

■ Overview

You plan to embed PDF functionality into an application. But before you dive into the project, you must decide: do you go with a more expensive commercial PDF SDK – or a lower-cost alternative such as an open-source library or an open-source wrapper?

There are non-trivial costs to switching later. Developers have to re-learn the new library, re-adjust the backend, customize the UI to match what users are accustomed to, as well as migrate documents, form data, annotations, and more.

According to [market research](#) conducted by Stax Inc., the average Net Promoter Score (NPS) for the top five PDF SDK vendors is 35%. And 70% of customers express interest in switching despite the high costs.

This dissatisfaction implies that picking the right PDF SDK is a lot harder than it seems. And to help you avoid the same mistakes as past implementations, we've written this article.

(We also [recently surveyed 57](#) unique organizations that switched from PDF.js to a commercial SDK. Read our [comprehensive guide to PDF.js](#) to learn more.)

