

# PDF Scripting

## Acrobat Batch Sequences

- PDF Conference East
- Tuesday Afternoon, June 3, 2003
  
- Bob Anderson
- Email: bobanderson@mac.com
- Presentations and samples:
  - <http://homepage.mac.com/bobanderson>

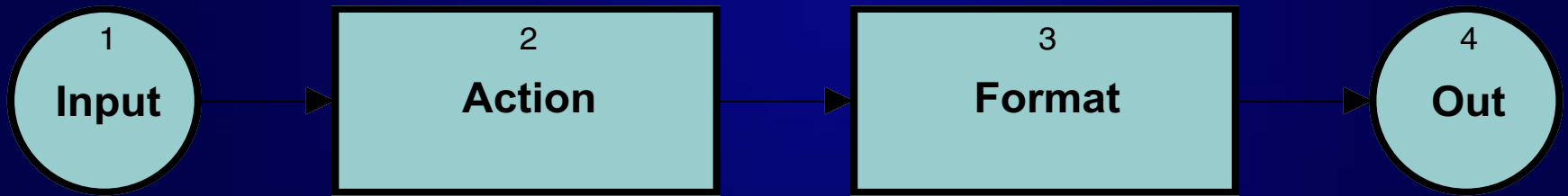
# PDF Scripting

## Sequences

- Let you repeat action on multiple files
- No programming required:
  - Library of built-in actions
- Or write your JavaScript actions
- Multi-platform

# PDF Scripting

## The Process



# PDF Scripting

## Input

- Select files
- Select Folder
- Ask when Sequence is Run
- Any files open in Acrobat

# PDF Scripting

## Output Options

- Prefix or Suffix on name
- Format:
  - PDF
  - PostScript
  - Image
  - Text
  - Etc.

# PDF Scripting

## Output

- Select Folder
- Ask when Sequence is Run
- Same Folder
- Don't Save

# PDF Scripting

## Demo Sequences on CD

- Simple: Convert to PostScript
  - Time: 20 minutes to write
- Intermediate: set disclosed to true
  - Time: 2 hours to write
- Complex: Merge PDF files
  - Time: 2 weeks to write

# PDF Scripting

## **.SEQU files**

- Kept in Sequences Folder
- Hold all sequence information
- Copy out of Sequences Folder to share
- Paste into Sequences Folder to load

# PDF Scripting

## Tips

- Uncheck “Show Run Confirmation” in Preferences
- Keep it Simple...

# PDF Scripting

## Limitations of Sequences

- Don't know which file is last
- Combining files takes two passes
- Some JavaScript commands don't work in Sequences:
  - e.g. `openDoc()` & `newDoc()` (Windows)

# PDF Scripting

## When things get tough

- AcroTips on PlanetPDF.com
- Batch Sequences.pdf on Acro5 CDRROM
- May be easier with AppleScript or VB
  - Can include JavaScript
  - Fewer limitations
  - Graphical interface

# PDF Scripting

## Acrobat 6.0 Professional

- Acrobat 5.0 batch sequences still work
- Batch command moved to Advanced Menu
- New built-in commands
- New JavaScript commands
- New output formats