



See also

**Critical “however imagined”  
What happens with different technology?**

These notes are within an A4 page that may become an A3 poster during the year. It follows the ‘Theory in Action’ conference last year and may link to the Critical whatever this July. The working context is trying to understand how Acrobat features for online collaboration would be useful.

Acrobat has always included the capability to add notes, highlighting, links to other files or web connections. With Acrobat 5 this can happen online with several people sharing the same file. So far there is limited awareness of how this could be useful, especially as it requires a full copy of Acrobat for each user, rather than the free Reader usually installed with a web browser.

The word ‘critical’ is being used with a range of meanings. It might be associated with Habermas but is also used to describe forms of reflection associated with Dewey. The ‘Evidence-Based’ approach is linked to ‘critical appraisal skills’ that may seem to be something different for other people who use the word ‘critical’.

Exetreme is working with the Center for Evidence Based Social Services on their existing web site and on Be-Evidence-Based, a new site with document management for relevant texts, some in PDF format. So far there has not been much development of email discussion or forms of unedited feedback.

A previous paper on ISO 9000 used the Burrell and Morgan categories on organisation theories as a way to look at ideas on quality. It may be that the word ‘critical’ can now be used in most parts of the possible space covered by their paradigms.

Without investing in Acrobat there are several other options. Email text can be easily copied into something else and commented on. Word is widely available and has many features for commenting or versioning. FirstClass is an example of software that makes more use of email for collaboration and online learning. WebDAV is a set of standards for online authoring and versioning. They are one basis for Acrobat but also support open source methods though they need some effort in application.

Until there are more examples of Acrobat being used for online review and markup it would be useful to get more understanding of what is happening when other software is used. Any guidance on existing theories or research would be welcome.

Probably Acrobat would be used in formal situations where records of approval signatures and document changes are important. This may have the effect that suggested changes are usually within the original intention of the person originating the document.

**This text exists as PDF, text and Word.** Any comment in any form is welcome. This may not fit directly in a discussion on critical theory. However background on how learning happens may fit with a future stream on technology.

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3 Jan 2002

Weblog saved as PDF end June

