

DjVu (pronounced déjà vu) is a computer file format primarily used for storing scanned documents. This format features image layering, progressive loading, arithmetic coding, and lossy compression of binary images, thus storing high-quality readable images in smaller space, and was once widely used for scanned book storage formats.

DjVu can have an optical character recognition text layer added, allowing for copy and paste operations.

DjVu technology was initially developed by Yann LeCun, Léon Bottou, Patrick Haffner, and Paul G. Howard at AT&T Labs in 1996. DjVu is an open file format, with the file format specifications and source code of the reference library publicly released. The commercial development rights have been transferred to different companies over the years, including AT&T and LizardTech. The original authors maintain a GPL implementation called DjVuLibre.

In 2002, DjVu, TIFF, and PDF were selected by the Internet Archive's Million Book Project as the file formats for scanned public domain books to be put online.

Progressive loading makes DjVu suitable for use on the Internet. For scanned documents, DjVu's file size and opening speed are generally better than those of PDF.

However, since most editing software does not support generating DjVu format, and editors that do support DjVu format are not as popular as those for PDF. Storage space and network speed are no longer bottlenecks. Text-focused books are more often saved in ePub format (suitable for reading on small mobile devices, with customizable layout) and PDF, for various reasons, the DjVu format is no longer common for new personal scanned documents.

