PNG WG Meeting Minutes

Nov 13th, 2023

Topics & Minutes:

- Additional color models / non-color / data storage
  - A key part of PNG is its simplicity. Can we preserve that? An addition which complicates things might be better off as PNG 2.
  - The existing list in IHDR can be extended. But doing so would break existing decoders.
  - We could maintain the existing list and use it as a fallback. Then a new chunk could build on it.
    - This could also signal different data storage.
    - We need to maintain a fallback for current decoders. Would a thumbnail (and its extra data) be sufficient if we really need to break things?
  - Any change to PNG is likely affecting a vast audience. If there are problems with the EXR space, it might be easier to update EXR than PNG.
  - We should invite experts / community interest if we do open the gates to different data storage.
  - Should a chunk start as private and eventually be promoted to public? This happened in the past but was problematic.
  - PNG's HDR through CICP is useful for broadcasting (end-of-the-pipeline viewing). But to support all HDR, we might also want to support the rest of the pipeline (processing).
  - A lot of chunks are discarded by image editors. Any new tag we could potentially add would (currently) be discarded by image editors. This could hinder adoption if any image touched becomes misrepresented. (Think CDNs)
- Marketing subgroup
  - Chris Seeger pointed out increasing awareness in the broadcast community.

Action Items:

- Chris Blume to continue on eXIf-after-image-data test.
- Rich to provide problem statement to invite comments. (Make sure to mention who produces and consumes the files to preserve interchange.)