

SOFTWARE

PERSONALIZED PDFS

22.01.2022

31.5.2022

Learned only today that back in January @json_dirs was able to identify also an hashcode injected by Elsevier. Interesting that “just” exiftool is sufficient for that.

More fun publisher surveillance:

Elsevier embeds a hash in the PDF metadata that is *unique for each time a PDF is downloaded*, this is a diff between metadata from two of the same paper. Combined with access timestamps, they can uniquely identify the source of any shared PDFs. pic.twitter.com/D9KxnXkMVu

— jonny saunders (@json_dirs) [January 25, 2022](#)

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