



Changing the way the
world works with
documents.

6 Important Factors when Choosing a PDF Library

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A PDF
DOCUMENT



Unanticipated Difficulty Adding Features

Another mistake is where organizations select a basic library to save money with the assumption that they can build anything needed on top.

But building in an unfamiliar domain can easily lead to unknown challenges, high expenses, and reduced speed to market. And PDF is unusually complex as high-profile teams attest — including those of Slack, Dropbox, and LinkedIn.

Your devs are not necessarily PDF experts, and attempting challenging PDF features in-house involves a steep learning curve not subject to economies of scale. Throwing more devs into the equation will not shrink the ramp-up time for the first developer.

Additionally, custom features will have to be supported and maintained long-term, creating an additional ongoing opportunity cost: committed resources will be less-available to work on other projects.



PDFs are complex documents — structured into different layers of information, data, and objects, and containing different languages, images, and graphics.

Developer, Slack

PDF is an incredibly complex file format — the specification is more than a thousand pages long, not including the extensions and supplements.

Developer, Dropbox

PDFs are an incredibly complex file format; this is especially so given that a PDF can be generated a hundred different ways, all of which a renderer needs to handle gracefully.

Developer, LinkedIn