

Membership in the PDF Association

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Background



Founded in 2006 as the PDF/A Competence Center, today the PDF Association is a global coalition of commercial and non-profit organizations, with

offices in Europe and the United States. Serving as the secretariat for ISO TC 171 SC 2, the PDF Association develops ISO standards for PDF technology and supports software and services vendors, thought leaders and end users in the digital document space.

PDF Association membership

- **Promote your company and its solutions**
- **Affiliate your organization with ISO standardized technology and best-practices**
- **Post your case studies, white papers, company news and events on pdfa.org**
- **Leverage pdfa.org to post your thought-leadership content**
- **Monitor and participate in industry-supported resources and best practices development**
- **Network with the PDF technology community**
- **Access in-depth technical resources**
- **Influence and track PDF standards development**

PDF is everywhere

Today, trillions of PDF files exist across almost every business and government organization worldwide.

PDF documents dominate critical communications such as contracts, invoices, reports, forms, and laws.

Thousands of independent vendors worldwide offer PDF-based solutions including PDF viewing and creation tools, servers, plug-ins, cloud-based services, consulting, training and tools.

The Portable Document Format

Adobe transferred PDF technology to ISO's control in 2008, but ISO committees write standards; they don't promote adoption.



In addition to launching the PDF format in 1993, that same year Adobe made their PDF reader free and published the format's specification for any developer to use.

Today, almost every computer, mobile device and printer includes the ability to display, create or edit PDF files. The Portable Document Format (PDF) is the de facto standard for digital documents worldwide. No other technology comes close to PDF in marketplace acceptance.

Stakeholders

- **Solutions providers** who promote their ideas, companies, products and services.
- **Application developers** who leverage members-only resources to optimize their use of PDF technology
- **PDF developers** who share their knowledge and experience to ensure a common understanding of the standards
- **Government agencies** planning regulations and guidance for agencies and industry
- **Decision-makers** who learn about the role and capabilities of PDF technology in ECM, CCM, manufacturing, printing, publishing, and other digital document applications.
- **End users** who benefit from new and improved features and greater interoperability between products

PDF standards

- PDF 1.7 became ISO 32000 in 2008
- PDF 2.0 was published in 2017
- ISO-standardized subsets of PDF serve diverse industries
 - 2001, PDF/X (High-end printing)
 - 2005, PDF/A (Archiving)
 - 2007, PDF/E (Engineering)
 - 2012, PDF/VT (Variable and Transactional)
 - 2012, PDF/UA (Accessibility)
 - 2020, PDF/R (Imaging)
- PDF is a national standard in dozens of countries

PDF Association Communities

The PDF Association hosts a wide variety of technical, marketing and liaison working groups developing diverse content of value to the vendor community as a whole, including best practice guides, test suites, application notes, open-source software and more. Members may propose community projects and lead development to promote common interests.

PDF Association communities include (but are not limited to):

- **PDF Technical Working Group (TWG)** A core list for PDF developers and a forum for discussing new features and improvements to the format.
- **PDF/UA TWG** The principal forum for developers supporting PDF/UA (ISO 14289), the ISO standard for accessible PDF.
- **PDF/UA Marketing Working Group (MWG)** Especially for marketers of accessibility products and services, this group considers outreach and advocacy around accessible PDF.
- **Accessibility Service Bureau Working Group** Considers matters of interest to accessibility service providers and consultants
- **Next Generation PDF TWG** Focusing on integrating web technology with PDF, this group developed Deriving HTML from PDF and addresses opportunities for specification development in this area.
- **PDF/VT TWG** A forum for development of application notes and best practices for variable and transactional data applications in printing and output management.
- **PDF Validation TWG** Supervises development of the industry-supported veraPDF Test Suite and PDF/A validator open source project, this TWG continues to address validation questions for the PDF specification.

Developers: 4 reasons to join

The meeting-place for developers working with PDF.

- **Technical Working Groups** technical documentation conversation and workshops on PDF standards.
- **Inspiration and opportunity** monitor and propose new specifications and ancillary best-practices.
- **ISO standards** access to drafts under development, and the opportunity to participate in the process.
- **Networking** At the PDF Association, the future of the format is in your hands and its potential is yours to find.

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Member benefits

Identify with the experts Adding the PDF Association logo to your own marketing and promotional materials affiliates your organization with excellence in the use of PDF technology.

Showcase your offerings Posting your company, products, services, case studies, white papers and presentations on pdfa.org extends your marketing reach and creates valuable in-links from a valuable domain: pdfa.org.

Unique marketing opportunities Participate in the PDF Association's worldwide conference and trade show presences with sponsorship options and reduced-cost tickets for employees, customers and contacts.

Influence specification and best practice development By joining a Working Group you can add your voice to influence upcoming standards and best-practice documents. Participating in a Marketing Working Group provides a means of collaboration with other industry members in developing end-user oriented assets.

Be among the first to know Members-only content includes drafts of upcoming ISO standards.

International networking PDF Association working groups and in-person events provide opportunities to interact with leading experts to discuss PDF topics, float new ideas and find inspiration for your own innovations.

How to join

For details and application forms email info@pdfa.org or visit pdfa.org/become-a-member

Vendors: 4 reasons to join

The industry association for vendors using PDF technology.

- **Reputation** showcase your commitment to ISO-standardized PDF technology.
- **Promotion** a members-only venue to promote products, services, case studies and more
- **Business intelligence** industry information, research, news and networking.
- **Thought leadership** express your vision on pdfa.org and at industry events.