

[PostScript](#) standard and PDF, and is sometimes referred to as [Display PDF](#). Due to OS support, all OS X applications can create PDF documents automatically as long as they support the Print command.

[\[edit\]](#)

PDF and accessibility

PDF can be accessible to people with disabilities. Current PDF file formats can include tags (essentially [XML](#)), text equivalents, captions and audio descriptions, and other accessibility features. Some software, such as [Adobe InDesign](#), can output tagged PDFs automatically. Leading [screen readers](#), including Jaws, Window-Eyes, and Hal, can read tagged PDFs; current versions of the Acrobat and Acrobat Reader programs can also read PDFs out loud. Moreover, tagged PDFs can be reflowed and zoomed for low-vision readers.

However, many problems remain, not least of which is the difficulty in adding tags to existing or "legacy" PDFs; for example, if PDFs are generated from scanned documents, accessibility tags and reflowing are unavailable and must be created either by hand or using [OCR](#) techniques. Moreover, that process itself is inaccessible. Nonetheless, well-made PDFs can be a valid choice as long-term accessible documents. (Work is being done on a PDF variant based on PDF 1.4. The PDF/A or [PDF-Archive](#) is specifically scaled down for archival purposes.)

Microsoft Word documents can be converted into accessible PDFs, but only if the Word document is written with accessibility in mind - for example, using styles, correct paragraph mark-up and "alt" (alternative) text for images, and so on.

[\[edit\]](#)

PDF on the Web

Because [HTML/XHTML](#) rendering across [web browsers](#) has historically been inconsistent and sometimes unpredictable, PDF use online is becoming increasingly common. This is particularly true for order forms, catalogues, brochures, and other documents which are primarily formatted for printing. The ubiquity of the Adobe Reader web browser plugin, however, has inspired some (mostly corporate) web authors to publish a wider variety of information as PDF. This trend is compounded by the simple operation and wide corporate availability of [WYSIWYG](#) PDF authoring tools. While the end user experience of an XHTML document can vary significantly depending on browser, platform, and screen resolution, a PDF file can be reasonably expected to look exactly the same to every viewer.

Critics of this practice cite several reasons for avoiding it. Accessibility, particularly by the [blind](#) or [sight-impaired](#) is a common issue [\[8\]](#). PDF files tend to be significantly larger than XHTML/[SVG](#) files presenting the same information, making it difficult or impossible for users with low-bandwidth connections to view them. Adobe Acrobat Reader, the de facto standard PDF viewer, has historically been slow to start and caused browser instability, particularly when run alongside other browser plugins (though the release of Adobe Reader 7 addressed many of these concerns).