



What is PDF and why use it?

What is PDF?

You probably already use PDF documents every day.

☰ Bank statements



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- ☰ Bank statements
- ☰ Invoices

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What is PDF?

PDF stands for 'Portable Document Format', created in 1993 to capture documents from any file format. It has evolved a lot in the past decades. Users can now use it for:

☰ Information sharing

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The PDF/A format allows metadata (e.g. with keywords) to be attached to your PDF document and can be picked up by search engines

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The PDF/UA ("universal accessibility") is compatible with assistive technology for the visually impaired. In this way they know where an image is and what it is supposed to contain.

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- ≡ Digital signatures

Modern PDF documents allow for compliance with international digital authentication methods in a secure and efficient way.

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The ZUGFeRD standard allows XML to be attached to a PDF, leading to invoices that can be quickly processed by both machines (XML) and human users (PDF).

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- ≡ Assistance in digital transformation

Using automated and programmable PDF functionalities in your workflow cuts down on time, wastes less paper and is more traceable than any analog and most other digital processes.

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What is PDF?

There's an estimated 2.5 trillion PDF documents in the world today.

What is PDF?

If all the world's PDF documents were an actual paper stack starting from sea level on the Earth, you'd be able to go to the moon and back.

What is PDF?

Three times.



☰ Who makes PDF files?

Who makes PDF?

Many applications have a functionality that allows users to print their files into the PDF format, and many PDF applications exist to convert even more proprietary file types to PDF.

- ≡ Some of these applications use iText to do so
- ≡ iText is the world's fourth most widely-used PDF creation engine

Who makes PDF?

PDF is an open file format and its rules are governed by an ISO Committee.



Who makes PDF?

Which, by the way, iText is a member of.



☰ Why should I use PDF?

Why should I use PDF?

Quick and efficient
information sharing

PDF is a universal
format

PDFs look the same
regardless of
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Why should I use PDF?

Digital archiving

Long-term format
reliability

PDFs can be
searchable and
indexable

Why should I use PDF?

Enhanced
document
accessibility

Compatibility with
screen readers

Why should I use PDF?

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a black pen, ready to sign a document. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a laptop and some papers.

Digital signatures
and authentication

No more need for
snail mail, scans or
faxes

Why should I use PDF?

Conformity to international invoice standards

Devices can read XML invoice metadata packaged within the PDF

Human users can easily fill in the data fields they can see

Why should I use PDF?

Assistance in digital transformation

Streamlining workflow

Freeing up your time for value-added work

☰ iText can help you achieve all that