

6 Important Factors when Choosing a PDF Library

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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.)

