PDF stands for the **P**ortable **D**ocument **F**ormat, used to display documents in an electronic form independent of the software, hardware or operating system they are viewed on. Originally developed by Adobe® Systems as a universally compatible file format based on the PostScript format, it has become an international de-facto standard for exchanging documents and information

Source: https://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/Portable-Document-Format-PDF