

# Validating Digital Signatures in PDF

About User Experiences And Pitfalls

PDF Days Online 2021

### © Photo by Mick Haupt on Unsplash



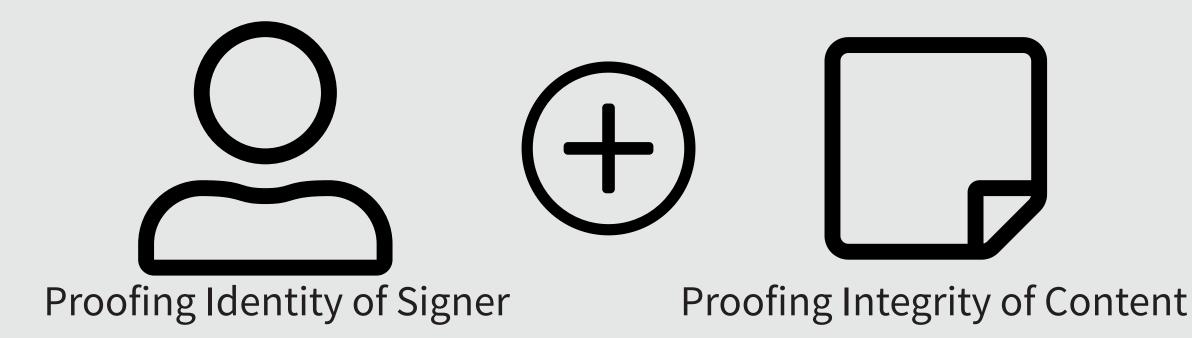
# Agenda

- Again: What's validation?
- Again: Signing and validating PDFs
- Some Tests
- What we need in validation
- Summary





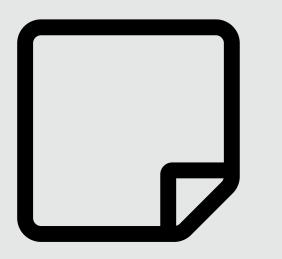




- Much more complex than signing or even PDF/A validation!
- Special Case PDF
  - Proofing identity is the same process than with other data or document types (e.g. CAdES, XAdES)
  - Proofing integrity can be a nightmare due to flexibility and capabilities of PDF (see 2020)







- Was presented on last year's session
- Comparison of hash values on byte ranges in PDF
- Handling of revisions

## **Proofing Integrity of Content**





## session n byte ranges





## **Proofing Identity of Signer**

- ETSI (CAdES/XAdES/PAdES) standards specify validation of certificates and certificate chains
- Actually, independent of PDF —> there's no relationship between Identity Proof and PDF standard
- PDF doesn't have any information about the signer(s)
- Purely technical process
- No signature workflow information





# Standards for PDF-Signing/Validation

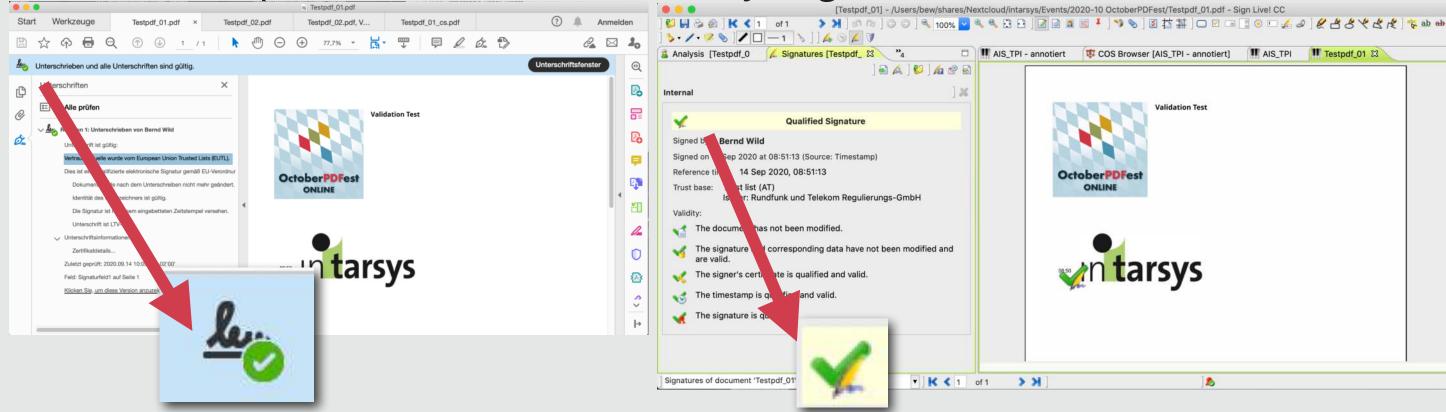
### Signature

- ETSI EN 319 142-1 V1.1.1 (2016-04) Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); PAdES digital signatures; Part 1: Building blocks and PAdES baseline signatures
- ETSI EN 319 142-2 V1.1.1 (2016-04) Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); PAdES digital signatures; Part 2: Additional PAdES signatures profiles
- ETSI TS 119 142-3 V1.1.1 (2016-12) Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); PAdES digital signatures; Part 3: PAdES Document Timestamp digital signatures (PAdES-DTS)
- ISO 32000-1 and ISO 32000-2
- Validation
  - ETSI TS 119 102-1 V1.2.1 (2018-08) Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); Procedures for Creation and Validation of AdES Digital Signatures; Part 1: Creation and Validation
  - ETSI TS 119 102-2 V1.2.1 (2019-02) Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); Procedures for Creation and Validation of AdES Digital Signatures; Part 2: Signature Validation Report
  - ETSI EN 319 102-1 V1.2.3 (2021-07) Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); Procedures for Creation and Validation of AdES Digital Signatures; Part 1: Creation and Validation
  - ISO 32000-1 and ISO 32000-2





## User's Perspective: All what's necessary to get the "Green Checkmark"



We always want to end up with a green checkmark!





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Validation Test			
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KCVC			
irsys			
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- Is it easy, to achieve this "OK"?
- Are there only 2 choices "VALID" or "No VALID"?
- How to handle the validation results between VALID and NO VALID?
- Are there "signed reference documents" with validation results everybody can agree upon?





## /ALID? lts everybody

# PDF and Signature Types

Just to repeat ...

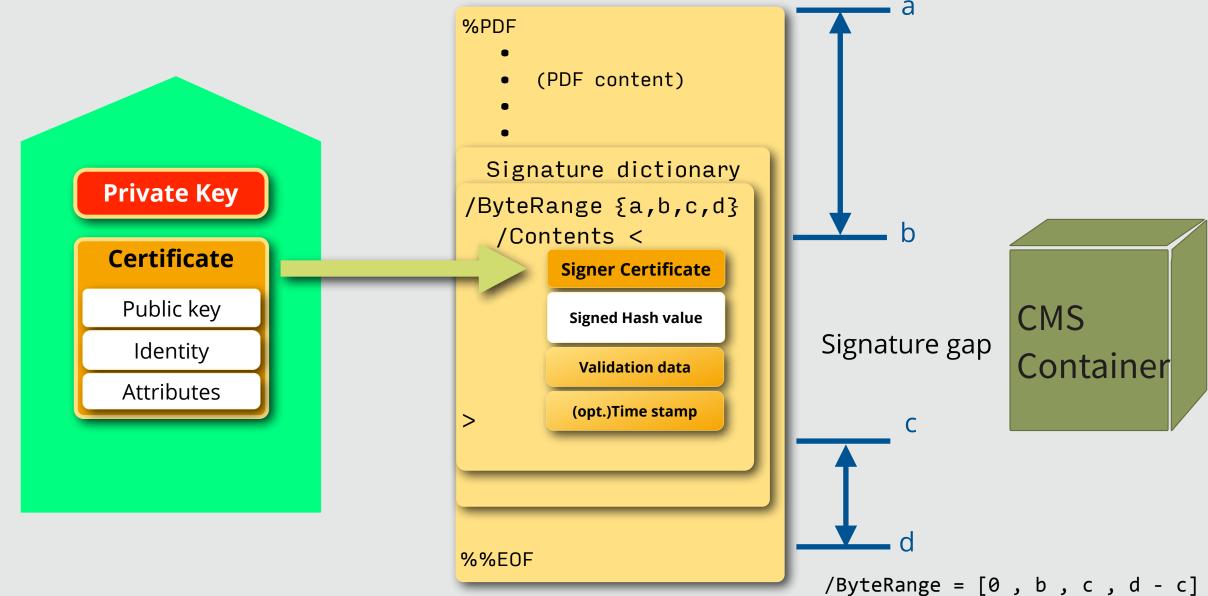
- **CertSig**: Certification or Author Signature
  - Special type for form-based workflows
  - Whole document
  - If used must be the first signature in the document
  - Allows to restrict post-signing modifications

- AppSig: Approval Signature
  - "Standard" signature
  - Whole document
  - Allows post-signing Markup Annotations
  - Like CertSig but no restrictions
  - Can be applied multiple times





# Signing of a PDF Document

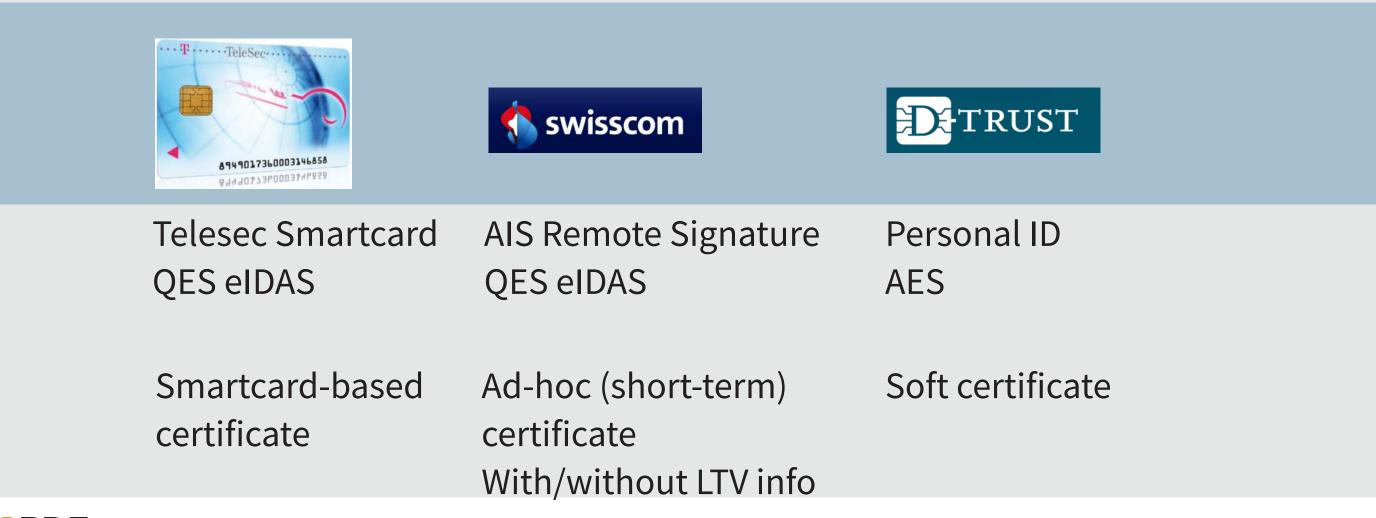






# Test Setup (I)

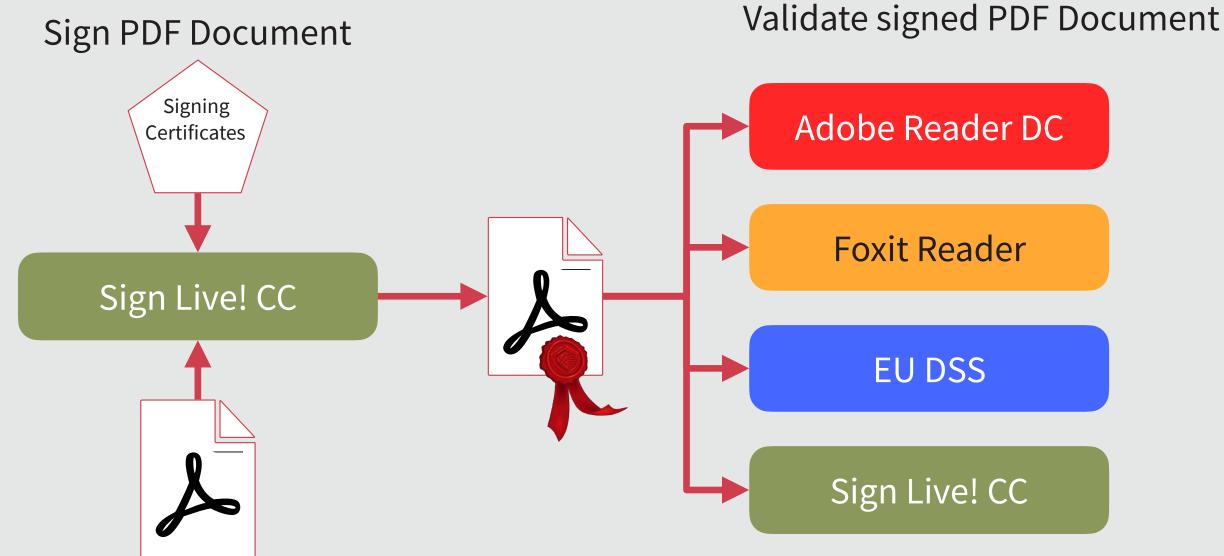
### User Certificate/Signature Creation Device SCD







## Test Setup (I)









Script Manager 🔏 Signatures [Testdokument 🛿 🗖 🎹 Testd	lokument-Märchen 🕄 📃	
Script Manager Signatures [Testdokument X]          Image: Comparison of the signature of the signature of the signature and corresponding data have not been modified and are valid.         The signature and corresponding data have not been modified and are valid.         The signature is qualified.         The signature is qualified.	<section-header>         United Distribution extended and the Marken State M</section-header>	Schlei Zertifika CN=Scl C=DE Zertifika CN=Tel C=DE O=Deut Datum: Mo 11



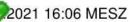


### Sign Live! CC

her, Susanne sinhaber: eicher, Susanne

saussteller: Sec PKS eIDAS QES CA 1

che Telekom AG





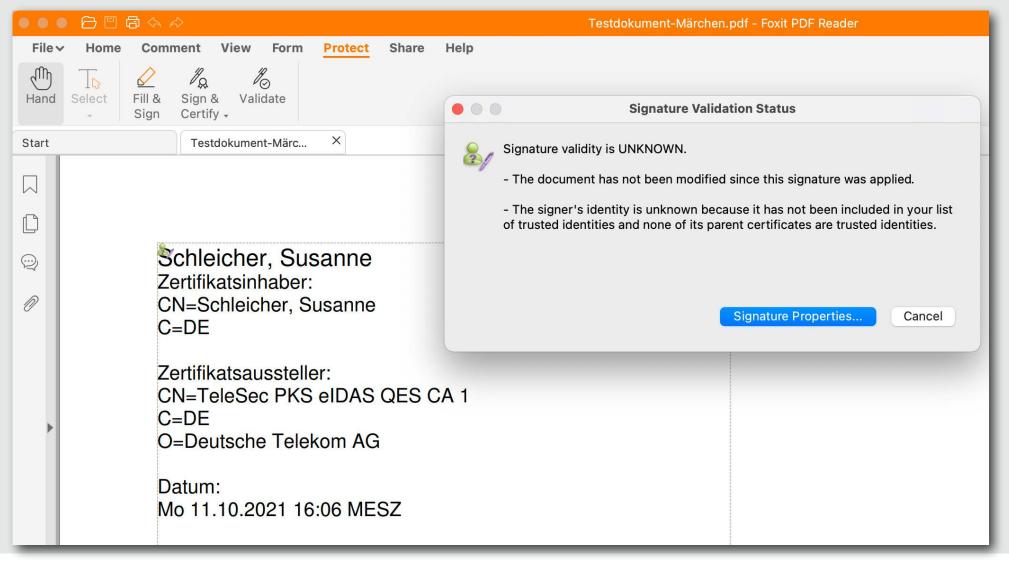
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8	
At least one signature is invalid.	Error during signature verification. Error encountered while validating:
Signatures X	Internal cryptographic library error. Error Code: 0x2711
Validate All	<< Details
Image: Signature is invalid:	Wie die Altertum
There are errors in the formatting or information contained in this signature           Signer's identity has not yet been verified	Error during signature verification. Error encountered while validating:
Signing time is from the clock on the signer's computer.	Internal cryptographic library error. Error Code: 0x2711
Signature Details Last Checked: 2021.10.15 15:17:26 +02'00'	Europäische
Field: Signaturfeld1 on page 1	





### lobe Reader DC









### **Foxit Reader**

### Validation Policy : QES AdESQC TL based

Validate electronic signatures and indicates whether they are Advanced electronic Signatures (AdES), AdES supported by a Qualified Certificate (AdES/QC) or a Qualified electronic Signature (QES). All certificates and their related chains supporting the signatures are validated against the EU Member State Trusted Lists (this includes signer's certificate and certificates used to validate certificate validity status services - CRLs, OCSP, and time-stamps).

### Signature : SIGNATURE\_Schleicher-Susanne\_20211011-1606

Qualification level : Indication : Signature Format :	QESig <b>TOTAL_PASSED</b> PAdES-BASELINE-B
Certificate chain:	Schleicher, Susanne TeleSec PKS eIDAS QES CA 1 TeleSec qualified Root CA 1
On claimed time :	2021-10-11 14:06:59 (UTC)
Best signature time :	2021-10-14 10:23:56 (UTC)
Signature position :	1 out of 1
Signature scope:	Full PDF (FULL) Full document
Document Information	
Signatures status : Document name :	1 valid signatures, out of 1 Testdokument-Märchen.pdf







•		Validation Result
🖋 Qualified Signature > 🖋 Signature	×	Signer certificate
<ul> <li>Signer certifica</li> <li>Qualified</li> </ul>		Overview Details Extensions Policies Messages
X LTV		
	Name	Value
	Valid from	13 May 2020, 13:14:38
	Valid to	17 May 2022, 01:59:00
	Subject	SERIALNUMBER=6, CN=""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""
	Issuer	OID.2.5.4.97=USt-IdNr /DE 1234 15223, CN=TeleSec PKS eIDAS QES CA 1, O=Deutsche Telekom AG, C=DE
		SHA256WITHECDSA
	Serial number	406130553248057613 29410 5140287594804
	Version	v3
	Public key	(EC) 305A301406072A8648CE3 20106092B2403030208010107034200043F050CD666EB83FBA32ACFB4A35CCCBF70B942
	Fingerprint (SHA1)	1A102F22873C131C18482DA20484F4D817684724



Remark: ISO/DTS 32002 will heal this!



## Sign Live! CC

- Signature Algorithm
- SHA256WITHEC DSA
- Elliptic Curves
- brainpoolP256r1



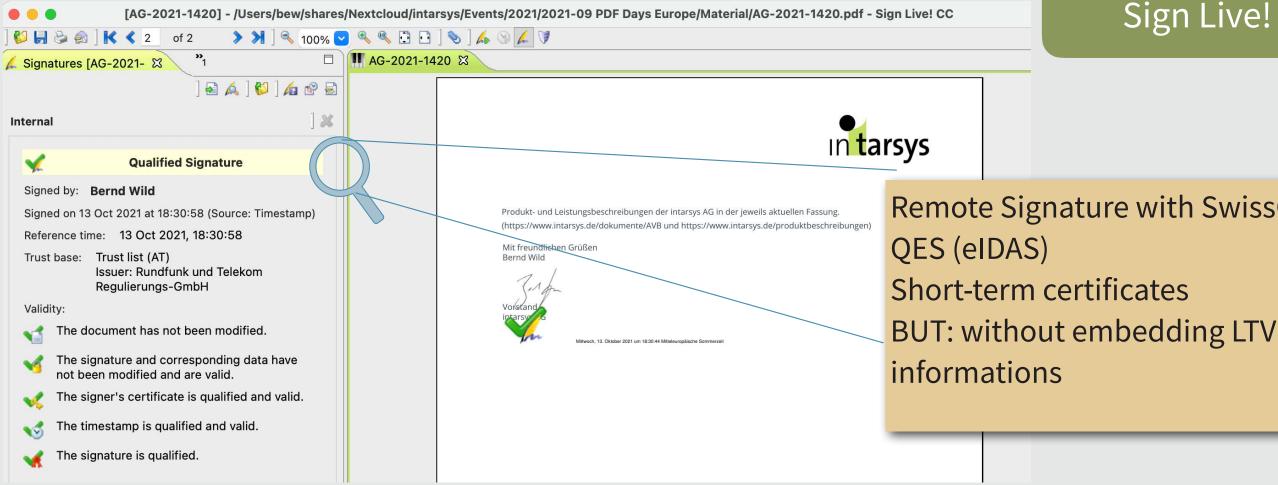
Smartcard-based certificate eIDAS QES

Validation Application	<b>Overall Result</b>	Remarks
Sign Live! CC		
Adobe Reader DC	×	Undefined validation result; Doe the EC algorithm with brainpool
Foxit Reader	X	Undefined validation result
EU DSS		





### es not support l parameters







### Sign Live! CC

### Remote Signature with SwissCom AIS

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	Signatur Source o Docu Signa	gned by Bernd Wild e validity is unknown:	ner's identity could not be checked		Mit freundlichen Grüßen Bernd Wild Volstand Intarsys AG Mitwoch, 13. Oktober 2021 um 18:30:44 Mitteleuropäische Sommerzeit
	<ul> <li>✓ Signatur</li> <li>Certif</li> <li>Last Che</li> </ul>	-	Stamp.		Signature is fine, but Cannot check whether the signer certificate is valid or not





### Adobe Reader DC

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0	Mit freundlich Bernd Wild	<ul> <li>The signer's identity is unknown because it has not been included in your list of trusted identities and none of its parent certificates are trusted identities.</li> </ul>	Cannot	check the
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### Foxit Reader

### but ... e signer's identity and cate hort-term certificates

### Validation Policy : QES AdESQC TL based

Validate electronic signatures and indicates whether they are Advanced electronic Signatures (AdES), AdES supported by a Qualified Certificate (AdES/QC) or a Qualified electronic Signature (QES). All certificates and their related chains supporting the signatures are validated against the EU Member State Trusted Lists (this includes signer's certificate and certificates used to validate certificate validity status services - CRLs, OCSP, and time-stamps).

Qualification level :	Indeterminate QESig	
Qualification Details :	The signature/seal is an INDETERMINATE AdES digital signat	
Indication :	INDETERMINATE - TRY_LATER	
AdES Validation Details :	The certificate validation is not conclusive!	
	No acceptable revocation data for the certificate!	
	The revocation data is not consistent!	
	Visual difference is detected on page(s) [2] The revocation acceptance check is not conclusive!	
Signature Format :	PDF-NOT-ETSI	
Certificate chain:	Bernd Wild	
ceremence enam.	Swisscom Diamant EU CA 4	
	Swisscom Root CA 2	
On claimed time :	2021-10-13 16:23:03 (UTC)	
Best signature time :	2021-10-13 16:23:18 (UTC)	
Signature position :	1 out of 2	
Signature scope:	Partial PDF (PARTIAL)	
Timostamas	The document ByteRange : [0, 244560, 310098, 13785]	
Timestamps :		
Timestamp : TIMESTAMF	P_Swisscom-TSU-4-1_20211013-1823	
Qualification level :	Qualified timestamp	
Indication :	PASSED	
Certificate chain:	Swisscom TSU 4.1	
	Swisscom TSS CA 4.1	
	Swisscom Root CA 4	
Production time :	2021-10-13 16:23:18 (UTC)	
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### Result is ... TRY\_LATER – INDETERMINATE

Some problems with the revocation data of the short-term certificate

### Some information about visual difference —> the overlay image of the handwritten signature





### **EU DSS**



Detailed report is 9 pages long

Shows all checks to be done during the validation process

Illustrates the complexity of the validation process





### **EU DSS**

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### Signature SIGNATURE\_Bernd-Wild\_20211014-1644

Validation Process for Basic Signatures (Best signature time : 2021-10-14 14:46:54 (UTC))	PASSED
Is the result of the 'Format Checking' building block conclusive?	⊘
Is the result of the 'Identification of Signing Certificate' building block conclusive?	0
Is the result of the 'Validation Context Initialization' building block conclusive?	0
Is the result of the 'X.509 Certificate Validation' building block conclusive?	•
Is the result of the 'Cryptographic Verification' building block conclusive?	•
Is the result of the 'Signature Acceptance Validation' building block conclusive?	0
Timestamp TIMESTAMP_Swisscom-TSU-4-1_20211014-1644	
Validation Process for Time-stamps (Production time : 2021-10-14 14:44:41 (UTC))	PASSED
Is the result of the 'Identification of Signing Certificate' building block conclusive?	⊘
Is the result of the 'X.509 Certificate Validation' building block conclusive?	•
Is the result of the 'Cryptographic Verification' building block conclusive?	•
Is the result of the 'Signature Acceptance Validation' building block conclusive?	0
Time-stamp Qualification	QTSA
Has a trusted list been reached for the certificate chain?	•
Is the list of trusted lists acceptable? Trusted List : https://ec.europa.eu/tools/lotl/eu-lotl.xml	•
Is the trusted list acceptable? Trusted List : https://www.signatur.rtr.at/currenttl.xml	•
Has been an acceptable trusted list found?	<b>S</b>
Is the certificate related to a TSA/QTST?	0
Is the certificate related to a trust service with a granted status?	0
Is the certificate related to a trust service with a granted status at the production time?	0

Validation Process for Signatures with Time and Signatures with Long- Term Validation Data (Best signature time : 2021-10-14 14:44:41 (UTC))	PASSED
Is the result of the Basic Validation Process acceptable?	⊘
Is the result of the revocation data basic validation process acceptable? Id = OCSP_OCSP-Signer-Swisscom-Diamant-EU-CA-4_20211014-1644	•
Is the revocation acceptance check conclusive? Id = OCSP_OCSP-Signer-Swisscom-Diamant-EU-CA-4_20211014-1644, production time = 2021-10-14 14:44	0
Is the result of the revocation data basic validation process acceptable? Id = OCSP_OCSP-Signer-Swisscom-Diamant-EU-CA-4_20211014-1646	•
Is the revocation acceptance check conclusive? Id = OCSP_OCSP-Signer-Swisscom-Diamant-EU-CA-4_20211014-1646, production time = 2021-10-14 14:46	0
Is an acceptable revocation data present for the certificate? Certificate Id = CERTIFICATE_Bernd-Wild_20211014-1642	•
Does the message-imprint match the computed value? Signature Timestamp with Id = TIMESTAMP_Swisscom-TSU-4-1_20211014-1644, production time = 2021-10-14 14:44	0
Is the result of basic time-stamp validation process conclusive? Signature Timestamp with Id = TIMESTAMP_Swisscom-TSU-4-1_20211014-1644, production time = 2021-10-14 14:44	0
Are the time-stamps in the right order?	0
Is the signed qualifying property: 'signing-time' present?	0
Is the signing-time plus the time-stamp delay after best-signature-time?	I)
Is the signature acceptable?	⊘
Validation Process for Signatures with Archival Data (Best signature time : 2021-10-14 14:44:41 (UTC))	PASSED
Is the result of the LTV validation process acceptable?	•
Is the result of the Time-stamp Validation Building Block acceptable? Signature Timestamp with Id = TIMESTAMP_Swisscom-TSU-4-1_20211014-1644, production time = 2021-10-14 14:44	õ
Is the result of basic time-stamp validation process conclusive? Signature Timestamp with Id = TIMESTAMP_Swisscom-TSU-4-1_20211014-1644, production time = 2021-10-14 14:44	0
Is the digest algorithm reliable at lowest POE time for the time-stamp token? Digest algorithm SHA256 at validation time : 2021-10-14 14:46 for token with Id : TIMESTAMP_Swisscom-TSU-4-1_20211014-1644	0
Does the message-imprint match the computed value? Signature Timestamp with Id = TIMESTAMP_Swisscom-TSU-4-1_20211014-1644, production time = 2021-10-14 14:44	0

### Example of an detailed validation report





### **EU DSS**

<b>swisscom</b>	AIS Ren QES elD	note Signatu DAS	re Ad-hoc (short-term) W certificate L
Validation Applica	tion	Overall Result	t Remarks
Sign Live! CC			Implements draft EN119102-1 v1.2.3
Adobe Reader DC		~ 7	Signature is OK, but user identity could due to missing revocation information; EN119102-1 v1.1.1 based
Foxit Reader		?	Signature is OK, but user identity could due to missing revocation information; EN119102-1 v1.1.1 based
EU DSS		?	Signature is OK, but user identity could due to missing revocation information; EN119102-1 v1.1.1 based





## With referenced LTV information

d not be verified n; OK as it is

d not be verified n; OK as it is

d not be verified n; OK as it is

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<u>k</u> o	Signed and all s	ignatures are valid.														Signature Par	nel	
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ល្	📰 🔹 Validat	te All											Ev	eryt	thin	g is fir	ne.	••
Ø		<b>gned by Bernd Wild</b> e is valid:																
d'	Source of	of Trust obtained from Europe	an Union Tr	rusted Lists	(EUTL).								Nc	W W	vith	embe	edd	ed valid
Car		Qualified Electronic Signature				014							inf	orm	nati	ons at	sia	ning tir
		ment has not been modified s	ince this si	ignature wa	s applied													•
		er's identity is valid signature includes an ep	timestar	am									Th	e er	nbe	edded	val	idation
		ature is LTV enabled											(1 T	·//) a	are r	recoor	nize	d and b
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### obe Reader DC

dation me informations been validated

		pdf_test_2.pdf - Foxit PDF Reader	F
File ~			
Hand	Image: Select     Fill & Sign & Validate       -     Sign Certify -	Signature is fine	
Start	pdf_test_2.pdf ×	Cannot check th	e sigi
	Signature Validation Status	validity of certifi	cate
	Signature validity is UNKNOWN. - The document has not been modified since this signature was applied.	Does not use the information	emb
0	<ul> <li>The signer's identity is unknown because it has not been included in your list of trusted identities and none of its parent certificates are trusted identities.</li> </ul>		Г
	- The certificate has exceeded the time of validity.		
•	Signature Properties Cancel	Vorsland Intersys AG Thursday, 14 October 2011 at 1644-36 Central European Summer Time	





### Foxit Reader

### ... ner's identity and

### pedded LTV

### Validation Policy : QES AdESQC TL based

Validate electronic signatures and indicates whether they are Advanced electronic Signatures (AdES), AdES supported by a Qualified Certificate (AdES/QC) or a Qualified electronic Signature (QES). All certificates and their related chains supporting the signatures are validated against the EU Member State Trusted Lists (this includes signer's certificate and certificates used to validate certificate validity status services - CRLs, OCSP, and time-stamps).

### Signature : SIGNATURE\_Bernd-Wild\_20211014-1644

Qualification level :	QESig
Indication :	TOTAL_PASSED
Signature Format :	PDF-NOT-ETSI
Certificate chain:	Bernd Wild
	Swisscom Diamant EU CA 4
	Swisscom Root CA 2
On claimed time :	2021-10-14 14:44:26 (UTC)
Best signature time :	2021-10-14 14:44:41 (UTC)
Signature position :	1 out of 1
Signature scope:	Partial PDF (PARTIAL) The document ByteRange : [0, 1807, 67345, 89429]

### **Result is now OK!**

**Timestamps**:

### Timestamp : TIMESTAMP\_Swisscom-TSU-4-1\_20211014-1644

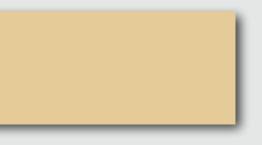
Qualification level : Indication :	Qualified timestamp PASSED	
Certificate chain:	Swisscom TSU 4.1	
	Swisscom TSS CA 4.1	
	Swisscom Root CA 4	
Production time :	2021-10-14 14:44:41 (UTC)	
Document Information		
Signatures status :	1 valid signatures, out of 1	
Document name :	pdf_test_2.pdf	



D



### **EU DSS**

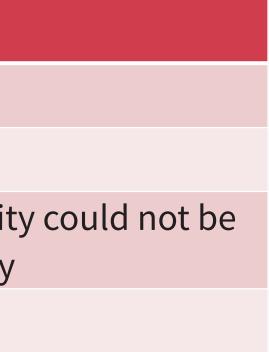


swisscom	AIS Ren QES el[	note Signature DAS	Ad-hoc (short-term) certificate I
Validation Ap	plication	<b>Overall Result</b>	Remarks
Sign Live! CC			
Adobe Reade	r DC		
Foxit Reader		⊘?	Signature is OK, but user identi- verified due to certificate expiry
EU DSS			





### With embedded LTV information



E - Contra da Contra	
	ud/intarsys/Events/2021/2021-09 PDF Days Europe/Material/pdf_test_4.pdf - Sign Live! CC
	pdf_test_4 🔀
] 🗟 🎑 🏄 😭 🔁	
Internal 🛛 🕅 💥	
Signature	Advanced Electronic Signatur
Signed by: Bernd Wild, intarsys AG	
Signed on 14 Oct 2021 at 16:53:12	Certificate
Reference time: 14 Oct 2021, 16:53:12	
Trust base: Integrated certificate store	
Validity:	All certificates of the certificat
The revision comprising this signature was not changed, but there were multiple changes applied to	
the document.	registered as trusted
The signature and corresponding data have not been modified and are valid.	
The signer's certificate is valid.	
	1
	(a) p
	Bernd Wild Vorstand Tuesden: 14 Orderber 200 Strategy Fungers
	Inursoay, 14 October 2021 at 153512 Central European Summer I me





### Sign Live! CC

### re with Soft

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### obe Reader DC

### icate are OK

### te is member of

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	root certifica certificate.O	rectly trust a s te authority,yo nce you are co erify if the cert	u should cont nfident that th	act the si ne signer	igner to verify is who he/she	the	2				





### Foxit Reader

### Signature and user certificate are OK

AATL

### Referenced root certificate is member of

### Validation Policy : QES AdESQC TL based

Validate electronic signatures and indicates whether they are Advanced electronic Signatures (AdES), AdES supported by a Qualified Certificate (AdES/QC) or a Qualified electronic Signature (QES). All certificates and their related chains supporting the signatures are validated against the EU Member State Trusted Lists (this includes signer's certificate and certificates used to validate certificate validity status services - CRLs, OCSP, and time-stamps).

### Signature : SIGNATURE\_Bernd-Wild\_20211014-1653

-		Signature i	SUNDUL
Qualification level :	N/A	U	
Qualification Details :	Unable to build a certificate chain up to a trusted list!	EU DSS do	es not validate
	The signature/seal is an INDETERMINATE AdES digital signature!	atharthan	anas anding in
Indication :	INDETERMINATE - NO_CERTIFICATE_CHAIN_FOUND	other than	ones ending in
AdES Validation Details :	The certificate chain for signature is not trusted, it does not contain a trust anchor.		
Signature Format :	PAdES-BASELINE-B		
Certificate chain:	Bernd Wild	Does not u	se the AATL
	D-TRUST Application Certificates CA 3-1 2013	DOCSTIOU	
On claimed time :	2021-10-14 14:53:12 (UTC)		
Best signature time :	2021-10-15 15:44:22 (UTC)		
Signature position :	1 out of 1		
Signature scope:	Partial PDF (PARTIAL)		
	The document ByteRange : [0, 89740, 122510, 1397]		
Document Information			
Signatures status :	0 valid signatures, out of 1		
Document name :	pdf_test_4.pdf		





### **EU DSS**

Signature is OK but

### e certificate chains in the EU TL

DETRUST	Personal ID AES	Soft certificate	Derived fro
---------	--------------------	------------------	-------------

Validation Application	<b>Overall Result</b>	Remarks
Sign Live! CC		
Adobe Reader DC		
Foxit Reader		
EUDSS		Signature is OK, but user identit verified due to missing trusted re





### om AATL

## ity could not be root

## **Overall Test Results**

- Although we observe different validation results
  - All implementations comply with the existing standards (within the degree of freedom)
  - No false-positives could be seen
- Nevertheless, the user experience in these scenarios could be better ...





## Why's Validation So Hard?



There's no "wrong implementation" but standards and specifications allow for some degrees of freedom

- Validation policies (how to deal with expired certificates in the short-term certificates world)
- Support of crypto algorithms (in PDF)
- Different linkage to trusted roots and trusted lists

Photo by Jeremy Bishop on Unsplash

It's not trivial to assess an ambiguous validation result!





## What We Need in Validation ...

- Some sort of "reference database" with digitally signed PDF documents which are regarded as to be valid and/or invalid —> the "Isartor Test Suite" for signed PDFs; —> **ETSI Plug-Tests**
- A community which discusses validation cases and comes to a common understanding on "valid" or "not valid" —> could be the TWG DigSig
- A signed PDF should be validatable without proprietary workflow data stores, i.e. selfcontained digital signatures (comparable to PDF/A) —> proposals and discussions in TWG DigSig and PDF Associations communities; standards enhancements
- A recommendation to use LTV informations wherever possible —> self-contained





## What We Need in Validation ...

Introduction of signature workflow information into PDF data structures

- Who should sign the document?
- What signature quality (SES, AES, ATS, ASeal, QES, ...) should be allowed for signing?
- Which minimum signature quality (Simple, Advanced, Qualified) should be used?
- Some sort of Audit trail of the overall signature process
  - Validation is not a purely technical process but has also business and (quite often) legal implications —> minimum signature quality
- Interoperability of market solutions





## Otherwise ...

Focusing only on technical validation could frustrate PDF users and will lead to a negative attitude to digital signatures and PDF





## Finally

- Signature validation is a challenge
- ETSI has intensified work on validation standards
- PDF Association discusses some new concepts on validation of signed PDFs and supporting more real-life signature scenarios





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- Member of the Board of PDF Association
- Chair of TWG Digital Signatures





- ► Sign Live! software for Electronic Signature (covering the whole range from biometric to qualified electronic signatures)
- Personal, Batch and Mass Signing
- Support for Smartcards, Cryptotokens and HSMs
- **Certified signature kernel (Common Criteria EAL3+)**
- **Cloud-based Signature Platform "Sign Live! Cloud suite** gears" for signing and validation
- **Encryption and authentication**
- **Founding Member of Cloud Signature Consortium**
- PDF/A validation and correction

