


- 2 @Unapiedra The same is true of signing on hard copy. It is just as easy for somebody else to scan your signature and use it as it is for you to do so. Avoiding the use of a scanned image places an obstacle in the way of somebody who wants to forge your signature, but it is such a small one that I doubt it would deter anybody who actually wanted to do this in the first place. (Wanting to impersonate you is not like identity theft where even a minor obstacle may make you a less attractive target. Somebody who wants to fake your signature has already identified you as a target for some reason.) – cfr Nov 14 '14 at 15:20 

5 Answers

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Here is a play-by-play of how one can do it using `potrace`. It is similar to `autotrace` and provides a command line functionality/interface.

1. [Download](#) `potrace`. It is available for virtually every distribution out there.
2. Unpack it.
3. Provide a signature in (say) BMP high resolution format (click to enlarge and see the quality):



4. Store this file `signature.bmp` in your `potrace` folder.
5. Execute from the command line:

```
>potrace signature.bmp -b PDF -o signature.pdf
```

to create a PDF of `signature.bmp`. Alternatively, just executing

```
>potrace signature.bmp
```

would yield `signature.eps` that can be converted using `epstopdf signature.eps`. This uses the default `potrace` settings/options and produces as output (click to enlarge and see the quality):



Other tracing options are also available. See the [potrace usage page](#) for details on the type of options you can specify.

6. Include it in your document...

Random Institute
Random City 1000
Randomia
October 27, 2011

To whom it may concern:

Hire me, it'll be worth your while.

Sincerely,

Random Person
Random Randofsky

Randomville

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{graphicx}% http://ctan.org/pkg/graphicx
\setlength{\parindent}{0pt}% Remove paragraph indent
\begin{document}
\hspace*{0.5\linewidth}
\begin{minipage}{0.4\linewidth}
Random Institute \par
Random City 1000 \par
Randomia \par
\today
\end{minipage}

To whom it may concern: \par \bigskip

Hire me, it'll be worth your while. \par \bigskip

Sincerely, \par \medskip

\includegraphics[height=1.5\baselineskip]{signature} \par
Random Randofsky \par
Randomville
\end{document}
```

`potrace` also forms part of [Inkscape's trace bitmap](#) functionality, allowing you to use it in a GUI environment as well.

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edited Dec 6 '13 at 22:59

answered Oct 28 '11 at 3:30



Werner

542k ● 110 ● 1263 ●
2082

7 Ah, that's a very proper way to do it! – [Jake](#) Oct 28 '11 at 5:36

Isn't it more common to flush the signature block to the right? Doesn't it look better? Lastly, how can you do properly? – [Dror](#) May 13 '14 at 13:21

1 @Dror: It varies. For pushing the content to the right, I would set it using `\null\hfill\begin{tabular}{l@{}} ... \end{tabular}` (`\null` may not be required). If you don't want it flush right but starting midway on the page, then use `\null\hfill\begin{tabular}{p{.5\linewidth}@{}} ... \end{tabular}`. The `tabular` structure will keep the signature together with the printed name around a possible page break (and perhaps the closing as well, if you include that). – [Werner](#) May 13 '14 at 16:16

Very good design. However, is it easier to use `\rightline` instead of a `minipage` following a `\hspace`? – [user26742873](#) Jun 29 at 1:17

1 @mika: If the output meets your needs, then use it. However, since `\rightline` sets its content inside an `\hbox`, it doesn't work with multiple lines; `minipage` on the other hand, does. – [Werner](#) Jun 29 at 3:04

I'm not sure if this is an answer or a comment ...

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In my opinion your number 4 is the worst solution—sorry. In my eyes this looks like “Oh he likes a real signature but isn't able to scan/include it” or “Why not set the whole document in Comic Sans” and I don't think this creates a professional appeal.



I'd prefer to set the name only in the normal text font or adding a (vector) graphic of your handwritten and scanned signature.

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edited Apr 18 '13 at 18:43

answered Oct 27 '11 at 18:58



Tobi

51.8k ● 14 ● 158 ● 299