RinohType

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1 Introduction

1.1 Design Concepts

RinohType was initially conceived as a modern replacement for LaTeX. An important goal in the design of RinohType is for documents to be much easier to customize than in LaTeX. By today's standards, the arcane TeX macro language upon which LaTeX is built makes customization unnecessarily difficult for one. Simply being built with Python makes RinohType already much easier to approach than TeX. Additionally, RinohType is built around the following core concepts to ensure customizability:

Document templates

These determine the page layout and (for longer documents) the different parts of your document.

Style sheets

The CSS-inspired style sheets determine the look of individual document elements.

Structured Input

RinohType renders a document from a document tree that does not describe any style aspects but only describes semantics. The style sheet maps specific style properties to the elements in this document tree. The document tree can be generated from a structured document format such as reStructuredText and DocBook using one of the included parsers, or it can be built manually.

As RinohType is implemented as a Python package, it doubles as a high-level PDF library. It's modular design makes it easy to to customize and extend for specific applications. Because RinohType's source code is open, all of its internals can be inspected and even modified, making it extremely customizable.

One RinohType's key design concepts is to limit the core's size to keep things simple but make it easy to build extensions. Currently the core of RinohType (excluding frontends, backends and font parsers) consists of less than 4000 lines.

1.2 Usage Examples

RinohType supports three modes of operation. These are discussed in more detail in Quickstart guide.

1.2.1 reStructuredText Renderer

RinohType comes with a command-line tool rinoh that can render reStructuredText documents. Rendering the reStructuredText demonstration article demo.txt (using the standard article template and style sheet) generates demo.pdf.

1.2.2 Sphinx Builder

Configuring RinohType as a builder for Sphinx allows rendering a Sphinx project to PDF without the need for a LaTeX installation. This very document you are reading was rendered using RinohType's Sphinx builder.

1.2.3 High-level PDF library

RinohType can be used in a Python application to generate PDF documents. This basically

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involves three choices:

- 1) You can use one of the **document templates** included with RinohType and optionally customize it to your needs. Or you can create a custom template from scratch.
- 2) Choose to start from one of included style sheets or roll your own.
- 3) The **document tree** can be parsed from a structured document format such as reStructuredText or built manually using building blocks provided by RinohType. Both approaches allow for parts of the content to be fetched from a database or other data sources. When parsing the document tree from a structured document format, a templating engine like Jinja2 can be used.

2 Installation

RinohType supports Python 3.2 and up. Depending on demand, it might be back-ported to Python 2.7, however*.

Use pip to install the latest version of RinohType and its dependencies:

```
pip install rinohtype
```

If you plan on using RinohType as an alternative to LaTeX, you will want to install Sphinx as well:

```
pip install Sphinx
```

See Sphinx Builder in the Quickstart guide on how to render Sphinx documents with Rino-hType.

2.1 Dependencies

For parsing reStructuredText documents RinohType depends on docutils. For parsing PNG images the pure-Python PurePNG package is required. pip takes care of these requirements automatically when you install RinohType.

If you want to include images other than PDF, PNG or JPEG, you will need to install Pillow additionally.

* Be sure to contact us if you are interested in running RinohType on Python 2.7.

^{*} Be sure to contact us if you are interested in running RinohType on Python 2.7.

3 Quickstart

This section gets you started quickly, discussing each of the three modes of operation introduced in Introduction. Additionally, the basics of style sheets and document templates are explained.

3.1 reStructuredText Renderer

Installing RinohType places the rinoh script in the PATH. This can be used to render reStructuredText documents such as demo.txt:

```
rinoh demo.txt
```

After rendering finishes, you will find demo.pdf alongside the input file.

At this moment, rinoh does not yet accept many command-line options. It always renders the reStructuredText document using the article template. You can however specify the paper size using the --paper command line argument.

3.2 Sphinx Builder

To use RinohType to render Sphinx documents, you need to adjust the Sphinx project's conf.py:

- 1) add rinoh.frontend.sphinx to the extensions list, and
- 2) set the rinoh_documents configuration option:

3) (optional) you can customize some aspects of the document template such as margins and headers and footer text by specifying rinoh_options:

The Sphinx builder uses the Book document template[†]. rinoh_options are passed to BookOptions, so see its documentation for details.

4) now we can select the *rinoh* builder when building the documentation:

```
sphinx-build -b rinoh . _build/rinoh
```

† This will be configurable in the future.

3.3 High-level PDF library

The most basic way to use the RinohType package is to hook up an included parser, a style sheet and a document template:

```
from rinoh.paper import A4
from rinoh.backend import pdf
from rinoh.frontend.rst import ReStructuredTextParser
from rinohlib.stylesheets.sphinx import styles as STYLESHEET
from rinohlib.templates.article import Article, ArticleOptions
# the parser builds a RinohType document tree
parser = ReStructuredTextParser()
with open('my_document.rst') as rst_file:
    document_tree = parser.parse(rst_file)
# customize the article template
article_options = ArticleOptions(page_size=A4, columns=2,
                                 table of contents=True,
                                 stylesheet=STYLESHEET)
# render the document to 'my_document.pdf'
document = Article(document_tree, options=article_options,
                   backend=pdf)
document.render('my_document')
```

This basic application can be customized to your specific requirements by customizing the style sheet, the document template and the way the document's content tree is built. The basics of style sheets and document templates are covered the the sections below.

The document tree returned by the ReStructuredTextParser in the example above can be easily built manually. *document_tree* is simply a list of Flowables. These flowables can have children flowables. These in turn can also have children, and so on; together they form a tree.

Here is an example document tree of a short article:

It is obvious this type of content is best parsed from a structured document file such as reStructuredText or XML. Manually building a document tree is well suited for short, custom docu-

ments however. Please refer to the invoice example for details.

3.4 Style Sheets

A RinohType style sheet is defined in a Pyton source file, as an instance of the StyleSheet class. For each document element, the style sheet object registers a list of style properties.

This is similar to how HTML's cascading style sheets work. In RinohType however, style properties are assigned to document elements by means of a descriptive label for the latter instead of a selector. RinohType also makes use of selectors, but these are collected in a <code>StyledMatcher</code>. Unless you are using RinohType as a PDF library to creating custom documents, the default matcher should cover your needs.

3.4.1 Building on an existing style sheet

Starting from an existing style sheet, it is easy to make small changes to the style of individual document elements. The following example creates a new style sheet based on the Sphinx stylesheet included with RinohType. The style sheet redefines the style for emphasized text, displaying it in a bold instead of italic font.

```
from rinoh.dimension import PT
from rinoh.font.style import BOLD
from rinohlib.stylesheets.sphinx import styles

my_style_sheet = StyleSheet('My Style Sheet', base=styles)

my_style_sheet('emphasis', font_weight=BOLD)
```

Here, the new new style definition completely replaces the style definition contained in the Sphinx style sheet. It is also possible to override only part of the style definition. The following style definition changes only the item spacing between enumerated list items. All other style properties (such as the left margin and the item numbering format) remain unchanged.

3.4.2 Starting with a clean slate

Instantiating a new style sheet without passing it a base style sheet creates an independent style sheet. You need to specify the StyledMatcher to use in this case.

If a style definition for a particular document element is missing, the default values for its style properties are used.

3.5 Documument Templates

As with style sheets, you can choose to make use of the templates provided by RinohType or you can create a custom template from scratch. This section only covers the former. For an

example of how to create a custom template, see the invoice example.

RinohType includes two document templates; Article and Book. Theese templates can be customized by passing an ArticleOptions or BookOptions instance as options on template instantiation respectively. Both these classes derive from DocumentOptions and thus accept the options offered by it:

```
class rinohlib.templates.base.DocumentOptions ( **options )
Collects options to customize a DocumentTemplate. Options are specified as keyword
arguments (options) matching the class's attributes.
    columns
    Description The number of columns for the body text (int)
    Default
    footer_text
    \textbf{Description} \ \ \textbf{The text to place in the page footer} \ (\texttt{MixedStyledText})
    Default
                $PAGE_NUMBER/$NUMBER_OF_PAGES
    header_text
    Description
                The text to place in the page header (MixedStyledText)
    Default
                $SECTION_NUMBER(1) $SECTION_TITLE(1)
    page_horizontal_margin
    Description The margin size on the left and the right of the page (DimensionBase)
    Default
                85.04pt
    page_orientation
    \textbf{Description} \ \ \textbf{The orientation of pages in the document (PageOrientation)}
    Default
                portrait
    page_size
    Description The format of the pages in the document (Paper)
    Default
                A4
    page_vertical_margin
    Description
                The margin size on the top and bottom of the page (DimensionBase)
    Default
                85.04pt
    show_author
    Description
                Show or hide the document's author (bool)
    Default
                True
    show_date
    Description Show or hide the document's date (bool)
    Default
                True
    stylesheet
```

Description The stylesheet to use for styling document elements (StyleSheet)

```
Default
                      StyleSheet(Sphinx)
The Article and Book templates also have some specific options:
    class rinohlib.templates.article.ArticleOptions ( **options )
         abstract_location
         \textbf{Description} \ \ \textbf{Where to place the abstract (AbstractLocation)}
         Default
                      front matter
         table_of_contents
         \textbf{Description} \ \text{Show or hide the table of contents (bool)}
         Default
                      True
    class rinohlib.templates.book.BookOptions ( **options )
         extra
         \textbf{Description} \ \ \textbf{Extra text to include on the title page below the title (\texttt{MixedStyledText})}
         Default
                      None
```

[†] This will be configurable in the future.



4 Advanced Topics

This sections serves as a reference for various building blocks making up RinohType. The information presented here is useful for those who want to learn how element styling works in RinohType, which is helpful when creating custom style sheets.

4.1 Flowables and Inline Elements

A Flowable is a document element that is placed on a page. It is usually a part of a document tree. Flowables at one level in a document tree are rendered one below the other.

Here is schematic representation of an example document tree:

```
|- Section
   |- Paragraph
   \- Paragraph
\- Section
   |- Paragraph
   |- List
       |- ListItem
           |- Paragraph (item number or bullet)
            \- StaticGroupedFlowables (item body)
                \- Paragraph
        \- ListItem
           \- Paragraph
            \- StaticGroupedFlowables
                \- List
                    |- ListItem
                    \- ...
    \- Paragraph
```

This represents a document consisting of two sections. The first section contains two paragraphs. The second section contains a paragraph followed by a list and another paragraph. All of the elements in this tree are instances of Flowable subclasses.

Section and List are subclasses of GroupedFlowables; they group a number of other flowables. In the case of List, these are always of the ListItem type. Each list item contains an item number (ordered list) or a bullet symbol (unordered list) and an item body. For simple lists, the item body is typically a single Paragraph. The second list item contains a nested List.

A Paragraph does not have any Flowable children. It is however the root node of a tree of inline elements. This is an example paragraph in which several text styles are combined:

The eventual style of the words in this paragraph is determined by the applied style sheet. Read more about this in the next section.

Besides SingleStyledText and MixedStyledText elements (subclasses of StyledText),

paragraphs can also contain InlineFlowables. Currently, the only inline flowable is InlineImage.

The common superclass for flowable and inline elements is Styled, which indicates that these elements can be styled using the style sheets discussed in the next section.

4.2 Style Sheets

RinohType's style sheets are heavily inspired by CSS, but add some functionality that CSS lacks. Similar to CSS, RinohType makes use of so-called *selectors* to select document elements (flowables or inline elements) to style.

Unlike CSS however, these selectors are not directly specified in a style sheet. Instead, all selectors are collected in a *matcher* where they are mapped to descriptive labels for the selected elements. The actual *style sheets* assign style properties to these labels. Besides the usefulness of having these labels instead of the more cryptic selectors, a matcher can be reused by multiple style sheets, avoiding duplication.

4.2.1 Selectors

Selectors in RinohType always select elements of a particular type. The **class** of a document element is also a selector for all instances of the class (and its subclasses). This selector matches all paragraphs in the document, for example:

```
Paragraph
```

As with CSS selectors, elements can also be matched based on their context. For example, the following matches any paragraph that is a direct child of a list item (the list item number or symbol):

```
ListItem / Paragraph
```

Python's ellipsis can be used to match any number of levels of elements in the document tree. The following selector matches any paragraph element at any level inside a table cell:

```
TableCell / ... / Paragraph
```

Selectors can select all instances of Styled subclasses. These include Flowable and StyledText, but also TableSection, TableRow, Line and Shape. Elements of the latter classes are children of certain flowables (such as table).

Similar to HTML/CSS's *class* attribute, Styled elements can have a **style** attribute which can be specified when constructing a selector. This one selects all styled text elements with the *emphasis* style, for example:

```
StyledText.like('emphasis')
```

The like() method can also match **arbitrary attributes** of elements. This can be used to do more advanced things such as selecting the background objects on all odd rows of a table, limited to the cells not spanning multiple rows:

```
TableCell.like(row_index=slice(0, None, 2), rowspan=1) / TableCellBackground
```

The argument passed as *row_index* is slice object that is used for extended indexing. Indexing a list lst[slice(0, None, 2)] is equivalent to lst[0::2].

RinohType borrows CSS's concept of specificity to determine the "winning" selector when multiple selectors match a given document element. Roughly stated, the more specific selector will win. For example:

```
ListItem / Paragraph # specificity (0, 0, 2)
```

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wins over:

```
Paragraph # specificity (0, 0, 1)
```

since it matches two elements instead of just one.

Specificity is represented as a 3-tuple. The three elements represent the number of style, attributes and class matches. Here are some selectors along with their specificity:

```
StyledText.like('emphasis') # specificity (1, 0, 1)
TableCell / ... / Paragraph # specificity (0, 0, 2)
TableCell.like(row_index=2, rowspan=1) # specificity (0, 1, 1)
```

Specificity ordering is the same as tuple ordering, so (1, 0, 0) wins over (0, 5, 0) and (0, 0, 3) for example. Only when the number of style matches are equal the attributes match count is compared, and so on.

4.2.2 Matchers

At the most basic level, a StyledMatcher is a dictionary that maps descriptions to selectors:

RinohType currently includes one styled matcher which defines labels for all common elements in documents:

from rinohlib.stylesheets.matcher import matcher

4.2.3 Style Sheets

A StyleSheet takes a StyledMatcher to provide element labels to assign style properties to:

```
styles = StyleSheet('IEEE', matcher=matcher)
...
styles('emphasis', font_slant=ITALIC)
styles('nested line block', margin_left=0.5*CM)
...
```

Each Styled has a Style class associated with it. For Paragraph, this is ParagraphStyle. These style classes determine which style attributes are accepted for the styled element. The style class is automatically determined from the selector, so it is possible to simply pass the style properties to the style sheet.

Variables

Variables can be used for values that are used in multiple style definitions. This example declares a variable fonts to allow easily changing the fonts in a style sheet:

```
from rinoh.font import TypeFamily
from rinohlib.fonts.texgyre.pagella import typeface as palatino
from rinohlib.fonts.texgyre.cursor import typeface as courier
from rinohlib.fonts.texgyre.heros import typeface as helvetica
styles.variables['font'] = TypeFamily(serif=times,
```

Another stylesheet can inherit (see below) from this one and easily replace all fonts in the document by overriding the fonts variable.

Style Property Resolution

The style system makes a distinction between text (inline) elements and flowables with respect to how property values are resolved.

Text elements by default inherit the properties from their parent. Take for example the emphasis style definition from the example above. The value for style properties other than font_slant (which is defined in the emphasis style itself) will be looked up in the style definition corresponding to the parent element. That can be another StyledText instance, or a Paragraph. If that style definition neither defines the style property, the lookup proceeds recursively, moving up in the document tree.

For **flowables**, there is no fall-back to the parent's style by default. A base style can be explicitly specified however. If a style property is not present in a particular style definition, it is looked up in the base style.

This can also help avoid duplication of style information and the resulting maintenance difficulties. In the following example, the unnumbered heading level 1 style inherits all properties from heading level 1, overriding only the number_format property:

When a value for a particular style property is set nowhere in the style definition lookup hierarchy its default value is returned. The default values for all style properties are defined in the class definition for each of the Style subclasses.

For both text elements and flowables, it is possible to override the default behavior of falling back to the parent's style or not. For <code>TextStyle</code> styles, setting base to <code>None</code> or another <code>TextStyle</code> prevents fallback to the parent element's style. For flowables, <code>base</code> can be set to <code>PARENT_STYLE</code> to enable fallback, but this requires that the current element type is the same or a subclass of the parent type, so it is not recommended.

Extending a Style Sheet

A style sheet can be extended by defining a new style sheet that references it as a base:

```
from rinohlib.stylesheets.sphinx import stylesheet
my_style_sheet = StyleSheet('my style', base=stylesheet)
```

The new stylesheet can override styles defined in the base style sheet. The following redefines the emphasis style to display emphasized text in a bold font:

```
my_style_sheet('emphasis', font_weight=BOLD)
```

Variables can also be overridden. This overrides the fonts variable in order to replace the serif font defined in the Sphinx style sheet (Palatino) with Times:

The variable's new value also affects styles defined in the base style sheet.

The new style sheet can optionally be passed a StyledMatcher to define new styles. This is useful when you want to have custom markup in your document, such as custom roles or directives are used in a reStructuredText document. For example, the following defines a custom style to apply to text that is tagged with the acronym role:

5 API Documentation

5.1 Flowables

5.1.1 Base Class for Flowables

```
class rinoh.flowable.Flowable (id=None, style=None, parent=None)
```

An element that can be 'flowed' into a Container. A flowable can adapt to the width of the container, or it can horizontally align itself in the container.

```
class rinoh.flowable.FlowableStyle ( base=None, **attributes )
```

The Style for Flowable objects. It has the following attributes:

- *space_above*: Vertical space preceding the flowable (Dimension)
- *space_below*: Vertical space following the flowable (Dimension)
- margin_left: Left margin (class:Dimension).
- *margin_right*: Right margin (class:*Dimension*).
- horizontal_align: Alignment of the rendered flowable between the left

and right margins (LEFT, CENTER or RIGHT).

```
class rinoh.flowable.FlowableState ( _initial=True )
```

Stores a Flowable's rendering state, which can be copied. This enables saving the rendering state at certain points in the rendering process, so rendering can later be resumed at those points, if needed.

5.1.2 Flowables that Do Not Render Anything

These flowables do not place anything on the page. All except <code>DummyFlowable</code> do have side-effects however. Some of these side-effects affect the rendering of the document in an indirect way.

```
class rinoh.flowable.DummyFlowable ( parent=None )
class rinoh.flowable.SetMetadataFlowable ( parent=None, **metadata )
class rinoh.flowable.WarnFlowable ( message, parent=None )
class rinoh.flowable.PageBreak ( break_type )
```

class rinoh.flowable.LabeledFlowableStyle (base=None, **attributes)

5.1.3 Labeled Flowables

```
\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{class} & \texttt{rinoh.flowable.LabeledFlowable} & (\textit{label, flowable, id=None, style=None, parent=None}) \\ \end{tabular}
```

5.1.4 Grouping Flowables

```
class rinoh.flowable.GroupedFlowables (id=None, style=None, parent=None)

class rinoh.flowable.GroupedFlowablesStyle (base=None, **attributes)

class rinoh.flowable.GroupedFlowablesState (flowables, first_flowable_state=None, _initial=True)

class rinoh.flowable.StaticGroupedFlowables (flowables, id=None, style=None, parent=None)

class rinoh.flowable.GroupedLabeledFlowables (id=None, style=None, parent=None)
```

5.1.5 Horizontally Aligned Flowables

```
class rinoh.flowable.HorizontallyAlignedFlowable ( id=None, style=None, paren-
t=None )

class rinoh.flowable.HorizontallyAlignedFlowableStyle ( base=None, **at-
tributes )

class rinoh.flowable.HorizontallyAlignedFlowableState (_initial=True )
```

5.1.6 Floating Flowables

```
class rinoh.flowable.Float (flowable, style=None, parent=None)
```

Transform a Flowable into a floating element. A floating element or 'float' is not flowed into its designated container, but is forwarded to another container pointed to by the former's Container.float_space attribute.

This is typically used to place figures and tables at the top or bottom of a page, instead of in between paragraphs.

5.2 Paragraph

```
{\bf class}\;{\tt rinoh.paragraph.ParagraphBase}\;(\;{\it id=None,style=None,parent=None}\;)
```

A paragraph of mixed-styled text that can be flowed into a Container.

```
render ( container, descender, state=None )
```

Typeset the paragraph onto *container*, starting below the current cursor position of the container. *descender* is the descender height of the preceding line or *None*. When the end of the container is reached, the rendering state is preserved to continue setting the rest of the paragraph when this method is called with a new container.

```
style_class
```

alias of ParagraphStyle

```
class rinoh.paragraph .Paragraph ( text_or_items, id=None, style=None, parent=None )
```

```
class rinoh.paragraph.ParagraphStyle ( base=None, **attributes )
```

The Style for Paragraph objects. It has the following attributes:

- *indent_first*: Indentation of the first line of text (class:*Dimension*).
- *line_spacing*: Spacing between the baselines of two successive lines of text (LineSpacing).
- justify: Alignment of the text to the margins (LEFT,

```
RIGHT, CENTER or BOTH).
```

• *tab_stops*: The tab stops for this paragraph (list of TabStop).

```
class rinoh.paragraph.ParagraphState ( words, nested_flowable_state=None,
_first_word=None,_initial=True)
```

5.2.1 Inline Elements

```
class rinoh.text.StyledText (style=None, parent=None)
Base class for text that has a TextStyle associated with it.
    height ( document )
    Font size after super/subscript size adjustment.
    is_script ( document )
    Returns True if this styled text is super/subscript.
    script_level ( document )
    Nesting level of super/subscript.
    spans ()
    Generator yielding all spans in this styled text, one item at a time (used in typesetting).
    style_class
    alias of TextStyle
    y_offset ( document )
    Vertical baseline offset (up is positive).
class rinoh.text.SingleStyledText ( text, style=None, parent=None )
Styled text where all text shares a single TextStyle.
    font ( document )
    The Font described by this single-styled text's style.
    If the exact font style as described by the font_weight, font_slant and font_width style
    attributes is not present in the typeface, the closest font available is returned instead,
    and a warning is printed.
    split ( container )
    Yield the words and spaces in this single-styled text.
class rinoh.text.MixedStyledText ( text_or_items, style=None, parent=None )
```

Concatenation of StyledText objects.

```
append (item)
```

Append *item* (StyledText or str) to the end of this mixed-styled text.

The parent of *item* is set to this mixed-styled text.

```
spans ( document )
```

Recursively yield all the SingleStyledText items in this mixed-styled text.

5.2.2 Styling Properties

Line Spacing

```
class rinoh.paragraph.LineSpacing
```

Base class for line spacing types. Line spacing is defined as the distance between the base-lines of two consecutive lines.

```
advance ( line, last_descender, document )
```

Return the distance between the descender of the previous line and the baseline of the current line.

```
class rinoh.paragraph.DefaultSpacing
```

The default line spacing as specified by the font.

```
class rinoh.paragraph.ProportionalSpacing (factor )
```

Line spacing proportional to the line height.

class rinoh.paragraph.FixedSpacing (pitch, minimum=<rinoh.paragraph.ProportionalSpacing object>)

Fixed line spacing, with optional minimum spacing.

```
class rinoh.paragraph.Leading (leading)
```

Line spacing determined by the space in between two lines.

Tabulation

```
class rinoh.paragraph.TabStop ( position, align='left', fill=None )
```

Horizontal position for aligning text of successive lines.

```
get_position (line_width)
```

Return the absolute position of this tab stop.

```
class rinoh.paragraph.Paragraph ( text_or_items, id=None, style=None, parent=None )
```

```
class rinoh.paragraph.Paragraph (text_or_items, id=None, style=None, parent=None)
```

5.2.3 Rendering Internals

```
class rinoh.paragraph.GlyphAndWidth ( glyph, width )
class rinoh.paragraph.GlyphsSpan ( span, word_to_glyphs )
```

5.2.4 Miscellaneous Internals

 ${\bf class}\;{\tt rinoh.paragraph.HyphenatorStore}$



6 Release History

6.1 Release 0.1.3 (2015-08-04)

- recover from the slow rendering speed caused by a bugfix in 0.1.2 (thanks to optimized element matching in the style sheets)
- other improvements and bugfixes related to style sheets

6.2 Release 0.1.2 (2015-07-31)

- much improved Sphinx support (we can now render the Sphinx documentation)
- more complete support for reStructuredText (docutils) elements
- various fixes related to footnote placement
- page break option when starting a new section
- fixes in handling of document sections and parts
- improvements to section/figure/table references
- native support for PNG and JPEG images (drops PIL/Pillow requirement, but adds PurePNG 0.1.1 requirement)
- new 'sphinx' stylesheet used by the Sphinx builder (~ Sphinx LaTeX style)
- restores Python 3.2 compatibility

6.3 Release 0.1.1 (2015-04-12)

First preview release