PDF: Much More than an Image

WHAT CAN PDF CONTAIN?
PDF is a "self-contained" document that can contain content, other file types and interactive elements, as well as information about these elements.

CONTENT
- Textual content: words, sentences, numeric values, tables
- Line art: curves, lines, shapes
- Pictures: raster images
- Multimedia and interactivity
- Markup and comments
- Display and navigation instructions
- Attachments and embedded files

INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONTENT
- Semantic meaning and alternate information
- Notes and annotations
- Metadata & properties
- Measurements and geospatial information
- Attachments, including source documents

https://itextpdf.com

The explosion of data across enterprise networks and the push to digitize documents are driving companies to re-think their policies on regulatory compliance, retention and risk mitigation. The challenge is in optimizing documents for the long run, and ensuring easy access to data and content as part of business systems.
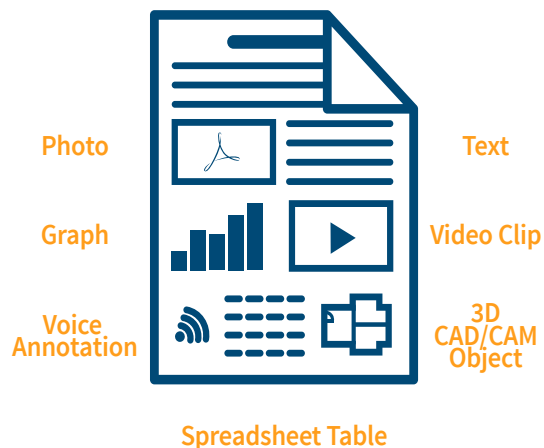
PDF (the Portable Document Format) was first introduced in the early 1990s as a way for documents to be shared and displayed on any computer using any operating system. Two-and-a-half decades later, PDF has evolved into a versatile format for addressing our contemporary business challenges caused by the explosion of digital data.

PDF is much more than an "image" of a paper document. It can have **internal structure, interactivity, workflows, forms, and various file attachments** that can be understood not only by humans, but also by machines. Such features make it a central file format to many web and in-house enterprise systems, with the potential of:

- **Automating transactions** for thousands of documents
- **Personalizing communications** with linking to data sources
- **Speeding up reviews and approvals** with digital signature
- **Managing Big Data** by structuring and indexing files
- **Archiving and storing** for the long-term with embedded fonts and other file types
- **E-discovery and legal compliance**

…and so much more.

STRUCTURE & METADATA

Photo   Text

Graph   Video Clip

Voice Annotation   3D CAD/CAM Object

Spreadsheet Table

PDF:
An Open Standard

Different styles of PDF exist, each one being tailored to specific business needs.

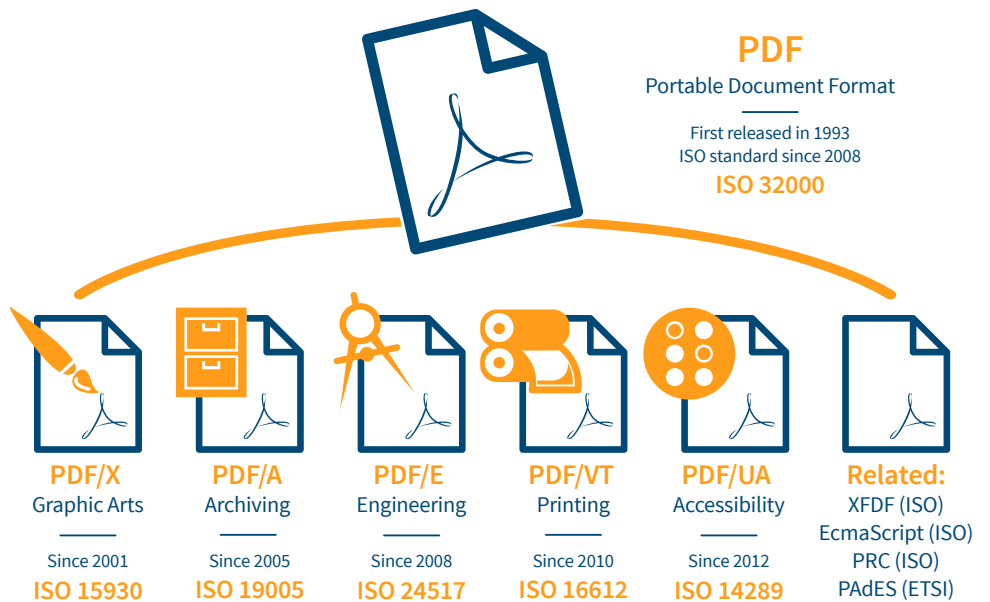Some of the most business-critical applications include:

PDF/A
Preservation of electronic documents for the long run

PDF/UA
Designed to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities who use assistive technology

PAdES
Ensures that digitally-signed documents may be used or archived for many years

ZUGFeRD (PDF/A-3)
Allows the exchange of invoices between supplier and payer without prior arrangements

ITEXT

PDF has been an open, international standard since 2008 (ISO 32000) and is therefore implementable regardless of platform within modern enterprise systems. Business and government rely on PDF to manage documents as part of their web, CRM, BPM, and ERP processes.

PDF
Portable Document Format

First released in 1993
ISO standard since 2008
ISO 32000

PDF/X Graphic Arts	**PDF/A** Archiving	**PDF/E** Engineering	**PDF/VT** Printing	**PDF/UA** Accessibility	**Related:** XFDF (ISO) EcmaScript (ISO) PRC (ISO) PAdES (ETSI)
Since 2001 **ISO 15930**	Since 2005 **ISO 19005**	Since 2008 **ISO 24517**	Since 2010 **ISO 16612**	Since 2012 **ISO 14289**	

Did you know?
PDF is not a proprietary format, but an open, democratically managed standard supported by thousands of developers worldwide.

To learn more, visit: itextpdf.com