

About the PDF/A Competence Center

Established just months after publication of ISO 19005, the PDF/A Competence Center is a non-profit association of more than 110 organizations and individual experts from 20 countries.

The mission of the PDF/A Competence Center is to promote PDF/A electronic document implementations through education, expertise and shared experience.

The Board of Directors is comprised of executives from the following companies:

- Appligent Document Solutions
- callas software, GmbH
- Compart AG
- Crawford Technologies Inc.
- intarsys consulting GmbH
- LuraTech Europe GmbH

The executive chairman is Olaf Drümmer, CEO of callas software GmbH.

The executive vice-chairman is Duff Johnson, CEO of Appligent Document Solutions.

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The Many Uses of PDF/A

PDF/A can archive any electronic documents that can be printed or scanned, so it's practical in many standard workflows, including:

- Incoming and outgoing mail
- Engineering documentation
- Records management
- Archive migration

Who Benefits from PDF/A

Public Sector & Legal

Many government records have substantial retention requirements. Courts increasingly require the use of PDF/A for filings.

Banking & Insurance

Credit and insurance files often have a lifetime of 50 years or more.

Engineering & Manufacturing

Engineering drawings for bridges, airplanes and many other uses must often be archived for decades or even hundreds of years.

Publishing

A PDF/X file, a common printing industry standard, may also be a PDF/A file.

PDF/A Adopters

- Airbus
- European Patent Office
- German National Library
- U.S. Federal Courts

Accepts PDF/A

(with additional requirements)

- Library of Congress
- National Archives & Records Administration
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission

How do you KNOW your PDF files are readable?



PDF/A 
Competence Center

www.pdfa.org

What Is PDF/A

A single, flexible file format for archiving electronic documents, ISO 19005 (PDF/A) is designed for organizations with document retention obligations and policies.

When created by quality software, PDF is already far more reliable for archival purposes than Outlook, Word, or Excel, and PDF documents are far more usable than TIFF files.

Even so, the rules for creating PDF files have evolved over time and software has not always kept pace. Many poorly constructed and even "broken" PDF files are still created everyday.

The innate power and flexibility of PDF itself presents a challenge since PDF files may contain content that future viewing software cannot display or print.

ISO 19005 (PDF/A) is an open International Standard establishing technical requirements for assuring long-term reliability in electronic documents. PDF/A requires a well-constructed PDF file and limits content to a specific subset of the many options possible in PDF files.

PDF documents that conform with PDF/A have been checked to confirm that they may be reliably displayed, printed and used without reference to any specific software, and thus, far into the future.

Launched by AIIM and NPES in 2001 at the prompting of the U.S. Federal Courts, the Library of Congress and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), PDF/A was first published as ISO 19005-1 in 2005.

In December, 2010, the ISO Committee approved ISO 19005-2 based on ISO 32000-1:2008, the International Standard for PDF. PDF/A-2 will be published in 2011.



Why We Need PDF/A

Most people who work with electronic documents have experienced the occasional failure of a PDF file. When that file contains important information, the consequences of a failure to read can be significant.

When your organization thinks about digitally archiving documents and records, do you consider that in 10, 15 or 30 years, the software in use at that time may no longer support your documents?

PDF/A ensures PDF documents are readable today, tomorrow, and into the indefinite future.

Nothing Matches PDF

- Unlike TIFF and other image formats, PDFs can include navigational features such as bookmarks, links and tags for accessibility.
- Unlike TIFF and other image formats, PDFs can contain searchable text or vector graphics and use a standardized metadata model (XMP).
- Unlike TIFF and other image formats, PDF is the only format that seamlessly accommodates documents from paper and electronic sources.

Learn More About PDF/A ...at the PDF/A Competence Center!

There's a community of developers, integrators and implementers waiting to answer your questions and help you find the right solutions for your electronic document archival needs.

We're the PDF/A Competence Center, an international association created to educate developers and customers alike about the benefits of PDF/A and to promote the exchange of ideas and experience.

We produce publications and webinars, conduct in-person events and seminars, contribute to Standards development efforts and provide an authoritative point of contact for all questions concerning PDF/A.

The PDF/A Competence Center is geared towards developers of PDF solutions, software suppliers and consulting companies working with PDF/A. End users considering adoption of PDF/A in their department, agency or business are welcome and encouraged to participate.

If you would like to become a member, or just want more information about PDF/A, please get in touch.

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