If people are interested I can still translate it.

#7 TadW said on 26/01/07@3:12 am:

Thanks for the translation, Martijn. I also found this translation online:

<http://www.dcvIEWS.com/press/Imaging-Edupaper.htm>

#8 Martijn said on 26/01/07@3:22 am:

Ah, I should have looked around a bit before starting to translate ☺

Good article on history and future of e-paper ^^

#1 TadW said on 25/01/07@12:07 pm:

http://www.piworld.com/story/story_singlepg.bsp?sid=45168&var=story

Regardless, our outlook for electronic paper as a display technology is quite bullish, but we feel that while the first-generation devices are impressive, the real application for electronic paper will be incorporated into next-generation PDAs, cellphones, MP3 players or whatever omnipurpose device evolves out of the merging of all of these disparate gadgets. The combination of a flexible or rollable e-paper display with a device that can access the wireless Internet and access updated content is a killer app waiting to happen.

Technological hurdles abound, of course. As the Web becomes more rich media-based, it is several strides ahead of the capabilities of the

current crop of e-paper technologies.

#2 Anchoku said on 25/01/07@11:20 pm:

Nice article. Thanks, TadW.

Adobe wants PDF to become the formally recognized standard (*) ^^

#1 Alexander Turcic said on 29/01/07@3:46 am:

In a press release

(<http://www.adobe.com/aboutadobe/pressroom/pressreleases/200701/012>

today Adobe announced that they're seeking ISO standardization for their just-released PDF 1.7 specification

(http://www.adobe.com/devnet/pdf/pdf_reference.html). Quote:

"Today's announcement is the next logical step in the evolution of PDF from de facto standard to a formal, de jure standard, said Kevin Lynch, senior vice president and chief software architect at Adobe. By releasing the full PDF specification for ISO standardization, we are reinforcing our commitment to openness. As governments and organizations increasingly request open formats, maintenance of the PDF specification by an external and participatory organization will help continue to drive innovation and expand the rich PDF ecosystem that has evolved over the past 15 years."

Before you get too excited (or not) about yet another proposed

document standard (heck, if you want to believe Adobe, PDF is already the standard), keep in mind that it can take anywhere from 12-30 months for a proposed standard to be ratified.

[via Adobe Blogs

(http://blogs.adobe.com/loridefurio/2007/01/pdf_spec_releas.html)]

#2 TadW said on 29/01/07@3:50 am:

Scobleizer (who I think had the scoop), adds

(<http://scobleizer.com/2007/01/28/breaking-news-adobe-to-release-pdf-t>

So, why would Adobe do this? Tons of governments are forcing standards-based purchase requirements and Adobe wanted to make sure that its customers could continue choosing PDF and Acrobat as a standards-based way to send information around the network, they told me in a press call on Friday.

#3 ath said on 29/01/07@4:05 am:

Before you get too excited (or not) about yet another proposed document standard (while some may believe PDF is already the standard), [...]

If not *the* standard, there is at least already an ISO standard (ISO 19005-1:2005 -- see Wikipedia article

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PDF/A>)), based on a subset of PDF 1.4 suitable for long-term preservation of documents. That means there's no

multimedia contents, or other things that relies on plugins or other special solutions that could mess up the document after a few years of storage.

There has been work to do a new revision of this ISO standard using a later version of PDF. I hope Adobe still continue that work -- I suspect it would have somewhat better chances of being accepted.

#4 UncleDuke said on 29/01/07@11:59 am:

Will 1.7 work on the Sony Reader? Will we all have to get new updates and readers?

#5 Laurens said on 29/01/07@3:18 pm:

Let them first do decent v1.4 support, then we'll talk about v1.5+.

Polymer Vision announces production facility ^^

#1 Anchoku said on 29/01/07@8:43 am:

The press release is here.

(<http://www.polymervision.com/News-Center/Press-Releases/PolymerV>

Polymer Vision today announced its cooperation with Innos (UK) to establish the world's first production facility for organic semiconductor based rollable displays. Manufacturing will start this year to meet the

increasing commercial demand for the unique Polymer Vision display technology and product...

ebook URLs on delicious.com ^^

#1 Teresita3 said on 28/01/07@11:46 pm:

If you go to the social bookmark site www.delicious.com (or <http://del.icio.us>), and search the site for tag EBOOK, you'll see a broad collection of ebook URLs posted by a variety of ebook enthusiasts.

Extracting text with formatting from PDF ^^

#1 nekokami said on 24/01/07@8:20 pm:

Hi folks,

I have a PDF file that I'd like to get the text out of while retaining the formatting. The file is too large to simply select all text and copy/paste. (I get a memory error when I try to do this.) Besides, I'd like to not take the page numbers, since they won't be relevant on the device I'll be reading on (eBw 1150). The ABC PDF converter gets the text, but loses the formatting. I can't afford a full copy of Acrobat. Other extractors I've tried seem to assume one has Word installed (I don't).

I usually use a Mac, but I do have a PC available. Can anyone suggest a good, preferably low-cost program to convert PDF to something more

portable, e.g. HTML or RTF? (I guess I could use the trial of Acrobat Professional for now, but I'd like a more long-term solution.)

Thanks!

PS - I've also tried TextLightning and Trapeze on the Mac. Neither worked, possibly because they didn't like the font. TextLightning kept crashing, and the limited output it did manage to provide didn't parse. It looked like raw PDF code. Trapeze just produced junk.

#2 jæd said on 25/01/07@2:10 am:

I would try the various command line converters for this, or write a perl/java/php program...

#3 Alexander Turcic said on 25/01/07@4:42 am:

Abbyy Transformer (<http://www.pdftransformer.com/>) works well too, but it's payware. They have a demo you can try.

#4 nekokami said on 25/01/07@7:57 am:

Thanks, I'll try Abbyy Transformer, but \$99 is too steep for me to use it once I'm past the demo.

It turns out that there is an additional wrinkle. Text formatting (italics and some other changes) were implemented using different fonts, rather

than font styles. Copy and paste doesn't seem to preserve these different fonts, so I lose formatting even in the copy-paste-to-Word method.

@jæd, do you recommend any particular command-line converter? I write in perl and (to a lesser extent) php, but I really don't have time to write code right now.

#5 nekokami said on 25/01/07@5:42 pm:

The plot thickens further: I have a copy of Readiris OCR, so I tried pulling this PDF file in to see if I could just OCR it. All I see in Readiris is boxes instead of letters. I tried a different PDF file and it worked fine (well, mostly fine--usual OCR type errors). Note that in the "thumbnail preview" mode on the Mac in the Finder, I also see boxes instead of text. Also, in the "Preview" application on the Mac I see boxes. (This isn't surprising, as I strongly suspect these two bits of software use the same code.)

Does anyone here know enough about PDF to guess what's happening? Again, when I look at the fonts (in Document Properties in Acrobat Reader) I see pretty weird names, e.g. "TTE1D974C0t00 (Embedded Subset)". It's a truetype font, but the encoding is listed as "Custom." In files that behave more normally I see recognizable font names (variations on Arial or Times New Roman) and encoding of "Ansi". Does anyone know how to work around this problem? Maybe I'm going to need the full version of Acrobat after all....

#6 pclewis said on 25/01/07@9:35 pm:

Here is a program that is cheap, \$12.95, that works OK. Always some rework required. PDF is an output file, so it is what it is.

<http://www.thebeatlesforever.com/processtext/abcpdf.html>

#7 nekokami said on 26/01/07@6:37 am:

@pclewis, thanks. As I mentioned above, I've tried that one already. It does work, it just loses formatting because the text is formatted using different fonts, rather than text styles. I think I'm probably going to have to find someone with a copy of Acrobat Standard (or Pro) that I can use to change the fonts.

Thanks anyway

#8 nekokami said on 28/01/07@8:59 am:

In case anyone is curious, I did eventually determine that the problem was the custom encoding in the PDF, and I solved the problem by finding an alternate (HTML) source of the file. ./ Yet another good example of why PDF is not a good format for source files. (I'm planning to spend today learning LaTeX.)

#9 wallcraft said on 28/01/07@9:18 pm:

Foxit (<http://www.foxitsoftware.com/products/>) Reader Pro Pack might be a possibility. I only have the free Reader - which seems to maintain formatting in its text view. The Pro Pack (\$39) is needed for full-file text conversion.

#10 nekokami said on 29/01/07@8:18 am:

Looks to me like Foxit's output is plain text, but at least the editor might help if I have to sort out a problem like this in the future.

Meanwhile, the HTML file I have doesn't seem to want to import using the eBw Librarian software. It spits out warnings about unknown fonts, then hits a fatal error. Oddly enough, two very similar files imported just fine. Fortunately, HTML converts to RTF fairly easily, so I can try that next.

#11 jæd said on 29/01/07@9:27 am:

@jæd, do you recommend any particular command-line converter? I write in perl and (to a lesser extent) php, but I really don't have time to write code right now.

Pdftohtml...?

#12 nekokami said on 29/01/07@11:36 am:

Thanks. I have come across so many links that I'd given up checking them all. I'm especially happy to see that it's available for OSX. 😊

Update: pdftohtml also does not successfully convert this file. It is confused by the custom encoding, presumably, and outputs strings of punctuation instead of text.

iSilo launched for Symbian S60 3rd Edition devices (*) ^^

#1 Alexander Turcic said on 27/01/07@12:31 pm:

It's been a while since we heard from Darren, mastermind behind the e-book reading program iSilo (<http://www.isilo.com>), but thankfully he's come through with a new update adding the long-awaited support for Symbian devices. To be able to use iSilo, your mobile must run on Symbian S60 3rd Edition, be able to install and run unsigned applications, and have around 1MB of free storage and free program memory each.

Click here ([\[url=http://www.isilo.com/info/beta/iSiloS63.htm\]](http://www.isilo.com/info/beta/iSiloS63.htm)) to download iSilo V4.33 beta for Symbian S30.

#2 Bob Russell said on 27/01/07@12:38 pm:

That's great for two reasons:

- 1) It's spectacular news for Symbian users

2) Those of us that love iSilo and have lots of content in iSilo format are certainly happy to see all signs of ongoing life and support for the format.

I use iSilo all the time in conjunction with iSiloX... basically everything that I find on the web, but don't have time to read, I just clip it with iSiloX and take it with me on my Treo to read later. Plus, iSilo and iSiloX is spectacularly easy and pleasant to use. As a result, the program is very important to me.

And with all the shifting and growth in the mobile device space, it's not so easy to rule out any platform for me in the future.

FBReader on Windows XP in next release ^^

#1 wallcraft said on 28/01/07@12:50 pm:

The next release of FBReader (0.8.0) will be a major rewrite, and will run under Windows for the first time.

The developers are asking on the FBReader Google Group (http://groups.google.com/group/fbreader/browse_thread/thread/df55687) for help designing win32 style icons (and better icons in general). This is an opportunity for a reader with icon design experience to help an open source project.

More about 0.8.0 planned features, in Russian, from its repository [here](#)

(<https://only.mawhrin.net/repos/stuff/trunk/fbreader/0.8.0>) .

MobiPocket Java Reader on Pepper Pad 3 ^^

#1 wallcraft said on 29/01/07@8:53 pm:

The Pepper Pad's O/S is Linux (Fedora Core 4) but its primary application suite is Java based, and includes MobiPocket Reader. Since this will apparently soon be on the iLiad, I enclose some screenshots from the (800x480) PP3 using the Mobi Reader.

I used the HTML version of IllustratedLondonReader from Project Gutenberg, because deadite66 suggested that MobiPocket displays HTML. I think it is more accurate to say that MobiPocket imports HTML. Under Windows I imported the HTML using the new (beta) version 6.0 MobiPocket Reader, and copied the resulting .prc file to my PP3. The first 3 screen shots are from this document using the Java MobiPocket Reader. The graphics display well (smaller than the originals), but the reader is much less customizable than (say) the Windows 5.2 version. In particular the line spacing (double?) and the margins (very large) are not under user control. You can select the font and the font size. There are no rotation or page layout options. The PP3 isn't very comfortable in portrait mode, but a lack of screen rotation options might be significant on the iLiad.

The next 3 screen shots are from the same file using FBReader (note that Abbey is in blue because I searched for this word). All its display

characteristics are under user control, and I have it setup to display much more text per screen in a bold font. The page can be rotated (+90, +180, +270 degrees). However, it does not detect the hyperlinks in the .prc (actually .mobi) file. In fact, the PP3 and the Windows MobiPocket Readers have a hyperlinked CONTENTS section within the document but no "table of contents" in the menu, and FBReader has a table of contents in its menu but no in-line hyperlinks. FBReader can presumably be updated to detect the links.

I tried a .prc from Baen, and it has a table of contents that is in the menu of all three readers.

FBReader reads HTML directly, and the last 3 screen shots are FBReader on the original (zipped) HTML file. It now detects the hyperlinks. I also show one screen with the FBReader top panel, rather than in full screen mode. Note that the progress bar at the bottom can also be removed if you want.

The PP3 Java version was ported by Pepper, and MobiPocket says that Pepper is in charge of how much functionality to provide. So it isn't clear if the Java version is actually much less capable than other versions of MobiPocket reader, or if Pepper did a minimal port. In any case, given the availability of FBReader, I will only use the PP3 Mobi Reader if I ever buy an encrypted e-book.

#2 jæd said on 30/01/07@1:56 am:

...and how does this all relate to the iLiad...? 🤖

#3 Alexander Turcic said on 30/01/07@2:07 am:

-> moved

wallcraft, the screenshots look great. Do you have any photos showing the screen of the PP3 in daylight?

#4 wallcraft said on 30/01/07@9:31 am:

...and how does this all relate to the iLiad...? 🤖 There are strong indications that MobiPocket Java Reader for Linux will soon be available on the iLiad.

I probably put too much stuff on the post about FBReader, but this does show that the PP3 MobiPocket reader is less capable than it could be (and the open source FBReader could be ported to the iLiad too). The Windows MobiPocket Reader is very capable, and as I said in the original post I don't know if the PP3 versions limitations are intrinsic to the Java Reader or due to choices made by Pepper about what features to make available.

#5 jæd said on 30/01/07@9:45 am:

There are strong indications that MobiPocket Java Reader for Linux will soon be available on the iLiad.

Aren't you reading a lot into a one line comment...?

eInk device most suitable for editing? ^^

#1 Mythago said on 26/01/07@12:42 pm:

Hello,

First off, yes I realize eBook readers are intended for reading. I'm in a rare position in my reason for wanting an eInk based device. I have a problem that has been getting worse over the years where I get migraine type headaches (and other problems) when I look at any kind of display device for more than a couple of hours per day. This includes all types of displays that use transmitted light (LCD, CRT etc.) It's not the refresh rate; It seems to be the brightness. I now use light text on a black background and it helps but I'm still limited to 2 or 2.5 hours per day, and that time is slowly reducing.

I can however sit for many hours reading or writing on paper without any problems. In researching alternate display technology I came across eInk, and these forums. I think I might do much better with an eInk based device since it's so close to paper and is reflective rather than transmissive.

It would be great if I could find an eInk computer monitor but it looks like eInk displays are only in ebook readers or other small devices at the

moment. I expect the eInk screen update rate is one of the reasons.

My question is: can any of the available eInk devices be used with a regular keyboard to input and edit text?

It seems like one of the Linux based devices with a USB port might be hacked to allow support for a USB keyboard. Keyboard support with an editor like Vim would be perfect and would allow me to edit text only documents. The iLiad looks like the best bet for this due to the larger screen size and general hackability but I'd like to get some feedback on the possibilities first, especially since the iliad is so expensive.

Thanks for any advice,

-Mythago

#2 Kosst Amojan said on 26/01/07@4:12 pm:

Sorry but no, like you said the screen refresh rates are too slow. But there is also the desirability of a keyboard, even as an attachment. I for one wouldn't want it, I want just a reader, plain and simple.

I get headaches too from both my computer and my TV. I get a migraine about once a month but its not related.

#3 nekokami said on 27/01/07@6:18 pm:

Two things:

1 - the USB ports on these devices tend to be going the "wrong way" to use to attach a keyboard, but the iLiad has an undocumented bluetooth interface, and Scotty1024 was working on getting a bluetooth keyboard working. I don't know what state that project is in.

2 - If you don't mind a bit of a delay in how quickly your changes show up, the E Ink screen might actually work for you. There is inherent latency in the screen refresh, but if you will do somewhat more text input than actual editing, so that the editing process being a bit slower won't be a huge problem, this might not be an overwhelming problem. I say this only because you've pointed out that you have a serious problem with other display technologies, and a system that slows you down a little bit while editing but doesn't give you a migraine might still be your best option.

I'd suggest going to a Borders and trying a Sony unit. That's not probably the best unit for your purposes -- I don't think there's a way to get a keyboard hacked into it-- but you'll get an idea of the E Ink screen refresh rate that way.

Other than that, I'd suggest looking for an older laptop with a fully reflective b&w LCD screen that you can use with the backlight off. The Powerbook 170, for example, had an active matrix LCD screen that was quite readable in good light with the backlight turned off, at a wide angle.

If the One Laptop Per Child project decides to sell to the general public, that's another system that might work well for you.

Good luck -- I've had migraines, and they're no fun!

#4 Mythago said on 29/01/07@10:29 am:

1 - the USB ports on these devices tend to be going the "wrong way" to use to attach a keyboard, but the iLiad has an undocumented bluetooth interface, and Scotty1024 was working on getting a bluetooth keyboard working. I don't know what state that project is in.

Is there any type of adapter available that could allow the use of a "normal" usb keyboard?

The bluetooth news is encouraging. An unwired keyboard would be convenient and eliminate any risk of dragging the iLiad to its doom if the keyboard fell.

... and a system that slows you down a little bit while editing but doesn't give you a migraine might still be your best option.

That's what I'm thinking. I'm sure I could live with the slow update speed. And editing might not be as slow as you might think. If I can use the Vim editor then editing would go much more quickly than with a traditional text editor and everything can easily be done with the

keyboard.

I'd suggest going to a Borders and trying a Sony unit.

I'm going to look around locally to see if anyone sells the Sony unit but since I live in a smallish city northern Canada I may not be able to find one.

I'm willing to order the iLiad site unseen based on what I now know. It looks like a very adaptable little device. It's a risk but considering the situation it's a risk I'm happy to take.

The Powerbook 170, for example, had an active matrix LCD screen that was quite readable in good light with the backlight turned off, at a wide angle.

Thanks very much for this and the other information, it has been helpful.

-Pat

#5 b_k said on 29/01/07@11:59 am:

So far, I can say you the iLiad has a USB-Host plug. But the iLiad is missing HID drivers if I'm not mistaken. And the Bluetooth interface is a myth, Scotty was using a USB-Bluetooth plug IIRC.

One point, that will give you troubles, even if the iLiad is adaptable, as soon as you break the OS you are in for a "return to netherlands for 75

EUR reflash. As long as there is no "press 2 buttons on boot to reflash from CF/SD" option, I wouldn't want to touch the system internals. (well I did it while playing around with the device, but I learned from that accident)

#6 wallcraft said on 29/01/07@12:33 pm:

The iLiad's larger size and its programability make it your only option at the moment (but not necessarily a good enough option). I don't have an iLiad, but from what I have read you may be able to use ssh from another computer to enter and change text. One problem is that it would not be immediately displayed on the iLiad, but perhaps having two displays and using the iLiad for reading and the other for editing might work. EMACS (for example) can edit a remote file via ssh. You might ask on the iLiad Developers Corner about ssh-based solutions, or other ways to edit iLiad files with a real keyboard.

#7 Mythago said on 29/01/07@1:03 pm:

I don't have an iLiad, but from what I have read you may be able to use ssh from another computer to enter and change text.

That one crossed my mind as well. There may be some way to peak at what the SSH user is seeing and show that on the iLiad screen. Considering how long Unix/Linux have been around I would think/hope that there is some kind of software that would work in that way.

I've also wondered if maybe VNC (or something similar) could be used. Run a VNC client on the iLiad to act as a display for another computer that has a normal keyboard. This would also be useful as a hack to run a normal web browser (or just about any app except those that use video) via another computer and display the results on the iLiad. It wouldn't be nearly as convenient as running an app natively, and you're bound to a local network running a VNC server, but I would think there's also far less chance of bricking and no app modifications required other than getting VNC running on the iLiad.

-Mythago

#8 b_k said on 29/01/07@2:09 pm:

man screen

#9 nekokami said on 29/01/07@7:24 pm:

I think you can do a remote display from another linux machine onto the iLiad via network -- at least, I seem to recall reading that someone had done that.

Sorry to be perpetuating the bluetooth myth. ☹ I misunderstood what Scotty had done.

#10 jæd said on 30/01/07@2:01 am:

My question is: can any of the available eInk devices be used with a regular keyboard to input and edit text?

Not really... You could hack some kind of system together but its not going to work very well... The Sony and the Iliad are both readers, and the Iliad has some annotation abilities.

Have you thought about a Tablet PC...?

#11 Mythago said on 30/01/07@10:38 am:

The Sony and the Iliad are both readers, and the Iliad has some annotation abilities.

After doing some more research it looks like the iLiad will be workable. It's possible to run additional software on it now and to port even more. Scotty1024 has ported a terminal, seems to have keyboard input running via Bluetooth, and has even got Sylpheed-Claws (email app) running.

Have you thought about a Tablet PC...?

I'm considering the iLiad because of the eInk screen. I need something that doesn't work like a traditional display since traditional displays give me migraines (brightness is the main thing but there may be other factors since using sunglasses to reduce the brightness doesn't really help much.)

At the moment eInk is the closest thing to paper in the commercial products I've researched. It looks like the iLiad has the largest display of the eInk devices, and has the most processing power. It's not ideal, but I think it's my best bet for the moment.

-Pat

#12 jæd said on 30/01/07@10:57 am:

After doing some more research it looks like the iLiad will be workable. It's possible to run additional software on it now and to port even more. Scotty1024 has ported a terminal, seems to have keyboard input running via Bluetooth, and has even got Sylpheed-Claws (email app) running.

Up to you, but neither the Bluetooth Keyboard or Sylpheed-Claws have been spotted outside Scotty's labs... Entering text using the on-screen keyboard get be quite slow...

Just so you know what you're getting yourself into... ☹

#13 Mythago said on 30/01/07@11:16 am:

Just so you know what you're getting yourself into... ☹

Heh. Yeah, I know it's a bit of a risk. That's why I'm checking into

things like using VNC, screen (as suggested by b_k), etc. just in case the direct keyboard input possibility falls through for some reason.

-Pat

firmware 2.9 ?????? ^^

#1 vvoi666 said on 24/01/07@7:57 am:

has anybody heard anything about v2.9?

- features?

- release date?

should not too far away now, should it?

#2 jæd said on 24/01/07@8:44 am:

should not too far away now, should it?

No, its not... 😊

#3 Mambo said on 24/01/07@9:25 am:

What are we waiting for? The long expected "October" release? 😊

Features I think wil include:

- better pdf management

- faster content lister
- 10% faster boot
- plus 5% battery time due to improved power management.

Sorry I am just joking 😊

#4 vvoi666 said on 24/01/07@9:34 am:

i wish they would do something about .html/.rtf support at last.

pdf filesize, load times and pageturn speed suck on the iliad. and to format every book to an iliad compatible pdf format (one where i don't have to zoom/pan/scan/whatever to read a book) is a pain in the @\$\$.

simply loading a html file with text reflow and resize would be great.

No, its not...

ha, do you something? go ahead ... spit it out 🍷

#5 b_k said on 24/01/07@10:32 am:

i wish they would do something about .html/.rtf support at last.

pdf filesize, load times and pageturn speed suck on the iliad. and to format every book to an iliad compatible pdf format (one where i don't have to zoom/pan/scan/whatever to read a book) is a pain in the @\$\$.

simply loading a html file with text reflow and resize would be great. ... I don't know what you all have with the html viewer. If you use W3C-HTML I see no problem. I can scale the fontsize up and the text reflows just nice.

(see attachment for example, rename to .html)

And the problem with PDF is a problem of the format itself. PDF is a layout oriented format. If you have a A4 pdf you either reformat it or you zoom it, that are your options. And don't even think if the iLiad would support tagged PDF/reflowing, you just throw a pdf at it and it works. The pdf itself has to be formatted/prepared for reflowing.

#6 markiehill said on 24/01/07@10:42 am:

rtf support would be nice yes, i agree.

currently the fonts on HTML are tiny and light and cut off at the bottom of the page. Pls it does not store your current position within the document which means i have to hunt through the thing to find out where i was.

#7 jæd said on 24/01/07@10:59 am:

currently the fonts on HTML are tiny and light and cut off at the bottom of the page.

The default font appears fine...? Do you have a sample to (a) check and

(b) add to any bug reports...?

Pls it does not store your current position within the document which means i have to hunt through the thing to find out where i was.

Isn't this a problem inherent with html...? Have you tried splitting up large documents using Irex's custom tags/manifest.xml file...?

#8 vvoi666 said on 24/01/07@11:17 am:

Isn't this a problem inherent with html...? Have you tried splitting up large documents using Irex's custom tags/manifest.xml file...?

exactly what i do NOT want to do ... the viewer irex provides should do this by itself (split the .html file up into pages fitting the iliad screen, number them, store last location).

sorry, but i do not want to convert my docs/books to read on the iliad.

.html/.xml is one of the most flexible formats out there ... why can no one take advantage of this and provide us with a painless way to view these formats on a reader?

#9 markiehill said on 24/01/07@1:25 pm:

Isn't this a problem inherent with html...? Have you tried splitting up large documents using Irex's custom tags/manifest.xml file...?

You might be prepared to accept that as a solution, i am not.

I do have a sample yes, i can email it to anyone interested, cant be posted here.

its easy enough to work out where you were in a HTML document from a programming perspective, so i guess its a feature that will come, just annoying its not there right now as it makes using HMTL format for reading books unworkable.

#10 Matthijs said on 29/01/07@1:29 am:

2.9 release should be very soon.

As for the HTML support: we're still contemplating if we want the keep using the Embedded Mozilla GTK widget, or switch to some other HTML rendering lib. Things like pre-rendering and overlaying scribbles are a little harder in the current solution.

An inherent problem with HTML (in (almost?) all available rendering engines) is that you need to render (or at least parse and layout) the entire page before you can accurately display anything. Pagination is also not something a HTML rendering lib normally takes care off, except in printing-mode...

#11 Alexander Turcic said on 29/01/07@2:40 am:

An inherent problem with HTML (in (almost?) all available rendering engines) is that you need to render (or at least parse and layout) the entire page before you can accurately display anything. Pagination is also not something a HTML rendering lib normally takes care off, except in printing-mode...

That's very true. I remember the the developer of iSilo (<http://www.isilo.com>) told me that the reason why iSilo (and other tools like Plucker) use a desktop component to preprocess HTML is to avoid the resource-hungry rendering on the PDA.

#12 deadite66 said on 29/01/07@8:32 am:

mobipocket handles html pretty well, i assume the linux java version (hopefully coming to iliad) would most likely handle the same formats as other versions.

#13 wallcraft said on 29/01/07@3:53 pm:

mobipocket handles html pretty well, i assume the linux java version (hopefully coming to iliad) would most likely handle the same formats as other versions. The Pepper Pad 3 has the Linux Java version. Please point me to a HTML file (or files) that Mobipocket Reader displays well (e.g. from Project Gutenberg) and I'll try it on my PP3 tonight. Note that Pepper did not necessarily implement all the features of the Java version (and the port was done a year or so ago), so this may not

be a definitive test.

I have added a new post on MobiPocket Reader on PP3 here (<http://www.mobileread.com/forums/showthread.php?t=9552>).

#14 cleanclear said on 30/01/07@11:30 am:

anyone know how long the iliad's battery can last since 2.8 firmware updated?

#15 phyzjqk said on 30/01/07@2:33 pm:

anyone know how long the iliad's battery can last since 2.8 firmware updated?

mine is about 10 hours which switches off the sound and no pen using

iliad and pdf versions ^^

#1 joblack said on 24/01/07@8:10 am:

I've read in the c't (the German Computer Magazine) that the iLiad only supports PDF 1.2 and less.

What happens with higher PDF versions. What is about an update to a newer pdf version?

#2 yokos said on 24/01/07@8:25 am:

I've read in the c't (the German Computer Magazine) that the iLiad only supports PDF 1.2 and less.

What happens with higher PDF versions.

You can open pdf 1.6. Tags that are not support are ignored.

[you can't playback a embedded sound file, pdf notes are only visible as icons etc.]

iLiad's pdf viewer can't handle jpg2000 stream, so it doesn't open this file.

iLiad only sees CF half the time ^^

#1 splat said on 25/01/07@4:12 am:

I wonder can tell me if this is normal or not, I'm guessing not, and whether there is any solution.

I've a bog standard SanDisk 256mb Compact Flash card (formatted fat32) which I am using with the iLiad to store my documents on it.

The problem I am having is that pretty much one out of every 2 - 3 reboots the iLiad will fail to see the card (either after removing the card or not). I am required to turn off the iLiad, remove the card reinsert it and power on again.

Are any of the other storage card formats more reliable?

#2 vranghel said on 25/01/07@7:53 pm:

I've been relying on an 1GB Sandisk SD card for a good few months now and ive had no problems reading it.

Please see here

(<http://www.mobileread.com/forums/showthread.php?t=7126>) for supported memory cards

#3 shonk said on 25/01/07@9:07 pm:

I've got the exact same CF card and have the same problem, which only started happening relatively recently. Haven't tried swapping in a different CF card because I haven't got one.

#4 deadite66 said on 26/01/07@2:51 am:

could be related to the bug that was introduced in 2.8
<http://forum.irexnet.com/viewtopic.php?t=867>

#5 splat said on 30/01/07@9:05 am:

Going by the Memory Card List

(http://wiki.mobileread.com/wiki/Iliad_Memorycards_list) it looks like 256Mb cards seem to be the most hit and miss support wise.

noisy iliad? ^^

#1 joblack said on 25/01/07@7:29 am:

Is the mentioned high disturbing tone still existing in the newer iLiad device versions?

#2 CommanderROR said on 25/01/07@8:03 am:

nope.

#3 Adam B. said on 25/01/07@8:03 am:

Try going into the iLiad Settings, and turn off the sound.

I haven't had this on my device, but I've read of others who have.

Merge scribbles with PDF ^^

#1 Bert said on 27/01/07@12:21 pm:

Hi all,

After waiting a while in vain for iRex to provide a program to merge scribbles with the pdf, I decided to write my own. (I found a perl-script somewhere on this forum, but I didn't want to install perl just to run a little tool like that.)

The attached app is written in java, and uses the iText (<http://www.lowagie.com/iText/>) library for the merging process (just like some other apps on this forum). It can merge the file while keeping the manifest, create a pdf with only scribbled pages (useful when when proofreading a document), change the scribble colors, You need at lava 1.4 at least, just unzip the attached zip and run the jar. (java -jar ILiadPdfScribbleMerger.jar, or on windows, you can just double-click the jar)

Let me know if you find any problems!

Bert.

PS: This is my first post in this forum! I lurked around here for a few months, finally buying an iLiad myself in december ... I never posted because I never had anything useful to say, until now (I think ☺).

#2 jæd said on 28/01/07@5:02 am:

Hi all,

After waiting a while in vain for iRex to provide a program to merge scribbles with the pdf, I decided to write my own. (I found a perl-script somewhere on this forum, but I didn't want to install perl just to run a little tool like that.)

The attached app is written in java, and uses the iText (<http://www.lowagie.com/iText/>) library for the merging process (just like some other apps on this forum). It can merge the file while keeping the manifest, create a pdf with only scribbled pages (useful when when proofreading a document), change the scribble colors, You need at lava 1.4 at least, just unzip the attached zip and run the jar. (java -jar ILiadPdfScribbleMerger.jar, or on windows, you can just double-click the jar)

Let me know if you find any problems!

Bert.

PS: This is my first post in this forum! I lurked around here for a few months, finally buying an iLiad myself in december ... I never posted because I never had anything useful to say, until now (I think ☺).

Cool... Irex are supposed to coming out with something... Have seen this (<http://syngrithy.org.uk/index.php?pT=7>)...? Its an implementation in php5 and does much the same thing... I would made a Java version, but I tend to find php is better for rapid development, and java is too much like work. (I'm a Java dev and don't like using Eclipse when I supposed to be relaxing... ☹)

\$20 discount, free shipping ^^

#1 Mitchll said on 24/01/07@8:18 am:

code #3A706

At Crutchfield, \$20 off, free shipping, Reader in stock
www.crutchfield.com

#2 Leaping Gnome said on 24/01/07@3:29 pm:

Cool, good find! Crutchfield has pretty good customer service too.

I got our second Reader using a "personal shopping day" from Borders Rewards. I think you have to spend \$50 one month and then the next month you get 10% for a day of your choosing. Saved us about \$37. So even though the Borders coupons now exclude it, the shopping days don't!

#3 Mitchll said on 24/01/07@5:00 pm:

Also, for most of us, no sales tax

#4 scotty1024 said on 24/01/07@5:17 pm:

Also, for most of us, no sales tax

Technically you are responsible to pay the sales tax directly to your local state government.

Now that there are enough online sales the states are starting to go after the records of some of the larger internet retailers whom haven't already been collecting state sales taxes. Note, they're going after back records, not just recent sales... and some states tack on an extra 15% to 30% "penalty" for not handing over the tax money "on time".

Some states have a line on their state income tax to report/pay these online sales taxes so you can come clean once a year.

#5 DougFNJ said on 24/01/07@8:39 pm:

How did you get the @20 off? When I put it in the cart, it shows the retail price.

#6 Mitchll said on 25/01/07@6:39 am:

How did you get the @20 off? When I put it in the cart, it shows the retail price.

Put the code in the coupon space during checkout process

#7 DougFNJ said on 25/01/07@8:31 am:

Oops, thank you very much 😊

#8 yvanleterrible said on 25/01/07@10:06 am:

Are they authorized to send to our oversea friends?

#9 DougFNJ said on 25/01/07@12:30 pm:

I just checked and got an e-mail back from them, no international shipping.

#10 scottcstoness said on 25/01/07@12:52 pm:

Technically you are responsible to pay the sales tax directly to your local state government.

Now that there are enough online sales the states are starting to go after the records of some of the larger internet retailers whom haven't already been collecting state sales taxes. Note, they're going after back records, not just recent sales... and some states tack on an extra 15% to 30% "penalty" for not handing over the tax money "on time".

Some states have a line on their state income tax to report/pay these online sales taxes so you can come clean once a year.

Both NY and CT have two options: provide receipts for everything that you bought on-line during the year and pay tax on them (annoying, tricky proposition), or, if you bought no individual item over \$1000, just look up your tax owing on a table on the assumption that everyone

is going to do a certain amount of internet purchasing. I think it was about \$15 in my income bracket...

Another problem with the screen ^^

#1 basil_555 said on 24/01/07@2:34 pm:

Hello,

When I switch display to horizontal orientation, the text at the top and bottom of the screen gets slightly washed out, which makes it hard to read. Has anyone noticed that and is it something to worry about?

Thank you!

#2 NatCh said on 24/01/07@2:42 pm:

Welcome to MobileRead, basil_555.

Try this thread

(<http://www.mobileread.com/forums/showthread.php?t=9340>), starting with the fourth post. 😊

#3 pclewis said on 27/01/07@12:10 pm:

Hello,

When I switch display to horizontal orientation, the text at the top and bottom of the screen gets slightly washed out, which makes it hard to read. Has anyone noticed that and is it something to worry about?

Thank you!

The washed out text is the overlap from the previous or following page. Just ignore it and don't read it. You will see it on the next page.

Phil

How to delete pages from a LRF file? ^^

#1 rsuryase said on 24/01/07@6:51 pm:

How to delete pages from a LRF file? Is there such a program?

rss2book release 20 now available ^^

#1 geekraver said on 25/01/07@3:18 am:

Get it from the sticky thread in the Reader Content subforum.

This release fixes a bunch of bugs, gives better feedback on what it is doing, and improves the built-in document converters. The document converters are now also separate plugins (any developers who think they want to write one, all you have to do is implement an

IHtmlConverter object in a DLL that has a name starting with "write"; it's pretty simple and you can contact me if you want more info).

Because there are a lot of changes under the hood, I've left release 19 up too in case people have issues, but I believe this release to be much better.

#2 pclewis said on 25/01/07@10:04 pm:

Geek,

I can't find 2.0. Are you sure it is there?

#3 geekraver said on 25/01/07@11:16 pm:

Something went wrong with the upload (it was 1:30am and I was tired so I didn't double check). They are there now.

#4 gifford888 said on 26/01/07@10:39 am:

Has anyone been able to find Release 20? 19 was pretty good... anxious to try 20!

#5 geekraver said on 26/01/07@12:36 pm:

It's there, at the bottom of the first posting in the thread.

Pretty good review of the Reader ^^

#1 Aerlock said on 25/01/07@4:14 pm:

I saw this this morning and thought I should share with the forum here:

http://www.denguru.com/2007/01/24/sonys_ebook_reader_is_a_real_wi

The author of the review seems to understand what the Reader is for, instead of looking for a PDA that displays books.

#2 Xtremegene said on 25/01/07@5:11 pm:

Hehe, yet another reason why I like Tom's Hardware. 🇬🇧

#3 chuck94022 said on 26/01/07@1:13 am:

Except Tom blew it on the screen description. He called it a non-backlit LCD, and made several references to it as an LCD. He totally missed the whole e-ink concept.

Too bad, it was otherwise a great review.

-chuck

#4 Alexander Turcic said on 26/01/07@2:26 am:

"Sony's eBook Reader Is a Real Winner!" - cannot agree more 😊

#5 stxopher said on 26/01/07@7:02 am:

He may have missed the technical of e-ink but at least he understood the basic of the reader itself. He didn't dismiss the entire thing because it couldn't be read in the dark. It was more of a review as a book substitute (which it is) and not as a tablet (which it isn't).

My Reader is jacked up... ^^

#1 gio1050 said on 25/01/07@7:29 pm:

I've had my Reader for just over 2 months now, and I've loved it.

I had a 15,000 mile tune-up on my car today, so I was all set with my reader to do some reading while I waited. I turned it on and got a "starting up" screen I'd never seen before. I expected it to go right back to the page I last stopped at. After 3-4 minutes I realized it wasn't "starting up". I tried to turn it off and back on again, but it wouldn't turn off. I tried playing with a few buttons to jar it back to reality and what I got was a mix of several screens including the rotating data transfer symbol, the main index showing author, title, continue reading, etc., and the lower half of the screen has horizontal interlaced black lines. I tried a soft reset. Nothing. I tried a hard reset...nothing. Now it won't respond to anything at all! Has anyone seen or heard of this before?

Mark

#2 RWood said on 25/01/07@8:39 pm:

I wish I could help. I've never heard of that before.

#3 TadW said on 26/01/07@2:32 am:

That sounds bad. My initial response was "do a soft reset" - but of course you did that already. I guess you really have to call Sony support ;(

#4 memobug said on 29/01/07@1:35 am:

If you have a media card in it, try taking that out and then charge it for an hour before you try again.

Regards,

Matt

Media bias? Sony CONNECT choices... ^^

#1 chuck94022 said on 26/01/07@12:47 am:

OK, so maybe I'm the only conservative ebook consumer in the world. But I'd think that Sony CONNECT might want to show a little balance.

I was so excited to check out CONNECT when I bought my reader. But I was sorely disappointed at the amount of RSS content, and really dismayed when I saw a rich selection of progressive feeds, but as far as I could tell, no conservative feeds.

I guess it didn't help that the first time I connected was a day in which the main splash page was featuring a selection of Bush bashing books!

Well, to each his own. I'm not rabid about it, and the reader doesn't do RSS very well anyway, so to me it was a curiosity, and minor irritant. If I want RSS content I'm likely to go to my PC (or iPod for video/audio blogs) anyway. The reader is the place I want to spend long quality time.

However, with these observations already in place, I decided my reader would be a good place for religious references. I have been curious about the middle east, and decided to buy some books about Islam. I also decided to buy a Koran. Cool that I could do that from CONNECT. Then I thought, why not get a Buddhist text, and a Hindu text, and a Bible? I'd be set for my own research.

So fine. I found the Bhagavad-gita - check off the Hindu. I found The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying. Good start for Buddhism. I already had the Koran. Now, finally, the Bible. Um.... um.... Browsed under category "Bible and other Holy Texts"... um... um....

Seems CONNECT covers everything BUT the actual Bible.

What gives?

Maybe these are totally unrelated data points. Heck, I'm sure they are. But c'mon, if you name a category "Bible and Other Holy Texts", don't you think there ought to actually be a Bible to be found? I think the category should be renamed "Other Holy Texts".

So Sony (at least the reader's connect division editorial staff) doesn't like Bush. Fine, lots of people don't like him. They don't like conservatism. Fine, lots of people don't like them. They don't like the Bible?

Regardless of their personal preferences, one would think they would build a store for the whole market, not just the market that thinks like them.

I did find a free Bible elsewhere, but it is without any table of content, no structure, just verse after verse. I'd pay for one that is structured for navigating on the reader. I hope CONNECT is listening.

-chuck

#2 Hadrien said on 26/01/07@1:33 am:

Do you have a good input for this ? If there's a good example of an e-book bible, I could add it to Feedbooks, this way you'd get table of contents, and a Bible that looks the way you want (custom font & font size).

#3 Madam Broshkina said on 26/01/07@2:08 am:

Chuck, check out the post 34 at the thread "Bible for Sony Reader"
User Elf uploaded a lrf version of the Bible.

<http://www.mobileread.com/forums/showthread.php?t=8278&page=3&>

#4 geekraver said on 26/01/07@2:36 am:

Hi Chuck

You can use rss2book to get rss feeds on your reader (Connect software is hopeless for this). Admittedly you may have to set them up yourself as right now the ones that have been published tend towards mainstream or progressive, but there's nothing stopping you from adding just the ones you like.

#5 gr8drd said on 26/01/07@11:18 am:

I believe that Sony has a particular demographic in mind with this device and the books they choose in Connect.

I'm astounded by the number sex manuals and romance books in the selections, the the paucity of science fiction. I believe that they ran a focus group and found that urban affluent women in their mid-30s would be the heart of their demographic. I think that this is borne out by the emphasis on providing accessories like expensive leather covers.

Whereas I think that it's fine to cater to focus groups, I think that need to also service the geek early adopter crowd too. In fact I applaud the effort to focus on non-early adopters. Think it's the key to widespread success.

Just don't forget us geeks 😊

#6 da_jane said on 26/01/07@12:00 pm:

For what it's worth, I think that the publishers want to get as many books in the Connect store as possible. I did three interviews with the digital media directors at Harper Collins, S&S and Random House. Each one of them said that they provide their ebooks in all formats that the reader wants (DRM formats, of course). They also said that for the books that are not in ebook format, the reader should contact the author or the author's agent to encourage the release of the paperback in e-format as well.

ACE/ROC are divisions of Penguin Publishing and their commitment to e-publishing is weak, at best. That could be one reason why there aren't as many sci fi/ fantasy books available in e-format.

Finally, as part of the aforementioned demographic, I can affirmatively state that the Dooney & Bourke cover does nothing for me. I think its fugly and if they really wanted to appeal to the crowd, they would have had some colored one and not some hideous faux alligator leather cover. Prints are in, people. PRINTS. and Bright colors.

I actually think the cover speaks more toward the businessman than the urban woman in their mid 30s.

#7 Vaporware said on 26/01/07@12:17 pm:

Well, they also need people to contribute when they see a problem. I've already submitted my books and desired features. Head over to the help section and write them with specific feeds you'd like added.

#8 scotty1024 said on 26/01/07@1:07 pm:

I believe that Sony has a particular demographic in mind with this device and the books they choose in Connect.

...

Just don't forget us geeks ☺

Well I'm a, as Mel Brooks would put it: confident male heterosexual computer geek whom is comfortable around leather and reading romance novels/sex manuals/sci fi.

So I must be smack in the middle of the Sony Demographic Sweet Spot. 🌐

In my opinion most of the good SciFi is over a <http://www.baen.com> which perhaps accounts for the lack of SciFi coverage on the CONNECT store.

And for the conservative Action Adventure reader I recommend A Deeper Blue by John Ringo, available from Baen.

#9 DougFNJ said on 26/01/07@2:32 pm:

Although surprisingly they may not have the Bible, I have purchased John Stossel's Give me a Break, and Culture Warriors by Bill O'Reilly. They also have a decent, not yet good but decent library of conservative books.....look around, I'm sure you'll see more pop in there.

#10 chuck94022 said on 27/01/07@1:21 am:

Although surprisingly they may not have the Bible, I have purchased John Stossel's Give me a Break, and Culture Warriors by Bill O'Reilly. They also have a decent, not yet good but decent library of conservative books.....look around, I'm sure you'll see more pop in there.

Yes, you are correct. I bought one of Ann Coulter's books. That's why I do admit that it was probably a random collection of fact which prove nothing.

But I remain surprised that a category whose name starts with "Bible" doesn't have one!

Thanks to the poster who said there is a feedback mechanism. I'll definitely use it!

-chuck

new sony reader freezes my connect software ^^

#1 kamyar22 said on 26/01/07@1:03 am:

hi im new here but i just got a new sony reader and every time i hook it up to my comp it freezes the connect program can someone tell me what im doing wrong im running windows xp with sp2

#2 kamyar22 said on 26/01/07@1:45 am:

talking to tech support right now see what they have to say about it

#3 flumbo said on 26/01/07@2:34 am:

If they have an answer that works, please pass it along. Mine has been doing that since October. Only way to fix is to force-quit connect and start it up again. Sometimes it takes three or four tries before it works...

#4 kamyar22 said on 26/01/07@2:49 am:

sorry they told me too call tech number in the morning and just to be sure i chated to 3 diffrent techs with 3 diffrent names so they wouldnt recognize me all said restart reader uninstall and install software after all that they said its out of our hands call tech support at 1-800-222-7669

#5 kamyar22 said on 26/01/07@12:57 pm:

welli called tech support and what a shock they couldnt do anything blamed my computers and said our readeris fine ts your computer you have 2 choices return it to us and wait 2 weks to get it fixed or go to the store you bought it from and exchange it

#6 kamyar22 said on 26/01/07@8:28 pm:

yay i got new one at the store this one works

Buying reader from japan ^^

#1 jimbob99 said on 26/01/07@1:54 am:

Hi all,
I've been following this forum for a while and decided I'd like to get my hands on a reader. No ironically enough the reader is not available here in Japan and it doesn't seem like it will be for some time. So I was

looking for recommendations on vendors who would ship out here. The most likely candidate I've found so far is :

<http://www.bhphotovideo.com>

but they won't ship outside the US if your billing address doesn't match the delivery address (I have an Australian credit card but live in Japan). Can anyone recommend a good alternative ?

Thanks

#2 Azayzel said on 26/01/07@4:02 am:

I'd recommend having it shipped to a family member in the US and they can flat-rate it to you vis USPS. Of course this will only work if you have an APO/FPO address (\$ony, in their infinite wisdom, does not regard these types of addresses as legit US addresses even though it's a California zip code). Seems the other methods are pretty darn expensive to ship here and the odds of you finding the first-gen of this device; i.e., the Librie, are slim to none. Believe me, I was looking for it for the past 4 months w/o success even in downtown Tokyo. Good luck!

#3 nadgol2007 said on 26/01/07@7:10 pm:

I bought Reader from <http://www.bhphotovideo.com> using Japanese credit card. You just need to fax them a copy of both sides of your credit card. They delivered reader to Yokohama in 4 days.

By the way, I called an Overseas department of Sony Support Center in Japan and they even do not know the name of this device.

#4 yvanleterrible said on 27/01/07@10:39 am:

I'd recommend having it shipped to a family member in the US and they can flat-rate it to you via USPS. Of course this will only work if you have an APO/FPO address (Sony, in their infinite wisdom, does not regard these types of addresses as legit US addresses even though it's a California zip code). Seems the other methods are pretty darn expensive to ship here and the odds of you finding the first-gen of this device; i.e., the Librie, are slim to none. Believe me, I was looking for it for the past 4 months w/o success even in downtown Tokyo. Good luck!

☺ I like your designation of Sony! It's philosophically correct! ☺

PRS-500 power consumption measurements ^^**#1 rothe957 said on 26/01/07@5:53 am:**

I charged my PRS-500 today using a lab power supply.

The battery was empty (reader came up, said "LOW BATTERY", then "NO BATTERY", then shut off immediately).

After I found out that USB charging won't work without driver, I used plan B: a power plug from a universal adapter set and a lab power supply. I set it to 5.20V, turned output on and the reader started charging right away at about 560mA. Now, about 2 hours later, current is down to 140mA.

I then switched the reader on, it showed the "starting up..." screen. During startup it consumed about 140mA more than when it was off (and only charging).

As long as the unit is just sitting there and no buttons get pressed, there is little or no additional current consumption (less than 5mA, maybe zero; the accuracy of the ampmeter in the lab power supply does not allow for more precise measurements, sorry).

A page turn causes a short (<2s) increase in current consumption, with a peak of about 220mA.

So much for the raw data.

Now a few ballpark figure calculations just for fun:

Lets assume a page turn consumes 180mA for 2 seconds. This means 360mAs or 0.1mAh per page turn. Judging from the physical battery cell size, it has a capacity somewhere in the 800mAh range. At 0.1mAh per page turn, you would get 8000 page turns out of a full charge in a perfect world. Well, pretty close to the 7500 claimed by Sony, considering that these are just ballpark figures.. 😊

^ ^
_

#2 Alexander Turcic said on 26/01/07@7:28 am:

VERY interesting work!

It would be cool if you could test power consumption with books stored in internal memory vs. books stored in external memory such as an SD card. We have numerous reports that the latter uses considerably more power per page turn.

#3 rothe957 said on 26/01/07@9:12 am:

It would be cool if you could test power consumption with books stored in internal memory vs. books stored in external memory such as an SD card. We have numerous reports that the latter uses considerably more power per page turn.

The measurements were taken with books in internal memory, no memory card inserted.

Hmm, unfortunately, I don't have a SD card or MemoryStick here now. I'll be able to test it next week thursday or friday.

From what I know about the usual current consumption of SD cards, I estimate a memory card would raise the page turn current by about 40-60mA.

Some more info: When charging was complete, current consumption from the lab power supply with a book page on the display was shown as zero (lab ps ampmeter, not sure if it was really zero, lets say: below 1mA). Page turn current peaked at about 220mA (drawn from external power supply, no mem card).

Varying the external supply voltage from 4.8V...5.2V didn't make a difference in current consumption.

^ ^
_

#4 NatCh said on 26/01/07@10:18 am:

Very nice analysis, rothe957, very nice, indeed. 😊

#5 TadW said on 26/01/07@10:21 am:

Some more info: When charging was complete, current consumption from the lab power supply with a book page on the display was shown as zero (lab ps ampmeter, not sure if it was really zero, lets say: below 1mA). Page turn current peaked at about 220mA (drawn from external power supply, no mem card).

I guess page turn also varies depending on the complexity of the content.

Nice work, rothe!

#6 Azayzel said on 26/01/07@10:22 am:

This is a cool experiment, especially to give real-world numbers to corporate marketing claims. I too, would be interested in the power consumption using and SD card; hopefully you can find locally for ~\$10 or so to test it out (could always pull one out of your digital camera or old-school MP3 player ;-)

Thanks for informing us, 8k pages is friggin cool!

#7 kovidgoyal said on 26/01/07@10:58 am:

You can charge it from USB without the driver. Just use linux and libprs500.

#8 rothe957 said on 26/01/07@4:59 pm:

You can charge it from USB without the driver. Just use linux and libprs500.

☺ Well, I admit that I consider installing the driver the easier way. Compared to installing Linux and then getting and installing libprs500. I have a few linux machines in my office/workshop, but these are all embedded non-x86 devices without USB.

☺ No, as tempting as it sounds - I think I stick to the lab power supply, and try to remember to bring the Sony driver CD next time.

^ _ ^

#9 rothe957 said on 30/01/07@2:25 am:

Well, I added a current sense resistor (1 Ohm) to the setup, and connected a scope.

X axis is time, 1 second per grid. Y axis is current, 100mA per grid.

The small "1->" marks the zero current line.

Screenshots were done the lotech way, with a camera.

First some measurements with files in internal memory:

Turning the reader on then off again, Baen RTF file, internal memory:
http://www.sigma957.org/bilder/eReader/OnOff_RTF_int.jpg

Page turn, Baen RTF file, internal memory:
http://www.sigma957.org/bilder/eReader/Page_RTF_int.jpg

Page turn, PDF file ('1984'), internal memory:
http://www.sigma957.org/bilder/eReader/Page_PDF_int.jpg

Next with files on SDcard (Sandisk 1GB):

Page turn, Baen RTF file, SDcard:
http://www.sigma957.org/bilder/eReader/Page_RTF_SD.jpg

Another page turn, Baen RTF file, SDcard:
http://www.sigma957.org/bilder/eReader/Page_RTF_SD_2.jpg

Page turn, PDF file (Atmel datasheet, with graphics), SDcard:
http://www.sigma957.org/bilder/eReader/Page_PDF_SD.jpg

And another test set with a Sony MSmicro (512MB) with MS adapter:

Page turn, Baen RTF file, MSmicro:
http://www.sigma957.org/bilder/eReader/Page_RTF_MSmicro.jpg

Another page turn, Baen RTF file, MSmicro:

http://www.sigma957.org/bilder/eReader/Page_RTF_MSmicro_2.jpg

yet another page turn, Baen RTF file, MSmicro:

http://www.sigma957.org/bilder/eReader/Page_RTF_MSmicro_3.jpg

Page turn, PDF file (Atmel datasheet, with graphics), MSmicro:

http://www.sigma957.org/bilder/eReader/Page_PDF_MSmicro.jpg

RTF formatting + update of wait symbol, Baen RTF file, MSmicro:

http://www.sigma957.org/bilder/eReader/Format_RTF_Updatewaitsymb

Conclusions, anyone?

^_^

#10 dstampe said on 30/01/07@6:10 am:

The big spike followed by high consumption and noise is what I would expect from the eInk circuitry. This probably has a high-voltage DC-to-DC converter, followed by a matrix of drivers for row and column lines in the display.

This shows a big spike of current draw as it starts up and charges all its capacitors. Then the variable load producing the noise is a combination of this supply and the variable capacitive load as different lines in the eInk display are charged and discharged, Obviously this is a big user of

power.

There seem to be 3 load levels. One is fairly low, probably the CPU coming out of sleep mode. The second appears to correspond to display preparation, as it's much longer for the PDF file display. Not sure if this is CPU use, display buffer being powered up, or flash memory access. The highest level seems to be when the eInk power supply is being used.

When used with external flash, the second level of current draw takes longer before the page display, so this second level probably does indicate internal or external flash memory access. (External flash access also appears to be much slower). Also, the CPU stays active for several seconds longer after a page update. So using external flash memory will shorten battery life by up to 40%, I would expect. Of course, it looks like viewing complex PDF files is even more expensive.

#11 TadW said on 30/01/07@6:39 am:

So it's generally true to say that RTF is better than PDF in terms of battery life?

#12 Azayzel said on 30/01/07@6:50 am:

Hmm, wonder about the the BBeB format; especially for say a PDF that was converted using tools fromt this website? I'll post something you can test with here after it finishes transcoding. Didn't have any small

PDF's already converted that I could u/l so you could test actual PDF vs. (hopefully) improved LRF. That is, of course, if you don't mind running the test with the samples I've provided.

Note: It's a freely available eZine converted from the distributed PDF to LRF using PDFRasterfarian v2.1.4.

Edit: Here are the files, thanks for posting your data!

#13 rothe957 said on 30/01/07@6:57 am:

That is, of course, if you don't mind running the test with the samples I've provided.

I'll see what i can do. It might be a while until I have access to the scope again, though. Please be patient.

So it's generally true to say that RTF is better than PDF in terms of battery life?

I think it depends more on complexity. RTF is formatted text only. Formatted text in a PDF (see '1984' example) doesn't seem much different in terms of rendering time. A complex PDF with graphics etc. takes longer to render and thus needs more power per page turn.

#14 scotty1024 said on 30/01/07@7:48 am:

This shows a big spike of current draw as it starts up and charges all its capacitors. Then the variable load producing the noise is a combination of this supply and the variable capacitive load as different lines in the eInk display are charged and discharged, Obviously this is a big user of power.

I agree on all points but one: that spike is the inductor in the eink DC-DC convertor being charged.

#15 dstampe said on 30/01/07@3:56 pm:

I agree on all points but one: that spike is the inductor in the eink DC-DC convertor being charged.

I guess it depends on the power supply design. When I'm designing circuitry like this, I tend to go overboard on capacitors for the output of the power supply to reduce EMI and improve regulation, so it can take a LOT of current at startup to charge these. On the other hand, most DC-DC boost converters for applications like this where size and weight are an issue would use very high frequencies (>500 KHz) and extremely small inductors, so these might not store much energy.

Anyway, I presume Sony took some care to get high efficiency from the converter, so most of the load can be assumed to be unavoidable given the voltage requirements and capacitance of the eInk display. Hopefully

the evolution of these displays will reduce the voltage and increase the contrast as well.

It also looks like the display uses less than 40% of the total for most updates, so this may already be at the point of diminishing returns, Less time spend running the CPU and reading the flash would seem more likel;y to pay dividends.

Features for future rss2book? ^^

#1 geekraver said on 26/01/07@12:52 pm:

Hi all

I'm trying to come up with features for future versions of rss2book and would welcome suggestions, both for new features and for the desirability of the various items listed below. What I have on my list so far:

Low Hanging Fruit

msi installer. Not sure if this is really much better than the current .zip file approach.

help file

categories for published feeds (news, opinion, blogs, tech, software development, etc), with a tree view when subscribing

Medium Difficulty

make rss2book clean up the html before passing it to the back end converters. Amongst other things it would be good to normalise header levels (so that all top level headers are <h1>, etc)

support for tables

table of contents support

auto-updater for new versions of rss2book

cookies and login support for sites that need that

sync plugins, so Sony Reader syncing is a plugin and potentially can sync to other devices - but are there any others that matter and which are open enough to be implemented?

Big Fish (either big jobs or jobs I'm unsure of difficulty)

output plugin for .chm and .lit

output plugin for BBeB

output plugin for FB

input plugins - make the whole RSS front end a plugin, which the possibility of other plugins that produce HTML (wikipedia, Gutenberg, etc)

is it possible to read rss feeds on my reader ? ^^

#1 bugsbunny14 said on 26/01/07@3:10 pm:

hello ,

is there a software that enables me to convert rss feeds (text and pictures)to a format that is readable on my sony reader ?

thanks .

#2 geekraver said on 26/01/07@3:20 pm:

See the sticky rss2book thread.

turning project gutenber txt files to pdfs ^^

#1 kamyar22 said on 26/01/07@8:29 pm:

if i turn the sites stories to pdfs will it show up better on the sony reader

#2 kamyar22 said on 26/01/07@8:31 pm:

whic is better pdfs or txt files for viewing on the sony reader

#3 Azayzel said on 26/01/07@11:02 pm:

whic is better pdfs or txt files for viewing on the sony reader

The plain text looks fine as it is, although there are hard-coded page numbers in the text that end up at various positions of the page so you might want to run it through an editor to automatically remove all of them. As for converting it to PDF before loading it on your Reader, I don't think that would help any unless you want to set specific margins to suit your taste, though the Reader might take longer to load the PDF originally due to size.

I've just left mine as-is and haven't even edited out the page #'s yet, though I am tempted once I get Office installed back on PC. Have fun with it!

#4 geekraver said on 26/01/07@11:52 pm:

Another option is to use rss2book to format the HTML version for the reader as either RTF or PDF. Install rss2book (available from the sticky rss2book thread in the Content subforum), then click on File-Subscribe and subscribe to the "Project Gutenberg Sample" feed.

Then go to the book you want on the Gutenberg site; find the link for the uncompressed HTML version, and copy and paste that in as the URL for the rss2book Gutenberg feed. Click Go! and the book will be fetched, converted, and optionally synched to your reader.

#5 Madam Broshkina said on 27/01/07@12:35 am:

Also you could try and see if the book you wanted is at Manybooks.net. Pick Sony as your download option. For me it is the easiest option of all.

#6 HarryT said on 27/01/07@4:03 am:

I find that the Sony Converter at "Manybooks" produces books with too small a font size to be comfortable for me personally.

RTF is perhaps the ideal format to use with Reader for PG books. There's a superb Word conversion macro for reformatting PG books for the Reader in the "Reader Content" section of the forum. Very easy to use - just load a PG book into word, run the macro, and you're done, with a great-looking book as the result.

I can honestly see no benefit whatsoever in using PDF for PG stuff.

#7 Govinda said on 27/01/07@4:34 am:

Does anybody know any editor that automatically removes page numbers inserted at the end of each page in a doc or pdf book?

Thanks in advance

#8 HarryT said on 27/01/07@6:14 am:

Does anybody know any editor that automatically removes page numbers inserted at the end of each page in a doc or pdf book?

Thanks in advance

No, but it would be straightforward to write a Word macro which selected each line of a document in turn and, if it contained nothing but a number, deleted it. If I have a few minutes free over the weekend I'll have a go at writing one.

#9 Hadrien said on 27/01/07@6:18 am:

If you want a PDF file with table of contents, footnotes, and an easy generation system, making the book available for everyone, you can use our Ajax interface: <http://www.feedbooks.com>

If the book isn't already available, you can add it, this way anyone will be able to get a nice looking version afterwards.

#10 HarryT said on 27/01/07@6:37 am:

Hadrien,

The issue I have with PDFs is that they are non-editable documents. Eg, most people seem to like "Serif" (Roman) fonts in documents, but I prefer "Sans Serif" (Swiss/Arial) fonts when reading. With an RTF, if I don't like the font, I load it into Word and change it (or rather I run Stingo's macro which does all the work for me); with PDF, I'm stuck

with what's there.

I accept the enormous benefits of PDF for books which need a TOC and/or pictures, but for straightforward "fiction" that you just read from end to end, I completely fail to see the benefits.

Is there some "hidden benefit" of PDF that I'm missing?

#11 Hadrien said on 27/01/07@7:00 am:

Hadrien,

The issue I have with PDFs is that they are non-editable documents. Eg, most people seem to like "Serif" (Roman) fonts in documents, but I prefer "Sans Serif" (Swiss/Arial) fonts when reading. With an RTF, if I don't like the font, I load it into Word and change it (or rather I run Stingo's macro which does all the work for me); with PDF, I'm stuck with what's there.

I accept the enormous benefits of PDF for books which need a TOC and/or pictures, but for straightforward "fiction" that you just read from end to end, I completely fail to see the benefits.

Is there some "hidden benefit" of PDF that I'm missing?

Well, what you said isn't much of a problem in our case. Since we generate PDF files instead of storing them, you could generate them in

any font or size that you'd like.

And yes, there's benefits:

- Embedded fonts
- Support for any language
- Images (you can display math formulas too for example, needed for scientific documents)
- Table of contents
- Real footnotes
- Better overall presentation

It's not much flexible once you've got the file, that's why you have to make it more flexible before you output the PDF. That's what we're trying to do here (well anyone can already do it with LaTeX, but we're trying to make something available and easy to use for everyone).

#12 Govinda said on 27/01/07@7:22 am:

Maybe there's a tool to remove page numbers in pdf files with the OCR application ABBY Fine Reader, but i cant find it out

#13 RWood said on 27/01/07@7:33 am:

Maybe there's a tool to remove page numbers in pdf files with the OCR application ABBY Fine Reader, but i cant find it out

All I have ever found for removing page numbers is to use the full version of Adobe Acrobat and resize the page to exclude the area where the page number (and perhaps the title, etc) reside.

I agree with HarryT completely. For me for PG books the best conversion utility is Stingo's word macro (<http://www.mobileread.com/forums/showthread.php?t=8793>) I have converted many, many files using it.

Most converters can be found on the MobileRead Wiki COnversion Page (http://wiki.mobileread.com/wiki/E-book_conversion)

Hadrien's PDF conversions are also nice and offer another viable alternative.

Can I read Japanese text with it? ^^

#1 ChristSchmidt said on 27/01/07@7:47 am:

I have a lot of japanese scientific papers in pdf form that I'd like to read with the new sony reader. i was wondering if the reader can actually display japanese characters.

this file

([http://monarch.gsu.edu/WebRoot\\$/multiculturalhealth/handouts/japanes](http://monarch.gsu.edu/WebRoot$/multiculturalhealth/handouts/japanes)) is a random japanese pdf -- it would be a big help if one of you guys could try out to open it with the reader. maybe you could even take a picture while the japanese text is onscreen.... ☺

i'm located in europe and i can't try it out myself but before i shell out \$350 i wanna be sure.

thanks again,
Chris

#2 Hadrien said on 27/01/07@8:15 am:

If it's a PDF, then you won't have a single problem displaying japanese text. But for the other formats, until there's an easy way to add font to the reader, I don't think it'll be possible to display japanese.

#3 RWood said on 27/01/07@10:14 am:

Welcome to MobileRead. Glad you found us.

Other than using the utilities to add a new font to the Reader, the only way to view documents with a Japanese font is by using a PDF file with embedded fonts as Hadrien mentioned. The problem with that on the Sony Reader is that it resizes PDF pages to fit the 6.1" screen rendering normal A4 or letter sized pages almost unreadable. If you can create the PDFs sized to the Reader it should work fine.

New owner (Dec. 22) + some tricks of bookloading ^^

#1 Dr. Drib said on 27/01/07@7:52 am:

Hello:

I'm enjoying my Sony ereader.

I bought a 1 gig card during Christmas and I load everything onto the card, as I have Collections and purchased books on the ereader's memory.

I mainly created RTF files. Here's how I do it:

I used BookDesigner to process my downloaded TXT files (as Word's is somewhat too unpredictable with the results.) BookDesginer works flawlessly almost every time.

I use this font loaded into BookDesigner: Dutch801 RM BT.
Unfortunately, I haven't found a way to get the EXACT font size I want in Bookdisgner , so I use MEDIUM and then later change the size in Word.

I then save this as an RTF file, open Word and get the title and subject information exactly the way I want it. I change those two things to 24 pt. size.

Then I select the body of the text (the actual book), and change that to 16 pt. size. (This allows - for me - actual reading in SMALL mode.) I also delete the pages and pages of Gutenberg information.

Then I change the margins in word and come in .2 inches on the left and the right in order to have some "breathing" room as I read.

Finally, I go into PROPERTIES in Word and fix the title and author information and then save everything to a folder on the desktop.

In PROPERTIES, I use the last name, first name method. It works wonderfully as I "attempt" to locate any book on the card or on the reader. (Unfortunately, Sony-purchased books list the first name, last name method. Additionally, Sony uses a flat file system that's a real pain, especially if I'm looking for an author at the end of the alphabet.)

Any suggestions or changes to this would be greatly appreciated. I've been reading the Forums here and really appreciate all the suggestions from various individuals as they post. I found out about BookDesigner from this Forum. I'm also a long-time user of the REB 1100 and still enjoy that, but it's a slowly dying format, but a wonderful machine to read by at night.

I've already purchased about \$110.00 worth of books from Sony Connect (My \$50.00 is part of that cost.)

I would really like to locate the font that Sony uses, so anyone can shed information on that, I would appreciate it.

I already have over 200 books on the reader. I'm also a book collector and enjoy collecting First Editions of contemporary literature of the

author I enjoy.

Thanks for reading this.

#2 Bob Russell said on 27/01/07@9:37 am:

Welcome to MobileRead! Glad you found it useful. It's really amazing how much great information there is here.

Thanks also for the tips about how you prepare documents for the Reader. It sounds like you are quite a book lover and collector!

#3 HarryT said on 27/01/07@9:49 am:

Have you tried Stingo's e-book formatting macro for Word? Does a great job of processing Gutenberg text files to a good-looking RTF file for the Reader. It's in the "Reader Content" section of the forum.

I'd thoroughly recommend it.

There are only 3 fonts in the Reader - Times Roman, Swiss, and Courier.

#4 pinenut said on 27/01/07@1:25 pm:

Hello:

I'm enjoying my Sony ereader.

I bought a 1 gig card during Christmas and I load everything onto the card, as I have Collections and purchased books on the ereader's memory.

I mainly created RTF files. Here's how I do it:

.....

I used BookDesign to convert PDF format e-books (when the fonts are too small) to those of rtf format. I also use Just Another Printer for this purpose, but I have a better control with BookDesign.

For some unknown reasons, I have not been able to use PDFrasterfarian (I tried both 2.15 and 2.16). It just don't work for me.

Addendum: When it comes to converting txt format e-books, it does as good a job as Stingo's Word Macro, if not better. That is my two cents.

\$50 Connect coupon/bonus? ^^

#1 DrBillC said on 27/01/07@10:47 am:

I was looking for info on the bonus code, missed the sticky and posted a request . Oh well. It looks like I missed the cutoff for the free \$50 Connect credit 😞

Bill

#2 igorsk said on 27/01/07@10:54 am:

See here (<http://www.mobileread.com/forums/showthread.php?t=9091>) and here (<http://ebooks.connect.com/50launchpromotos.html>). In short: \$50 offer is valid only for Readers bought in 2006.

can we save rss feeds on our pc ? ^^

#1 bugsbunny14 said on 28/01/07@5:13 am:

hello all ,

1- i am new to rss feeds and my question is it possible to make my computer to save rss feeds for 5 days or more while i am away so i can check it after i come back ?

2- is there an rss archive . i mean is it possible to go back and check for last december engadget news as an rss feed (i know i can check their old news from their website) but i mean as an rss feed ?

i am asking these questions because i am using rss2book software to read rss feeds on my sony reader .

thanks .

#2 Hadrien said on 28/01/07@2:01 pm:

RSS is just an XML file so yes you can store them easily, but they're not really made for archives, RSS is more or less used as a "presentation agnostic tool" to stay up to date.

Anyone could easily make an app or a website that would work as an archive for RSS feeds, I'm just not sure that there's a point for this (or maybe there is, RSS feeds for example are really easy to filter using regexp, so if you need to make a search for example, it's pretty easy). The best option would be a REST service for such a thing...

#3 geekraver said on 28/01/07@3:57 pm:

You can keep the generated files from rss2book on your PC. There are two few other issues standing in your way:

- rss2book requires you to manually click Go to start its work
- the file names are not date stamped

These are both pretty easy to address. However, having addressed them, they introduce the complication that rss2book expects to sync the latest documents to the reader, not documents from an archive. If you would be satisfied with using the Connect software for that, then I can address the first two issues.

#4 bugsbunny14 said on 29/01/07@12:33 am:

You can keep the generated files from rss2book on your PC. There are two few other issues standing in your way:

- rss2book requires you to manually click Go to start its work
- the file names are not date stamped

These are both pretty easy to address. However, having addressed them, they introduce the complication that rss2book expects to sync the latest documents to the reader, not documents from an archive. If you would be satisfied with using the Connect software for that, then I can address the first two issues.

GREAT 🍪 , yes please do so , there is no problem for me to use the sony connect software .

Take off the cover... ^^

#1 pilotbob said on 29/01/07@2:24 pm:

Ok,

How do you take the cover off the reader? I don't want to break anything. I have tried twisting or pulling a certain direction.

I saw directions on this forum somewhere about how to put it on, but not to take it off. I don't see this documented anywhere with the reader docs.

BOb

#2 slayda said on 29/01/07@2:52 pm:

The cover snaps onto the back of the reader. If you look at the back of the cover, you should see a slightly raised circle about the size of a silver dollar. It is a snap on/snap off plastic circle, bigger but similar to the snap on methodology that DVD plastic holders use to keep the DVD in place. So don't twist, just pull the two directly apart from each other. If you pull the edge of the cover out slightly, you should be able to see the retaining plastic.

#3 Leaping Gnome said on 29/01/07@3:53 pm:

It does take a little force to get it off and on, just lay the Reader face down on the table is how I usually do it.

#4 yvanleterrible said on 29/01/07@4:07 pm:

To put it back, slip the reader back in the jacket, keep it closed, put the reader face down on a flat surface and press on the center clip.

#5 HarryT said on 30/01/07@3:25 am:

... and try not to wince at the loud "CRACK" noises that result as it snaps on 🍪.

#6 scotty1024 said on 30/01/07@10:37 am:

The most important thing is to not put any pressure on the eink display. Be careful where you put your fingers and when applying pressure make sure its to the metal case not directly to the display itself.

Connect Reader Crashing- won't start ^^

#1 eppythacher said on 30/01/07@1:07 am:

I just bought my reader today and the Connect software worked fine with moving books onto my reader- until i tried to import a folder with 1GB of books. My connect software crashed and when i uninstall the program, restart the computer, and reinstall the program the program does not start up, but crashes. I'm using xp sp2, all updates. I even ran a system restore point from yesterday from before the connect program was installed and it still does not work. My reader is not plugged into the computer. After uninstalling i even tried:

4) Right-click on C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application Data\kinoma and select delete

5) Right-click on C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application Data\Marlin and select delete

6) Right-click on "C:\Documents and Settings\Personal User Profile [i.e., your user name for Windows, e.g., jsmith]\Local

Settings\Application Data\kinoma" and select delete

But this did not work.

This is the error message in the App log: Event Type: Error

Event Source: Application Error

Event Category: None

Event ID: 1000

Date: 1/29/2007

Time: 10:00:43 PM

User: N/A

Description:

Faulting application connect reader.exe, version 1.0.0.0, faulting module xdball.dll, version 0.0.0.0, fault address 0x000060e4.

For more information, see Help and Support Center at

<http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/events.asp>.

Data:

0000: 41 70 70 6c 69 63 61 74 Applicat

0008: 69 6f 6e 20 46 61 69 6c ion Fail

0010: 75 72 65 20 20 63 6f 6e ure con

0018: 6e 65 63 74 20 72 65 61 nect rea

0020: 64 65 72 2e 65 78 65 20 der.exe

0028: 31 2e 30 2e 30 2e 30 20 1.0.0.0

0030: 69 6e 20 78 64 62 61 6c in xdbal

0038: 6c 2e 64 6c 6c 20 30 2e l.dll 0.

0040: 30 2e 30 2e 30 20 61 74 0.0.0 at

0048: 20 6f 66 66 73 65 74 20 offset
0050: 30 30 30 30 36 30 65 34 000060e4
0058: 0d 0a ..

Any help would be great. I'm going to call sony tomorrow.

#2 eppythacher said on 30/01/07@1:08 am:

By the way i didn't have this folder:

5) Right-click on C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application Data\Marlin and select delete

I have not yet registered my reader.

#3 Alexander Turcic said on 30/01/07@2:03 am:

Just a guess, but it seems the error occurs in xdbAll.dll, which, from just looking at it, seems to be responsible for the database file. Perhaps your database is corrupted?

Try to delete "C:\Documents and Settings\<user>\Local Settings\Application Data\Sony Corporation\CONNECT Reader".

#4 eppythacher said on 30/01/07@2:22 am:

Thank God that worked!!! thank you very much and if you need any ebooks give me a email, thanks again this is a great time saver.

Sony Reader binary-compatible with Starebook? ^^

#1 TadW said on 30/01/07@3:09 am:

Not sure where this could lead us, but I extracted the files from the Starebook update and was wondering if we could use them to add their reading software to the Sony Reader (or the iLiad).

Mountable Sony Reader Filesystem ^^

#1 scotty1024 said on 30/01/07@9:58 am:

This took a bit longer than I expected but I've finally gotten this project to the point where I feel comfortable I can go public with it. And reveal just what the heck has been sucking down all my time recently. ☺

I've developed a mountable Sony Reader Filesystem.

What the heck is that you ask? Well rather than an application such as the wonderful libprs500 or the Connect application supplied by Sony this piece of code isn't an application.

You insert a SD card and the operating system uses some code to read

the contents of that SD card and present the contents as files and folders. This piece of software does the same task, but for the Sony Reader.

You can then use your favorite tools to explore and modify the contents of your Sony Reader. On the Mac you can use Finder or Terminal. If you are writing an application to bind ebooks or RSS feeds onto the Sony you can write the data to the Sony Reader as if it were a regular collection of files and folders on the computer itself. For example, you can have Word 2004 export an RTF file directly to the Sony Reader.

The code is written using FUSE and libusb. This allows the same code base to work on Mac, Linux and FreeBSD. There is no Windows version, but heck: you've got Sony's CONNECT software on Windows right, you don't need this. ☹

First release is for the Mac. You will need Mac Fuse from Google: <http://code.google.com/p/macfuse/> and libusb: <http://www.ellert.se/PKGS/libusb-0.1.12/10.4/libusb.pkg.tar.gz>.

Code later today.

#2 Alexander Turcic said on 30/01/07@10:04 am:

Such a tease!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

#3 griffbrad said on 30/01/07@11:03 am:

So, does this transparently convert folders in the FUSE filesystem to "collections" on the reader. If so, that totally rocks. Otherwise, this is still very nice. Thanks.

#4 kovidgoyal said on 30/01/07@11:25 am:

Nice. I had planned on doing this at some point, but the fuse python bindings aren't stable enough. Incidentally, there is another project to do this at <http://code.google.com/p/prs500fs/>

Sony Reader Guide for creating optimized PDF content - Exclusive Preview (*) ^^

#1 Bob Russell said on 30/01/07@12:38 pm:

Revealed here is a pre-release version of a Sony document obtained by MobileRead. It is called "User s Guide to Creating PDFs for the Sony® Reader", and as expected, the information contained covers how to prepare PDF documents that are optimized for the Sony Reader. We expect a similar version to be officially released from Sony in the near future.

While the instructions themselves are in a PDF, the file is not (yet) optimized for the Reader. Here, from the contents, is a list of the topics included:

I. Introduction

Portable Document Format / PDF Creation Software / Sony® Reader screen dimensions and specifications / Font recommendations for the Sony® Reader

II. Creating PDFs from Word Processing Documents

Create word processing documents with optimized dimensions and layout in Microsoft® Word and OpenOffice.org Writer / Generate PDFs with appropriate settings using Adobe PDF or PDF Creator printer

III. Creating PDFs from Presentations

Create presentations with optimized dimensions and layout in Microsoft® PowerPoint and OpenOffice.org Impress / Generate PDFs with appropriate settings using Adobe PDF or PDF Creator printer

IV. Creating PDFs from Professional Layout Applications

Create presentations with optimized dimensions and layout in QuarkXPress® software and Adobe® InDesign / Ensure proper font and image embedding / Generate PDFs with appropriate settings using Adobe PDF or PDF Creator printer

V. Doing more with Adobe® Acrobat

Reformat an existing PDF for use on the Sony® Reader 􀁸 Enhance navigation of your PDF with internal linking / Create a Sony® Reader-optimized PDF preset for streamlined PDF generation / Import an existing Sony® Reader-optimized PDF preset into your system

As we look at the font recommendations, for example, we immediately see that the document can at best hope to be some general guidelines. No matter what is recommended, there will be differences of opinion because individual tastes will vary. For example, I prefer a size 16 serif font like Times Roman. But Sony states general guidelines as follows: "A range of fonts and font sizes will display clearly in PDFs on the Sony Reader. As a general starting point, we recommend using Arial and Times Roman as base fonts at sizes of 7 points. Text is legible at 6 points, though at this size it can lose some clarity. Large fonts will tend to use up screen space rather rapidly given the maximum document dimensions." The idea appears to be that one should use a smaller size in order to maximize the words on a screen as much as possible, while allowing the Sony Reader to scale the text to larger sizes when desired by the user.

It will be very interesting to see how the recommendations are received when analyzed more carefully by the MobileRead community, but this is definitely a welcome addition from Sony. It is not just some casual document thrown together by novices, but is something that appears to be both informative and useful. Kudos to Sony for providing it as part of their commitment to the product.

#2 yvanleterrible said on 30/01/07@1:49 pm:

I hope we'll be able to use the little joystick in a better way than it is implemented now!

On an other subject. Is'nt her reader too white (person in the picture)?
I'd love mine to be that way!

#3 sic said on 30/01/07@2:13 pm:

I think SONY should show some self respect and -- once it's ready --
release this PDF with proper page size and also in BBeB format.

btw now that Adobe is making efforts for a reflow support let's lobby
for a software upgrade!

#4 diabloNL said on 30/01/07@2:24 pm:

Anyone tried it yet?

#5 Hadrien said on 30/01/07@2:31 pm:

I think SONY should show some self respect and -- once it's ready --
release this PDF with proper page size and also in BBeB format.

btw now that Adobe is making efforts for a reflow support let's lobby
for a software upgrade!

I agree. Reflowable support is the only thing really missing here, if they
included it in the Sony PRS, it would make the experience a lot better.

#6 NatCh said on 30/01/07@2:53 pm:

Isn't her reader too white (person in the picture)? I'd love mine to be that way! 🤖 I chalk it up to sunlight and Marketing photos. 🌐

#7 sic said on 30/01/07@3:30 pm:

Hadrien,
re: reflow

I don't really care if reflowing happens on the reader or in the Connect software, as long as I can get readable document from PDFs that were created with letter or A4 page size.

On the other hand I'd like to push SONY to provide software updates or open up the platform, otherwise we'll end up with a closed device that'll be worthless in 6 month even though we invested 350\$ in it and the hardware would not pose such limitations.

#8 NatCh said on 30/01/07@4:02 pm:

I've seen indications that we'll see a first Firmware update pretty soon, what it might cover is still a bit fuzzy, but they do seem to be planning to carry through with long term support.

There was some noise about releasing an SDK, but I haven't run across anything on that for a while yet. 🤖

#9 pinenut said on 30/01/07@6:51 pm:

.....

It will be very interesting to see how the recommendations are received when analyzed more carefully by the MobileRead community, but this is definitely a welcome addition from Sony. It is not just some casual document thrown together by novices, but is something that appears to be both informative and useful. Kudos to Sony for providing it as part of their commitment to the product.

Thank you, Bob, for your sharing this info.

I tried to converting a doc file to a PDF as directed in the attached guide. It really works well. It is the first time that I love with pleasure to read a PDF ebook on the reader.

In fact, I converted a PDF ebook to a doc file via BookDesign so that I can render it readable with the reader. It really works.

#10 RWood said on 30/01/07@7:34 pm:

Great resource, thanks for sharing.

A lot of what they said has already been said by others in these forums. It is nice to have it all together in one document.

#11 llasram said on 30/01/07@10:46 pm:

This doesn't look quite right, even for a pre-release version. Two points --

1. The document says that the display is 800x600 pixels and each pixel is 151x153 microns. If this is the case, then this display is /exactly/ 90.6x122.4mm. So why devolve to the inch approximations when producing PDFs?
2. Creating a PDF with these dimensions does not optimally fill the screen-space. Although those are the dimensions of the overall display, the status bar at the bottom of the screen alters the aspect-ratio, which someone else on this forum pointed out can be reverse-engineered from the images which come with the device. Toss in the fact that there does seem to be a 1-4px border on each side, and the usable area is probably down to 90x115mm.

What I'd really like to see in a document like this is a micron-accurate measurement of the usable display area. :-)

#12 HarryT said on 31/01/07@2:06 am:

1. The document says that the display is 800x600 pixels and each pixel is 151x153 microns. If this is the case, then this display is /exactly/ 90.6x122.4mm. So why devolve to the inch approximations when producing PDFs?

I'd guess it's because the Reader is currently (officially, at least) a US-only product and Americans are famously "non metric". It's a pity that they use these odd "inch" screen sizes when "90x120mm" is an almost exact "metric" size for the screen.

No disrespect intended to our many American friends here, many of whom I know are perfectly happy to use metric measurements.

#13 HarryT said on 31/01/07@2:09 am:

Hadrien,
re: reflow

On the other hand I'd like to push SONY to provide software updates or open up the platform, otherwise we'll end up with a closed device that'll be worthless in 6 month even though we invested 350\$ in it and the hardware would not pose such limitations.

I don't follow you, sic. Why will the Reader be "worthless" in 6 months? If one uses it for what it is - IMHO, at least - best at, which is reading RTF-format fiction, it's not going to get "worse" at doing that than it is now, is it?

Need to Crack a Password-Protected PDF? Ask Elcomsoft. ^^

#1 Mitchll said on 30/01/07@7:54 pm:

<http://www.pdfzone.com/article2/0,1895,2003579,00.asp>

They are back in business and have Microsoft Gold certification to boot.

Span tags in LRS and LRF files -- do I understand them? ^^

#1 Falstaff said on 30/01/07@11:43 pm:

From looking at lrf dumps and lrs2lrf, here are some conclusions about the Span tag, which is used to embed text style changes in the text of an LRF file. Please agree or disagree if you know about this stuff.

The example:

```
<Span fontsize="60">hi</Span> there
```

When compiled by lrs2lrf, this adds the fontsize attribute to the text stream, but also adds the "undo" of the attribute automatically. So "hi" would be followed by a fontsize=100, assuming that was the old value. lrf2lrs reveals this extra attribute, by decompiling the above to:

```
<Span fontsize="60">hi</Span><Span fontsize="100">there</Span>
```

I am assuming that the old value comes from the settings in the textstyle (or book style, I guess.)

It looks like lrf2lrs has some code to try to not print the undo attributes, but the section is commented out.

Does this description seem correct?

Make: HOW TO - Make PDFs for the Sony Reader (Ebook e-ink device) ^^

#1 kalivoodoo said on 31/01/07@12:07 am:

Has anyone tried this out yet?

HOW TO - Make PDFs for the Sony Reader (Ebook e-ink device)
(http://www.makezine.com/blog/archive/2007/01/how_to_make_pdf.htm)
from the MAKE blog.

I'm curious to see if this is new news or perhaps old news.

Thanks!

#2 jakeluck said on 31/01/07@12:24 am:

aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa

#3 Azayzel said on 31/01/07@1:52 am:

Make was the first place I found decent articles regarding the Reader (actually Librie) before purchasing my Reader and locating this excellent forum. I think the article is a revamp of what was posted here earlier, maybe a forum member wrote the article for them? Good catch! It'd be nice if Make actually published itself in this format so I can take it on the road before the actual issue arrives (not too mention archived issues!).

JakeLuck, what's your post mean? Did your keys get stuck? lol

Announcement Hanlin V9 (DIN A4 E-Bookreader) ^^

#1 drahnreb said on 29/01/07@1:04 pm:

Hi,

i visited <http://www.jinke.com.cn/compagesql/English/index.asp> and there are pictures from a new DIN A4 E-Bookreader from Hanlin.

Who has more informations about this products?

Bernhard

#2 Alexander Turcic said on 30/01/07@2:13 am:

Hi Bernhard, thanks for the tip. Check out this thread (<http://www.mobileread.com/forums/showthread.php?t=8547>) which

discusses possible the Jinke's product plan for 2007.

First week with the STAReBOOK (*) ^^

#1 CommanderROR said on 30/01/07@1:44 pm:

As most of you probably remember, I received a review sample of the STAReBOOK last monday.

I have posted pictures, a video and a review so far.

Now I've had some more time to evaluate the device and would like to add a few things to my previous review.

Ergonomics:

I have done quite a lot of reading this past week, as much as my limited spare time allowed. I used the STAReBOOK in a number of situations, reading on the couch, in bed, while eating and while installing software on my computer...more about that later... 🤖

The device is very comfortable to hold, it's weight is the main helper here. You can even use it left-handed (although the controls are on the wrong side for that) because it's small form-factor and the 176g weight help you hold it in ways that would cause you a lot of discomfort if it were heavier.

In all scenarios I tested the device was easy and secure to hold. The slightly rubberized backside also helps more than you would think at first, giving you a more secure grip without using a lot of finger

pressure. Unlike the Iliad, I seldom rested the STAReBOOK on anything for additional support.

Durability:

Of course it's hard to talk about durability after such a short time, so I'll make it short. I have found no obvious reasons why this device should not last quite some time. The keys seem to be well constructed, the frame feels solid (and it does not creak quite as ominously as the Iliad does if you twist it slightly... 🤖) and nothing rattles as far as I could discover. I also dropped it (not on purpose!!!) yesterday evening and it still works just like before (it fell from my hand to the (hard) carpet floor) and has no sign of damage to either casing or screen. I never dropped the Iliad so far, so I can't really say how that device would have survived the fall.

Reading Experience:

Now this is the main point... 🤖

I finished two books and am well into my third right now. During this week I noticed just how much the Iliad with it's slow booting times and miserable battery-life has disrupted my reading habits.

I'm not really somebody who reserves two hours a day for reading. I prefer to just pick up a book whenever I have a moment, read a few pages and then put it away again. With the Iliad this is not possible. If I

leave it on all day, then it'll be out of battery before I go to bed. I left the STAReBOOK on from Monday to Saturday, I did not even switch it off during the night. The battery did not last as long as I had hoped, it stopped working on Saturday morning (I had charged it fully on Monday around 2:00 PM). On Saturday morning it then switched itself off. Apparently, the STAReBOOK is not using Suspend mode, it seems to be doing "low-power-mode" between pageturns and thus runs out of juice a lot faster than the Sony Reader (as far as I've heard, I don't have one unfortunately).

I asked staretek about the possibility of adding Suspend mode to the STAReBOOK, but so far have not received a reply. I'll keep you posted on the progress here.

Even without Suspend, the device does well enough, if you turn it off overnight you only have to boot it once a day and it should last almost two weeks, so I guess that's good enough for most.

Now let's get back to the reading experience...

Even though it uses ugly fonts and bad formatting, I enjoyed reading on the STAReBOOK a lot more than I did reading on the Iliad. The keyword here is Simplicity. I read, put the book down with the last-read page displaying (it loses a bit of contrast over time, but the text is always readable) and then I just grab it again as soon as I have a moment and can continue from where I was, not restart, no delay at all. That is what really sets this device apart from the Iliad in my eyes. It is a lot more paper-like and comfortable. If they manage to bring more formats, improve the fonts and line-breaking and maybe add suspend then this could very well be the ultimate device, now it's not quite there yet, but for reading purposes it beats the Iliad any day. Technical

documents with illustrations, annotations and similar purposes, here the crown goes to the Iliad, even in it's unfinished state, but for a fiction-reader I would never hesitate to recommend this one.

Summary:

The STAReBOOK is a very nice device. The design is cool, it feels good and is easy to hold, even for longer reading sessions. It's battery life could be better, but it's OK as it is if you are willing to accept the compromise.

There is still work to be done when it comes to format support and formatting (and perhaps a Suspend mode could be added?) but it is already a very comfortable eReading solution. Added benefits like mp3 playback (I still have not tested, sorry) and nice little features like bookmarks, last-read book, favourites (list of last read books) and auto-refresh for the menus (I guess to prevent heavier ghosting after longer inactivity) make it even nicer. It's not quite there yet, but it's close. I would like to see the STAReBOOK with improved software go up against the SonyReader sometime...that would be a really interesting match since they are both fighting for the same market. The Iliad is a very different device, I'm pretty sure it will never even come close to matching the STAReBOOK, even in it's current state, as an ebook, but if iRex ever manage to use the features their hardware promises, then I guess it can still turn into a good infopad, newspaper reader or PDA.

New mobile chip technology reduces power requirements up to 80% (*) ^^

#1 Bob Russell said on 27/01/07@9:33 am:

"Intel Corp. and IBM have announced one of the biggest advances in transistors in four decades, overcoming a frustrating obstacle by ensuring microchips can get even smaller and more powerful." Intel will be in mass production with the new technology by the second half of 2007. IBM will take until 2008, but they will be integrating it into it's next generation of even more densely packed transisters.

This breakthrough news has the potential for greatly reduced power consumption for mobile devices. The new chips will use an exotic silvery metal called "hafnium" which will replace silicon layers. Power leakage caused by the increasingly tiny layer of silicon in the part of transisters called a "gate", was the single biggest potential barrier to the continuation of Moore's Law

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moore%27s_law). "The problem with the previous technology is that the layer of silicon-based material is now just 5 atoms thick, meaning lots of electricity leaks out, resulting in wasted power and shorter battery life." That meant that even smaller transisters might not be possible without another breakthrough. Fortunately, that obstacle is now gone.

So for mobile device consumers, it turns out that the new technology is not only the first major materials change in chip manufacturing in

decades, but it is also expected to be capable of reducing power consumption by up to 80%.

However, I wouldn't count on this advance alone being able to give us UMPC devices with 14hr battery life next year. While the display and wireless capabilities may be getting more efficient, they still use quite a bit of juice themselves.

From Reuters

(<http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=technologyNews&>
and PhysOrg (<http://www.physorg.com/news89109741.html>).

Is voice control part of our mobile future? (*) ^^

#1 Bob Russell said on 27/01/07@3:16 pm:

Voice recognition and control systems were frequently mentioned as the computer input of the future. It was supposed to replace keyboard input, and even was going to provide all your home controls for lights and appliances. But then we learned how hard the problem is, and how much of human listening is tied to our understanding of language and contextual information.

But with more realistic goals, speech input might have a place in our mobile future after all. Those who have used the newer versions of Dragon Naturally Speaking, for example, will have an idea of how far such programs have come. You can actually speak text and it will be

recognized. Years ago, I played around with state of the art software, and it just wasn't worth using. Now it is.

With devices like the new UMPCs, we are finding that powerful devices are coming in smaller and smaller packages for computing on the go. Together with progress in voice recognition software, it is becoming evident that you might be able to control a mobile device with speech after all.

For an example of what I mean, take a look at this video demo of speech control of a Vista system (http://funhouse.bubble.ro/420/Vista_Voice_Recognition_Demo/). You can both see that it's not perfect, and that it has great potential. And apparently it's much better than what was included in early versions of Vista. Of special interest for mobile computing is the later portions of the video with web browsing using voice commands.

And don't forget that it doesn't have to be entirely voice controlled to be useful. We are happy to use both the D-pad control and a fingernail when using a Treo, so why not do a combination of voice and other inputs for mobile computing also? After all, you aren't always in a location where you can speak freely anyway, such as in a theater or library.

Speech control may not be like the movies in our lifetime, but it just might become a useful supplementary input method for many people in the next few years. And what voice recognition application could be

easier than e-book reading? Surely any software can learn to recognize a "turn page" command!

#2 Anchoku said on 28/01/07@4:35 pm:

I've got to have it! No more carpal tunnel!

Hm... Of course, if I use voice recognition, I'll probably need a lot more scotch and water.

#3 Alexander Turcic said on 29/01/07@2:52 am:

The latest C't (German computer magazine) compares Vista's built-in voice recognition to commercial alternatives... and Vista does surprisingly well! See attached comparison matrix (in German, sorry).

#4 jmbowman said on 29/01/07@9:25 am:

I just don't see voice recognition as being generally useful as an interface to electronic devices, although I do see the value for accessibility reasons (people who don't have free use of their hands, etc.) I suppose part of this is due to my environment...I work in an open office where we'd all go nuts if everybody talked to their computers, and I commute on a subway system where a device wouldn't be able to pick up my voice (a friend sitting next to me has trouble hearing me). I could use such an interface at home (assuming I didn't have any friends or family visiting who would get annoyed by it), but if I have access to

a desk with mouse and keyboard, I don't think the voice recognition would gain me much.

I suppose it would be marginally useful for those occasions when one of my cats suddenly comes up and decides that they want to be held...might let me start some music playing or navigate some web pages while my hands are occupied with the purrball. That's really about the only use case that I can envision for myself, though...

#5 UncleDuke said on 29/01/07@11:56 am:

Its bad enough with all these crazies walking around talking to themselves -- a few even have bluetooth phones and claim they're talking to someone althought mostly they just talk and the other person hung up hours ago.

Voice command. He who commands loudest wins. No way.

#6 RWood said on 29/01/07@2:21 pm:

☺ I can just see it now Duke, the jerk at the next table shouts at his unit and mine responds to his command of "delete all!" ☺

#7 mogui said on 29/01/07@8:34 pm:

...I work in an open office where we'd all go nuts if everybody talked to their computers, and I commute on a subway system where a device

wouldn't be able to pick up my voice (a friend sitting next to me has trouble hearing me)...

I am reminded of an incident in a supermarket a few years ago. A man pushing a grocery cart in the opposite direction said, "Hello." I didn't recognize him and responded with a dubious, "Hello?" Then I noticed the cell phone by his ear.

Now I live in China where everyone has a cell phone. Imagine riding the bus with people around you shouting in Chinese! It happens every day. As soon as a voice interface is available, people will find a noisy and intrusive way to abuse it.

But there is a redundancy mechanism we need to put into effect; gestures. My wife's English is imperfect. When she can't think of a word, or when I fail to understand her, she will act out the idea. You should see her doing "alligator"!

We could put the issue of potentially noisy PDA input to rest if only our pocket machines could understand our nonverbal gestures :-)

Free 3-D golf game for Windows Mobile (*) ^^

#1 Bob Russell said on 24/01/07@11:54 am:

Microsoft is offering a free download
(<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsmobile/domore/games.msp>) of a

3-D golf game. There are versions for either Windows Mobile for Smartphone or Pocket PC. Caution:Registration is required, and I'm not sure how intrusive the process is.

A similar offer is available for 1-Calc Lite
(<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsmobile/domore/applications.msp>).
Both programs are from Omega One
(<http://www.omegaone.com/home.htm>).

Via Mobility Site (<http://www.mobilitysite.com/>).

Explay micro-projector ^^

#1 Anchoku said on 25/01/07@9:11 am:

Read this article (<http://www.tfot.info/content/view/113/59/>) for details.

Pocket projectors will become more prevalent over the next few years as the LED lamps get more powerful and efficient, and micro-displays and their optics get cheaper.

http://www.tfot.info/images/stories/first_look_at_the_smallest_projector

#2 Alexander Turcic said on 25/01/07@10:05 am:

Wow, that is definitely cool stuff!

More mobile sites at Wap Review (*) ^^

#1 Bob Russell said on 27/01/07@2:55 pm:

WapReview (www.WapReview.com) does a great job of searching for mobile friendly sites (primarily WAP sites for mobile phone browsers, but also useful in smartphone browsers).

The latest installment includes a new CBS Sportsline site (<http://cbs.volantis.net/sportsline/>) which has "a new and very attractive site design. The old site was text only, the new one has images resized to browser widths and flashy image gradients. Content's not bad either."

Check out some more mobile sites in their latest post at next installment (<http://wapreview.com/blog/?p=254>).

HIP HOP goes MOBILE ^^

#1 hiphoptogo said on 28/01/07@8:39 pm:

HIP HOP ToGo Mobile
www.hiphoptogo.com

www.avclub.com ^^

#1 doogie68 said on 24/01/07@1:52 pm:

For quite some time now, I've been using SunriseXP to read the Onion's AV Club at <http://www.avclub.com>. Lately, I haven't been able to get it to work-- only a few bytes transfer as a blank page. The address is still valid. Any ideas?

sxl not saving entries from clips ^^

#1 mulldr said on 25/01/07@1:54 am:

At first I was not getting any content to the Palm T/X at all after installing sunriseXP. I moved to SunriseXP (problems with Desktop and Plucker (as others have posted)). I just wanted it work without the lockups and having to reload plucker every four or five hotsyncs.

So I deleted plucker etc. from handheld, d/l a new copy, removed sunrise desktop - including handheld stub and firefox plugin, and installed anew.

It didn't work, BUT I noticed some odd looking filenames on the destination/SD card and reformatted the card and reinstalled the stub SunriseXP.prc. That seemed to work when I take a clip from firefox. I get the tabbed options box and the conversion processes, and the content is there. BUT, (u knew it was coming) I have no entries for the clips in SunriseXP .slx.

That doesn't seem right. Or am I confused in that the slx will only hold entries directly from the SXP desktop? - clip won't resync like a feed? I think my install is messed up??? Any advise on how to proceed?

Also, I noticed the Firefox extension does not have an uninstall option from within firefox. I see this from the install details(I saved it):

Extract: chrome.manifest

Extract: install.rdf

Output folder: C:\Program Files\Sunrise XP\firefox\chrome

Output folder: C:\Program Files\Sunrise XP\firefox\chrome\content

Output folder: C:\Program Files\Sunrise

XP\firefox\chrome\content\sunrisexp

Extract: contents.rdf

Extract: menu.js

Extract: menuoverlay.xul

Output folder: C:\Program Files\Sunrise XP\firefox

Completed

so, will an uninstall of SunriseXP remove all the components if I were to uninstall and reinstall? or is this the intended behavior?

BTW, my lurking in the past has been helpful, so thanks to all the folks in the forums. This really is a great community. ☺

2007 State of the Union ^^

#1 dreamriver said on 24/01/07@10:32 am:

Transcript of the 2007 State of the Union.

There are two files, one with photos and the other just text.

#2 dreamriver said on 24/01/07@11:19 am:

Democrat Senator Jim Webb response to President Bush's 2007 State of the Union.

#3 Bob Russell said on 24/01/07@11:37 am:

Anyone have any links to the mp3 audio or video for download?
... which, I suppose, are sort of the "audiobook" or "videobook"
equivalents! ;-)

#4 NatCh said on 24/01/07@11:47 am:

"videobook" You should be ashamed of yourself. ☹

#5 Bob Russell said on 24/01/07@11:57 am:

If you think about it, movies are really badly named. When you go to the theater you really are watching a videobook, which is simply a multimedia form of an e-book. It's about time we e-book lovers get some credit for the genre where credit is due! ;-)

#6 NatCh said on 24/01/07@12:09 pm:

Given the quality of a lot of those movies, I'm not sure I like the idea of linking them more closely with books. 🤖

Here are both transcripts in RTF format, Arial 18pt, with title & author meta data -- for the convenience of the Reader owners out there. 🤖

#7 yvanleterrible said on 24/01/07@3:19 pm:

🤖 Nice going guys! How about this!

The world is an ebook! If you live it from internet it is! 🤖

Hello from Cepeceng.Com ^^

#1 cepeceng said on 25/01/07@10:36 pm:

Hello,

I am new to this website. We have develop a website for the Indonesian communities overseas to provide their magazines online.

We are studying if its possible to have the magazines available in an ebook reader platform. So our user can download and use it on their own devices.

www.cepeceng.com

I like to hear comments and feedback.

Reza

#2 Kosst Amojan said on 26/01/07@11:39 am:

Talk with the guys here: <http://blog.feedbooks.com/>

If you browse mobileread, you will find small programs that will correct the size and resolution of scans to appear correctly on e-ink devices.

Greetings from the Czech Republic ^^

#1 Wizard-mag said on 28/01/07@1:02 pm:

Hi,

I have been watching MobileRead and development in electronic reading devices for already half a year now and I have not had so far the need to write a post, but now I simply decided to join since I watch main MobileRead news closely. ☺

Personally, I do not look for really a book-reading device, because I love printed books.

However, I need to read a lot of online content such as news and I do

not really like to read it from the screen, which is a bit exhausting to me, so I have to print it, which isn't obviously the best solution, but, for now, the most realisable one.

That is of course why I am watching the electronic reading devices. So far, it hasn't been too great, but maybe I will get a Sony Reader (which seems a bit small to me) or the iLiad (which would be OK in size, but too dear). I know that especially Sony Reader is not meant to be used in way, but it is and probably for long time will be the best viable solution.

I hope the market will be much hotter this year and I can get a device for myself. Can't say how I would be proud of it. ☺

Thanks to all the MobilRead members, and especially the moderators, for providing such a great information source on such relatively unknwn devices.

#2 Anchoku said on 28/01/07@3:53 pm:

Welcome! Printed material is easier to read in bright light and held closer to the eyes than notebook PCs usually are. If you buy an e-book, make sure you read it in bright light. Large, very bright desktop monitors are another good way to read online content. Just remember to make the text larger the farther away from the screen you are. ^_-

#3 TadW said on 29/01/07@2:56 am:

Welcome Wizard... I hope you will enjoy stayin' here ☺

Hey from Canada! ^^

#1 Matthew said on 29/01/07@9:17 pm:

Hi guys!

I just registered in here, I'm Matthew from Canada, Ontario. How you doing? I just wanted to say hello....

#2 Alexander Turcic said on 30/01/07@2:08 am:

Welcome to Mobileread, Matthew. Enjoy your stay!

Well, I suppose it's about time ... ^^

#1 NatCh said on 30/01/07@10:45 am:

Today marks one year since my first post

(<http://www.mobileread.com/forums/showpost.php?p=24924&postcount> here at MobileRead, and this is my 2,000th post, so I figure that it might be a good time to finally do the "Introduce Yourself" thing. 😊

It's been a quite a ride since I ran across MR while randomly Googling for e-ink and e-reader information. In fact, that search brought me not just here, but also to the first information I'd seen (which was here, as it happens 😊) on the iLiad, Sony Reader, and the HanLin devices. Then the discussion was about how to survive the anticipation leading up to

their planned release dates and of course, rampant speculation (mixed with a few facts) about what exactly each might do, and how much they might cost.

Now look at us! We've got 'em, we're hacking 'em, and we're still screaming for more. 🌐

Anyway, on to the introduction stuff. As you can see from my location entry, I'm a Citizen of the Republic of Texas (spent most of my life here, actually). I'm a graduate of Texas A&M University (<http://www.tamu.edu/>) (Did you hear about the Aggie that was so dumb the others noticed?), with a degree in Electronics Engineering Technology. My first job was with Applied Materials (<http://appliedmaterials.com/>), a semi-conductor capital equipment manufacturer that very few folks outside of that industry have ever heard of -- they make the machines that put the magic smoke (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magic_smoke) in computer chips. Now I'm an application developer for the Number 1 or Number 2 (depending on the year) cancer research institution in the world, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center (<http://www.mdanderson.org/>), which I enjoy most days, and I don't have to wonder if what I'm doing is making the world a better place or not -- between those two things I can't ask for a much better situation. 😊

I guess that's long enough for me to feel like I've done something suitable for such an auspicious occasion, so I'll not make this any longer

than it already is.

Thanks to Alexander for making such a marvelous spot on the web, and to all the Editors and MobileReaders for keeping it such an interesting, informative, and pleasant thing to be a part of.

#2 CLIEGURU said on 30/01/07@11:11 am:

NatCh,

I just wanted to say Thank you for all of your help here. This year has been very confusing with all the devices and you have done a great job informing all of us about the various options we have. Thanks again and keep up the great work!

#3 Bob Russell said on 30/01/07@11:45 am:

<Robot Bob>Welcome to MobileRead NatCh! I'm sure you'll find some awesome resources here. If you love e-books, you see some great information. Especially about the new Sony Reader e-ink device. It's pretty cool. You should check it out. There's even a really great review from some guy that saw one in person before they were officially released. That guy has some really great follow-up insights on all kinds of related topics also, plus a lot of knowledge about the Reader itself.

<Real Bob> Just kidding. 😊 Congrats, buddy, on such a spectacular first year! We're all very blessed to have you around, and you add so much

to the forums. Look forward to your thoughts and input in the years to come! And here comes some karma from me also... this is definitely a milestone worth a little celebration! 😊

#4 yvanleterrible said on 30/01/07@12:12 pm:

Oh! That's why you were'nt writing as much these days... wanted to keep number 2000 for the big day!
Congrats friend, your voice is one of kindness, integrity and wisdom... for such a young age 😊

#5 NatCh said on 30/01/07@12:16 pm:

Gosh, y'all are making me blush! 🙄

#6 RWood said on 30/01/07@7:53 pm:

Quit blushing. You -- along with several other posters, mods, editors, and a founder -- are the reason I stayed around. Sure its only been a few months but I have a better enjoyment of my Sony Reader because of the people and posts here.

MobileRead is an active, friendly, and informative community and you have helped to make it that way.

Microsoft will provide more years of support for Windows XP (*) ^^

#1 Bob Russell said on 25/01/07@4:06 pm:

Microsoft has extended

(<http://www.downloadsquad.com/2007/01/25/microsoft-extends-support>) the number of years it will be supporting Windows XP, even out to 2014, but how long depends

(<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?pr=lifepolicy>) on which version of Windows (<http://support.microsoft.com/gp/lifeselectwin>).

It looks to me like if you have XP Home Edition, you might find you only have 2 years of support after Vista is released, but it's hard to tell. If you have XP Tablet 2005

(<http://support.microsoft.com/lifecycle/?p1=7801>), then you appear to have 2 years mainstream support plus another 5 years of extended support. According to PC Pro

(<http://www.pcpro.co.uk/news/103073/microsoft-patches-xp-and-media>) the dates might even extend further than that, and will include security updates.

At any rate, that's good news for those who are looking for deals on new computers during the transition to Vista. And it also gives some comfort to UMPC fans who want to buy a device right away, before Vista is available on them.

Via DownloadSquad (www.downloadsquad.com).

Free quality fonts which could used for e-book devices ^^

#1 TadW said on 27/01/07@12:16 pm:

For those who want don't like the default fonts of their reading device and who are happy to experiment (such as Sony Reader folks), you can try the free quality fonts from the following sites:

<http://www.alvit.de/blog/article/20-best-license-free-official-fonts>

<http://www.smashingmagazine.com/2006/10/11/17-more-free-quality-fo>

#2 UncleDuke said on 29/01/07@11:53 am:

Thanks for the link.

The top 100 fonts ^^

#1 TadW said on 29/01/07@4:01 am:

Don't know according to whom, but it's a nice list for everyone who is as font addicted as I am:

<http://www.100besteschriften.de/>

#2 RWood said on 29/01/07@7:50 am:

I would venture a guess of fonts used in print advertising. What country or countries is another matter.

MobileRead newsletter - your input is needed! (*) ^^

#1 Alexander Turcic said on 25/01/07@12:22 pm:

As some of you know, we are planning to launch a newsletter for e-reader devices. In particular iLiad users might enjoy this because this newsletter should become available automatically via the iRex iDS. But of course we want to support other readers as well, such as the Sony Reader.

Yesterday I've started coding the necessary backend. It's going along fine, but now we need your help. Here are my questions and I would love to hear as many answers as possible:

1. What exactly should we include in the newsletter? Right now I've written the code to include all frontpage articles of one week, including all replies. A related question: how often should we publish? Daily? Weekly?
2. What is the best PDF format for your device? We've discussed PDF formatting ad nauseum, but I'd be happy if you could help me and just

write it down here instead of me having to find out by scanning the older threads.

3. How should we make the newsletter available to disconnected device, such as the Sony Reader? Via a simple download or via e-mail subscription?

That would be all for now! 😊

Related:

Proposed MobileRead newsletter

(<http://www.mobileread.com/forums/showthread.php?t=8779>),

Whatever happened to MobileRead via iDS?

(<http://www.mobileread.com/forums/showthread.php?t=9445>)

#2 yvanleterrible said on 25/01/07 @ 12:37 pm:

I guess once a week.

We'd need all news, all new threads with the first entry and all threads with at least one new post that week.

If someone could write a little app. that would make it so when we are connected to the site it would prompt us to plug our reader, whatever it is, and write directly to it. Of course there are security issues. They have to be addressed. I wouldn't want to have anyone write anything on my reader, and I wouldn't want viruses.

It's a great idea Alex!

#3 jæd said on 25/01/07@12:53 pm:

Still not sure why the current RSS feeds are sufficient... Then anyone can use their favourite tool to convert it as it best to their device...

#4 Hadrien said on 25/01/07@12:59 pm:

I agree with jaed, RSS seems like a good choice. Anyone could still generate a PDF out of it with what we're implemeting on Feedbooks for example.

#5 macanima said on 25/01/07@1:00 pm:

The best PDF for me right now is 'not a PDF at all' - I've got an ETI-2.
:/

#6 Studio717 said on 25/01/07@4:50 pm:

I still only have Palms (Zire and Treo 650) or iPod (a 5G), so I'm not sure how useful my input will be. If there's a choice, I'd prefer RSS like now or via email. If some form of PDF, I'd appreciate it if it was Palm Adobe Reader-able.

Not sure what need you're trying to address that you don't already address here.

(Yes, I want an e-ink reader, but I'm waiting for 2G... and waiting... 🙄)

#7 Hadrien said on 25/01/07@5:41 pm:

I still only have Palms (Zire and Treo 650) or iPod (a 5G), so I'm not sure how useful my input will be. If there's a choice, I'd prefer RSS like now or via email. If some form of PDF, I'd appreciate it if it was Palm Adobe Reader-able.

Not sure what need you're trying to address that you don't already address here.

(Yes, I want an e-ink reader, but I'm waiting for 2G... and waiting... 🙄)

Well as long as the PDF is dynamically generated, it can be Palm friendly or adapted to anything else that supports PDF.

#8 ojeblanc said on 25/01/07@7:15 pm:

Hmm... I guess I have a different opinion... I'm pretty consumer tech savy, but the myriad of tools to convert docs into readable PDFs on the Sony Reader is really overwhelming. So, I would love it if MobileRead produced a newsletter that I could simply drag to my Sony Reader to view. Someone, I don't recall who, posted an issue of the Economist in PDF. It looked great on the Reader. I'll look for the thread and post here.

Also, I like the idea of an email subscription. That way, I don't have to remember to grab the newsletter.

#9 RWood said on 25/01/07@8:52 pm:

Given that you are going to produce a newsletter (if only because you can), then include all articles for the week even if they never made it to a splash presentation on the front page. Also, include all new and updated posts for the week.

If you want a daily version then include the new articles for that day along with associated threads. I would favor a version that had all new and updated threads for the day.

Now I know this could be generated on the fly as each person requests his or her own copy. My background is big iron (read mainframes) and the policy there would be to select a date change (like GMT) and preproduce the newsletter so all we have to do is to download it. This ensures that we don't miss an article if we download Wednesday's daily version 3 hours after we downloaded Tuesday's daily version or get the same article twice if we download a few hours earlier on the second day.

RSS is nice and great for those that like it. I never liked the process that much and dropped using it. For me the chance to read MR offline on the Sony Reader sounds like something I would enjoy. I could (and

would) explore areas that I don't get into now.

#10 Hadrien said on 26/01/07@1:22 am:

Hmm... I guess I have a different opinion... I'm pretty consumer tech savy, but the myriad of tools to convert docs into readable PDFs on the Sony Reader is really overwhelming. So, I would love it if MobileRead produced a newsletter that I could simply drag to my Sony Reader to view. Someone, I don't recall who, posted an issue of the Economist in PDF. It looked great on the Reader. I'll look for the thread and post here.

Also, I like the idea of an email subscription. That way, I don't have to remember to grab the newsletter.

I could do this with RSS, instead of using some tool, a simple URL would do the trick and format everything for your Sony Reader (or any other device).

Given that you are going to produce a newsletter (if only because you can), then include all articles for the week even if they never made it to a splash presentation on the front page. Also, include all new and updated posts for the week.

If you want a daily version then include the new articles for that day along with associated threads. I would favor a version that had all new and updated threads for the day.

Now I know this could be generated on the fly as each person requests his or her own copy. My background is big iron (read mainframes) and the policy there would be to select a date change (like GMT) and preproduce the newsletter so all we have to do is to download it. This ensures that we don't miss an article if we download Wednesday's daily version 3 hours after we downloaded Tuesday's daily version or get the same article twice if we download a few hours earlier on the second day.

RSS is nice and great for those that like it. I never liked the process that much and dropped using it. For me the chance to read MR offline on the Sony Reader sounds like something I would enjoy. I could (and would) explore areas that I don't get into now.

Well... I could store the last time you downloaded the PDF and then generate the new PDF only with articles published after this date. This way you generate the PDF whenever you want, and you're always up to date with all the news.

I don't think that preproducing is such a big issue, it would be easy to generate this in realtime...

#11 Alexander Turcic said on 26/01/07@3:55 am:

A dedicated newsletter would be superior to RSS because it allows us to pull all kinds of content directly from the database. Example:

Newsletter:

MobileRead newsletter - your input is needed!

<reply 1>yvanleterrible said: ...

<reply 2>jæd said: ...

...

RSS:

MobileRead newsletter - your input is needed!

No replies.

Of course, you could try to write a program that would follow the RSS links and try to parse the replies via complicated regular expressions; but obviously this method is not as elegant as pulling the information directly from the database, plus the RSS + Regex method would cause more strain on our server.

A newsletter could also contain other information, sorted in groups. For instance, we could include a paragraph listing all new polls of the weeks. Another paragraph could mention all recently uploaded forum attachments.

And let's not forget iRex iDS. iRex offers us to host the newsletter via their iRex Delivery Service, meaning iLiad users can synchronize the newsletter directly upon connecting to iDS.

We'd try to keep the PDF as simple as possible from a formatting point of view. So no columns or other difficult structures. Even users with

smaller screens, like PDAs, should be able to read them (assuming that they can read PDF). Of course, I am open to suggestion for different file formats. RTF perhaps?

So this is why I think a newsletter could be a lot of fun for most of us. Back to my original questions:

RWood mentioned two scenarios:

1. Weekly: all articles, including new and updated posts. Here, the newsletter could become quite huge which might be a problem. Plus, what do we do with an article whose posts span over several weeks? Should we just include the updated posts, meaning skip the old stuff? Take the [Some suggestions for Software Updates](http://www.mobileread.com/forums/showthread.php?t=8014) (<http://www.mobileread.com/forums/showthread.php?t=8014>) article for example. Currently it has 178 replies. Assume we have two new posts by the end of this week. Should the newsletter only include the article's title plus the two newly added posts? What if these posts refer to earlier posts which were included in last week's newsletter or even before that?

2. Daily: all new and updated threads of the day. What about if you cannot download every day and hence occasionally miss a daily newsletter? Would updated threads still make sense if you missed the earlier updates and hence the posts?

I hesitate to generate the newsletter on the fly and customize it for each user. Firstly, it wouldn't work with iRex's iDS service. And secondly, it

would generate considerable strain on the server.

This discussion is going very well.

#12 yvanleterrible said on 26/01/07@8:44 am:

True about the amount of information, that could be daunting.

Since we already have an excellent email 'subscribed thread' notification, how about:

Complete weekly news, new threads of the week with the original post and a simple list of all updated thread titles. That would make up around 3 pages if you use smaller fonts and single line.

By the way I've printed some threads and there is no way to change the font size to take up less paper space.

A daily newsletter would be too much and some days there would be no news.

And maybe you could put up a 'On request' option for those who do not wish a regular feed.

#13 jæd said on 26/01/07@9:29 am:

A dedicated newsletter would be superior to RSS because it allows us to pull all kinds of content directly from the database.

Yes... But I'm not sure what the newsletter would give that the current rss feeds do currently. It would be more elegant than html scraping, but what does it *add*...?

#14 Alexander Turcic said on 26/01/07@9:38 am:

Yes... But I'm not sure what the newsletter would give that the current rss feeds do currently. It would be more elegant than html scraping, but what does it *add*...?

While our RSS feeds only display the first post of each article, the newsletter would display the entire thread with all replies.

#15 jæd said on 26/01/07@9:57 am:

While our RSS feeds only display the first post of each article, the newsletter would display the entire thread with all replies.

And, in the rss feed, there's a link from the article to the discussion of that article...

#16 Alexander Turcic said on 26/01/07@10:10 am:

And, in the rss feed, there's a link from the article to the discussion of that article...

... which isn't helpful for disconnected devices, is it? 😊

Well, I am open to all suggestions - and if the majority believes we don't need a newsletter, by all means, I am not trying to force it upon you 🇬🇧

#17 TadW said on 26/01/07@10:20 am:

RSS provides only what... the last 10 threads?