

### ePUB storms ahead

The ePUB standard, which is shortly to be upgraded to Release 3, has been adopted as the preferred default format for most mobile book reader devices - read more in our newsletter



### Our new US-hosted website

Publishers and users will have noticed that our main website address is now a .com address and is hosted on US servers. If you haven't visited the site recently please do - just click on the image below:



... and if you have links that point to our .co.uk site you might

## PDF and Ebook News - March 2011

This month's topics are provided below - next month we will be discussing the implications of the rise of the iPad and similar devices, amongst other hot topics!

### In this month's Drumlin News:

- [ePUB or PDF?](#)
- [French travel guide books set to use Drumlin "Click and Go"](#)
- [Adobe closes its Document Center Service](#)
- [Drumlin's 1000th publisher](#)
- [Our new US-based website](#)

### ePUB or PDF for digital book publishing?

".epub" ([ePUB](#)) is the file extension of an XML format for reflowable digital books and publications. Reflowable means that the format of the document is allowed to alter if the font size is changed by the user and/or to reflect the available display area of the reader device. As such it is perfect for portable devices with small screens - the disadvantage is that this process destroys formatting such as columns, tables, equations and picture layouts. This means that publishers are using ePUB for simple book layouts but need to stick to PDF for books that are more than just text plus the occasional inserted picture. [ePUB release 3](#), currently in discussion, will provide improvements to formatting and embedded media capabilities, but still within the reflowable paradigm of operation. The [Wikipedia entry for ePUB](#) provides an excellent summary of the history, ongoing developments and support for ePUB.

As the Openepub website of the International Digital Publishing Forum ([IDPF](#)) explains: "epub allows publishers to produce and send a single digital publication file through a range of distribution channels and offers consumers interoperability between software/hardware for unencrypted reflowable digital books and other publications." Note that an optional digital rights management (DRM) layer is permitted by the specification but the details are not defined. In practice current DRMs that support ePUB are often device or provider specific.

[ePUB](#) is the format supported by many platforms including [Adobe's Digital Editions](#) (which also supports PDFs), [Apple's iBooks app](#) for the iPad, the very successful [Barnes and Noble "Nook"](#) reader, and many other mobile ebook readers. The Nook can read PDF files but these are not DRM protected - B&N say ebooks now outsell their physical books 2:1. Amazon's Kindle range uses a similar format to ePUB and its own DRM. Their preferred format for uploading is HTML and it does not seem likely that they will support PDF files with DRM. For more details see:

<http://forums.kindledirectpublishing.com/kdpforums/index.jspa>

At Drumlin Security we are considering adding support for ePUB documents - please let us know whether this is something you would like to see!

### French travel guide books set to use Drumlin "Click and Go"

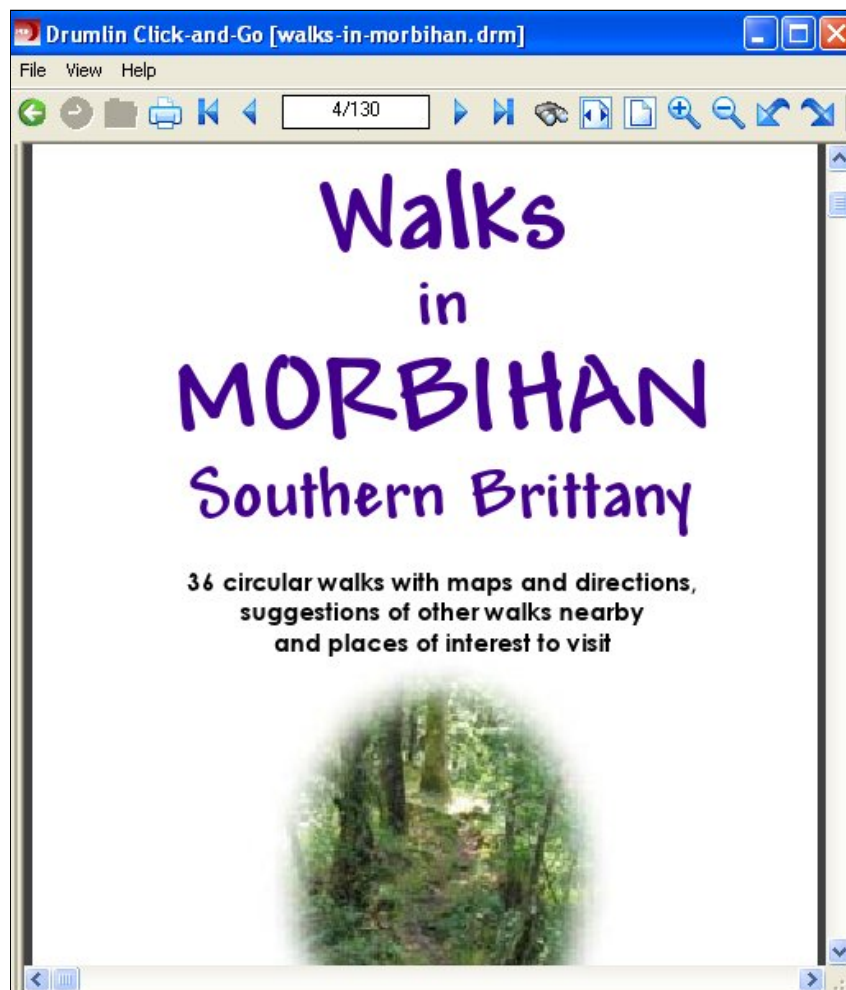
The new Drumlin "[Click and Go](#)" solution with our core DRM service is attracting a lot of interest, especially from smaller publishers. This is in part because Adobe's solution, [ACS4](#), is very expensive to purchase and to run. The alternative option, using an [ACS4 service provider](#), typically presents a poor return because setup and service costs are high making the business case for such an approach weak.

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#### Drumlin's 1000th publisher

A user from Bolivia became the 1000th Drumlin user to publish secure PDFs with our free Drumlin PDF software. Drumlin is used extensively in South America, partly initiated by the pioneering work of Dr Gabriel Moncayo-Romero, with his publications on Biogas Engineering. See <http://www.aqualimpia.com/> for more details (in Spanish)

We are working with several smaller publishers around the world to enable them to publish their catalogue of PDF books at very low per book cost. One example is the French publisher, [Red Dog Books](#), whose series of travel guides are shortly to be made available using our Click and Go offering (see below). This will be an extended project for them as they will look to cross-platform delivery in addition to pure PDF offerings. Other publishers already using or trialling Drumlin "Click and Go" include businesses in the USA, UK, China, Japan and Australia.



#### Adobe closes its Document Center service

The Adobe Document Center (<http://dc.adobe.com>) service is to close on April 2nd. The service, which was launched in 2007, has not been a runaway success. It provided a Web-based solution to protect and control PDFs and other documents even after distribution and was integrated with Adobe Acrobat 8. The latest message from Adobe to its customers states:

***"Important: after the Service shuts down you, or anyone you have distributed documents protected via the Service, will no longer be able to open/access these documents. We strongly encourage you to use Adobe Acrobat to unprotect these documents before the Service is shut down...."***