This is a Portable Document File, or as known as, PDF.

PDF files are versatile digital documents created by Adobe that preserve formatting (text, images, layout) across different devices and software, ensuring consistent viewing, and can contain interactive elements like links, forms, audio, and video, making them ideal for sharing reports, invoices, eBooks, and forms.

It is standardized as **ISO 32000** file format in 1993 by Adobe.

The development of PDF began in 1991 when John Warnock wrote a paper for a project then code-named Camelot, in which he proposed the creation of a simplified version of PostScript called Interchange PostScript (IPS).

Unlike traditional PostScript, which was tightly focused on rendering print jobs to output devices, IPS would be optimized for displaying pages to any screen and any platform.

A PDF file is often a combination of vector graphics, text, and bitmap graphics. The basic types of content in a PDF are:

- Typeset text stored as content streams (i.e., not encoded in plain text).

- Vector graphics for illustrations and designs that consist of shapes and lines.

- Raster graphics for photographs and other types of images; and

- Other multimedia objects.

In later PDF revisions, a PDF document can also support links (inside document or web page), forms, JavaScript (initially available as a plugin for Acrobat 3.0), or any other types of embedded content that can be handled using plug-ins.

PDF combines three technologies:

- An equivalent subset of the PostScript page description programming language but in declarative form, for generating the layout and graphics.

- A font-embedding/replacement system to allow fonts to travel with the documents.

- A structured storage system to bundle these elements and any associated content into a single file, with data compression where appropriate.

References

[1] Contributors to. 2001. family of file formats used to present documents. Wikipedia.org. From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PDF