

Top IT considerations for PDF solutions

When selecting an enterprise PDF solution, there are many factors to consider. While perceived license savings are attractive, a sound decision weighs price against hidden costs and potential compromises to your business.

Comprehensive approach to security

While reducing costs is always an IT priority, security is not the place to compromise. Adobe invests heavily in providing comprehensive and proven security measures, including participating in the Microsoft Active Protections Program (MAPP).

Adobe delivers software developed using industry best practices for application security. Today, the Adobe® Acrobat® Family is the only desktop PDF software using sandboxing security techniques to protect systems and data. Additionally, IT can selectively enable JavaScript for specific PDF files, sites, or hosts in Windows® and Mac OS.

The risk of a data breach is also present at the document level. Because geographically dispersed teams are commonplace and include members from outside the firewall, IT must support information exchange and collaboration while simultaneously mitigating risks to sensitive or confidential information. Acrobat XI includes a full spectrum of document security options, from basic password security to certificate-based controls.

“With a searchable PDF/A archive, we can find any document in seconds, regardless of when it was created. If we didn’t archive documents in PDF/A, we could run into problems in the near future because the software used to create some of our documents is no longer available.”

Dominique Hermans,
records officer at SABIC

Ease of deployment and management

Adobe supports the widest range of deployment strategies, including Microsoft System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM), System Center Updates Publisher (SCUP), Group Policy Objects with Active Directory, Apple Package Installer, and Apple Remote Desktop. Because the Windows installer is based on standard Microsoft technology, Adobe installers are likely to work with most other Microsoft-compatible deployment tools. In addition, support is available for common hosting environments such as Citrix XenApp and Windows Terminal Server.

Adobe provides detailed documentation of best practices for enterprise deployment of Acrobat XI. And only Adobe offers free tools, such as the Customization Wizard XI and the Enterprise Toolkit (ETK) for Acrobat and Adobe Reader®, to quickly configure the installer and application features prior to an enterprise-wide deployment. Additionally, a Multilingual User Interface (MUI) for Acrobat or Reader allows IT to roll out the same worldwide image with a single install job, including all language resources in both Windows and Mac OS platforms.

Standards conformance and reliable performance

Acrobat allows employees to create documents that conform to ISO specifications, such as PDF/A and ISO 32000, as well as verify conformance and potentially correct compliance errors. Adobe actively contributes to the evolution of the ISO standard so that the PDF format will continue to expand and meet future needs. Unlike Acrobat and Reader, non-Adobe PDF tools often take years to implement the entire ISO PDF specification.

Conforming to ISO document standards is more than a nice-to-have. Not meeting regulatory requirements for document submissions can cost organizations millions of dollars. For example, valuable information can be permanently lost without reliable retrieval well into the future. Further, fidelity loss can critically impair business communications. Fidelity refers to the ability to maintain crucial formatting, templates, or formulae between machines and across platforms from desktops to tablets. In most cases, alternatives display a PDF file without alerting the user that essential details were lost.

Acrobat customers worldwide benefit from the most dependable PDF experience. Standardizing on Acrobat avoids interoperability issues and formatting integrity problems that arise when consuming and working with non-Adobe PDF files. The benefit of avoiding these issues translates into fewer help desk costs and less risk of productivity stalls.

“Using Adobe Acrobat Pro to quickly generate PDF documents and forms that we can work with on iPads enables welfare workers to complete twice as many home visits in a day. We are looking to extend that kind of increased productivity by implementing PDF workflows across our entire organization.”

Ludwig van Dijk, ICT manager, city of Almere in the Netherlands

Innovation, productivity, savings

Reliability goes beyond dependable software and support. Addressing the key concerns and needs of knowledge workers drives innovation at Adobe. Only the Acrobat Family enables employees to reliably view and interact with PDF documents across platforms and devices. For example, the free Adobe Reader mobile app enables staff to work with PDF files on iOS and Android™ devices. Extending content to mobile devices increases the value of corporate assets. Real-time access to information translates to a more informed workforce with employees better equipped to do their jobs, such as content reviews, with fewer limitations. The latest Reader mobile app offers functionality such as annotation and commenting tools, form-filling features, secure access, and electronic signatures.

Flexible solutions and extensive support

There may be times when your organization has specific needs that desktop software cannot deliver out of the box. Acrobat has a freely available and extensive software development kit (SDK) that allows you to integrate the software into existing systems to create even more powerful solutions. Many commercially available plug-ins for the Acrobat Family provide additional capabilities as well. In addition, a network of Adobe authorized trainers, developers, consultants, and online learning resources can help ensure your success quickly.

Microsoft SharePoint and Microsoft Office 365 success

Maximize your Microsoft SharePoint investment by providing a more streamlined experience with PDF documents. Users can open and edit PDF files stored in SharePoint or Office 365 directly from Acrobat on Windows and Mac machines. Check out, adding and editing metadata, check in, and version control works in the same fashion as other file types. Additionally, users can leverage SharePoint to enhance document review and data collection workflows.

Accessible electronic content

Do not assume that all PDF files are the same. This is especially true in regards to accessibility for users who have difficulty hearing, seeing, or making precise movements. Acrobat and Reader provide strong accessibility support for consuming and working with PDF documents and forms. Only Acrobat empowers users to create, optimize, and verify document conformance to established specifications, including PDF/UA and WCAG 2.0, prior to distribution.

Why compromise?

Adobe products are renowned for their performance and reliability, offering quality delivered out of the box that millions of customers around the world have come to trust and rely on. License fees are actually only a fraction of the total cost of software ownership. Although they initially appear to be a significant portion of the cost, additional outlays for procuring and managing software can negate any upfront savings. How much quality is enough for your organization in terms of the level of protection for data and systems and realizing a return on your investment? By choosing Adobe, IT can support the way enterprise works today—and the way business will work in the future.



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