

Portable Document Format

Portable Document Format (PDF) is a [file format](#) used to present [documents](#) in a manner independent of [application software](#), [hardware](#), and [operating systems](#).^[2] Each PDF file encapsulates a complete description of a fixed-layout flat document, including the text, fonts, graphics, and other information needed to display it. In 1991, [Adobe Systems](#) co-founder [John Warnock](#) outlined a system called "Camelot"^[3] that evolved into PDF.

While Adobe Systems made the PDF specification available free of charge in 1993, PDF was a [proprietary format](#), controlled by Adobe, until it was officially released as an [open standard](#) on July 1, 2008, and published by the [International Organization for Standardization](#) as ISO 32000-1:2008,^[4]^[5] at which time control of the specification passed to an ISO Committee of volunteer industry experts. In 2008, Adobe published a Public Patent License to ISO 32000-1 granting [royalty-free](#) rights for all patents owned by Adobe that are necessary to make, use, sell and distribute PDF compliant implementations.^[6] However, there are still some proprietary technologies with published specification defined only by Adobe, such as [Adobe XML Forms Architecture](#), and JavaScript for Acrobat, which are referenced by ISO 32000-1 as normative and indispensable for the application of ISO 32000-1 specification.^[7]^[8]^[9]^[10]^[11] The ISO committee is actively standardizing many of these as part of ISO 32000-2.

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Portable Document Format	
Filename extension	<div><div><div>.pdf</div></div></div>
Internet media type	<div><div><div>application/pdf,^[1] application/x-pdf, application/x-bzpdf, application/x-gzpdf</div></div></div>
Type code	<div><div><div>'PDF'^[1] (including a single space)</div></div></div>
Uniform Type Identifier (UTI)	<div><div><div>com.adobe.pdf</div></div></div>
Magic number	<div><div><div>%PDF</div></div></div>
Developed by	<div><div><div>Adobe Systems</div></div></div>
Initial release	<div><div><div>1993; 22 years ago</div></div></div>
Latest release	<div><div><div>1.7</div></div></div>
Extended to	<div><div><div>PDF/A, PDF/E, PDF/UA, PDF/VT, PDF/X</div></div></div>
Standard	<div><div><div>ISO 32000-1</div></div></div>
Open format?	<div><div><div>Yes</div></div></div>
Website	<div><div><div>www.adobe.com/devnet/pdf/pdf_reference_archive.html </div></div></div>