

Acrobat 7
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Are you hooked on PDF yet?

If you are, get ready to pay!

- Is it a case of more glitz than substance?
- Are new versions introduced merely to handle new versions of the PDF specification?
- Is there anything new of real use to JACoW?

Adobe Acrobat history:

Acrobat 1.0	1993	PDF 1.0	
Acrobat 2.0	1995	PDF 1.1	
Acrobat 3.0	1996	PDF 1.2	
Acrobat 4.0	1999	PDF 1.3	06/2000
Acrobat 5.0	04/2001	PDF 1.4	06/2001
Acrobat 6.0	07/2003	PDF 1.5	?/2003
Acrobat 7.0	11/2004	PDF 1.6	?/2005

New releases are linked to new versions of the PDF standard, but are launched before the standard is formally published. Other software developers are either privy to the final draft specification, or are playing catch-up after the release.

Review of new features introduced in Acrobat 5.0, 6.0 and 7.0

- Secure, collaborative review and editing of documents
- Use in engineering and design
- Prepress workflow

Acrobat 5.0

Released April 2001

Based on new PDF 1.4 specification published June 2001

Updated user interface – user customizable horizontal toolbars

Incremental improvements over Acrobat 4.0:

- Installation software to assist installation and maintenance on shared network servers
- Improved on-line collaboration tools (started in Acrobat 4.0)
- All Acrobat functions can be run in batch mode on a group of files
 - New functions can be added with JavaScript
 - Built in JavaScript editor supplied
- XML support:
 - Forms can capture data as tagged XML
 - Metadata can be added at both the document and object level
 - * Based on RDF-compliant DTD which can be extended
 - * XML Packets or XAP (Extensible Authoring and Publishing)
 - * Software developers need to take advantage
 - * Intended for Web search engines and prepress workflows
- Forms
 - Increased support
 - Multiple selections within a field
 - XML capture

- Collaboration and review
 - Digital signatures can be appended in browser
 - 128-bit encryption and old 40-bit
 - On-line annotations from within browser
(used to be third party products only)
- Tagged PDF
 - PostScript gives page fidelity
 - Original logical structure and order lost in PDF
 - Flow of document – linear text stream
 - Multicolumn documents a problem
 - Formal definition of what was already available in PDF 1.3
 - Possibilities:
 - * Spell checking
 - * Reliable searching
 - * e-books
 - * Extracting images and text
 - * Accessibility for people with visual impairments
 - Only produced by a few applications (Office 2000 macro)
 - Future development required
 - Convert old documents (Adobe Make-Accessible?)
- Object Transparency
 - Can now see overprinting
 - Cannot create/change (need PitStop or InProduction)
 - Still a need for third party vendors
 - Consistency with Photoshop, Illustrator, but not InDesign
 - Distiller uses same parameters as Photoshop

- Other
 - Extract embedded images as JPEG, PNG or TIFF
 - Extra printing features
 - Compatibility with Unicode double byte character encoding added (needed for XML)
 - Potential incompatibilities with earlier versions

Acrobat 6.0

Released June 2003 based on new PDF 1.5 specification

Heralded as the most significant product release in Adobe's 20 year history

You can read a variety of reviews ranging from five star rankings idolizing it to extremely negative criticisms (often regarding invasive installation into other applications)

Rebranding:

- Adobe Acrobat 6.0 Reader → Adobe Reader (free download)
- Adobe Acrobat 6.0 Professional
 - US\$449, US\$149 upgrade
 - All features
 - Extra tools and functions for designers and engineers
- Adobe Acrobat 6.0 Standard
 - US\$299, US\$99 upgrade
 - Main feature set
- Adobe Acrobat 6.0 Elements
 - US\$28/seat, 1,000 seat minimum licence
 - Limited feature set
 - Windows only

Redesigned user interface – new everything:

- Toolbars, menus, navigation tabs, names

- Easier PDF creation from any application
- Additional features under Windows
 - Outlook – convert and attach files
 - Retain layers using Professional
 - * Part of PDF 1.5 specification
 - * Uses OCG/Layers (Optional Contents Group)
 - * Visio
 - * AutoCAD 2000-2002 (not 2004 at launch)
 - * MS Project
 - * Not in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign at launch
- Review and comment
 - Coordinate and integrate comments from many sources
 - Enhanced security options
 - Only return comments, not whole document
 - Review Tracker for Outlook
- Embed active multimedia, transitions (PowerPoint)
- Combine files from various applications in a single PDF
- Search over single document, folders, on the Internet
- Internet Explorer Web page capture including animations and live links
- Headers, footers, watermarks
 - Limited formatting
 - No common watermarks included
 - Apply using the Batch Processing tool
- Professional version has several tools for prepress and printing
 - Preflight checks
 - Simplified forms creation

- Support for ISO, ARCH, ANSI, JIS
 - Measuring and zoom – 6400% and dynamic
 - Loupe tool
- Create searchable archives
- File size reduction – Object Stream Compression
- Support for PDF/X and e-books
- Font diagnostics
- Foreign language support
- Audio reading

Acrobat 7.0

Released November 2004 based on new PDF 1.6(?) specification

Support for:

- PDF/X – high end colour printing
- PDF/A(draft) – longterm archiving

Same breakdown into three product lines plus Reader (Elements mid-2005)

Available for:

- Windows 2000 SP2, XP
- Mac OS X 10.2.8 and higher

Professional version gives you:

- Enable anyone with free Adobe Reader 7.0 to use highlighter, sticky note, pen and other commenting tools
- Embed multimedia and sound files and 3D graphics
- Compare two PDF files side by side
- Windows only:
 - Build intelligent forms with Adobe Life Cycle Designer software
 - Retain layers and object data in technical drawings
 - Manage specialized content from AutoCAD, MS Visio, MS Project
 - Also from Outlook, Internet Explorer, Access and Publisher (also available in Standard)

New features and enhancements:

- The Adobe Datasheet and Customer FAQ are extremely repetitious
- At first glance, nothing new compared to Acrobat 6.0
- Adobe PDF document creation
 - Single-click PDF creation
 - Creating a PDF file from multiple files
 - Adding headers, footers, backgrounds and watermarks
 - Recovering your original document
- Additional usage rights
 - Make available to Adobe Reader users
 - Additional rights by server extension
- Working with engineering documents
 - Improved PDF creation options
- File attachments
 - Attach PDF and other files to document
 - Search, edit and save edits
 - Attachments tab
 - e-mail using eEnvelope with encryption
- Forms authoring and management
 - Enhanced options
- Reviewing
 - E-mail based
 - Browser (IE and Safari) based
 - Additional new features

- Document security
 - Enhanced options
- Accessibility
 - New advanced tagging tools for forms, figures, tables and complex text flows
 - Features for vision- and motor-impaired users
- Print production
 - Many enhancements
 - Large paper sizes
 - * 15,000,000 in. by 15,000,000 in.
 - * 31,800,000 cm by 31,800,000 cm (Wrong! 38,100,000 cm)
 - * 145,161 km² – half area of Italy!
- XML capabilities
- Language support
- Other
 - Improved search
 - Read forms out loud
 - Recover your work
 - View 3D content
 - Locate and review PDF files
 - Create archivable files
 - Scan paper documents into searchable PDF files
 - Look at different pages of the same file at the same time
 - Subscribe to digital periodicals and journals
 - Keep Acrobat up to date
 - View PDF documents in the browser (Mac OS)

Adobe Reader System Requirements

(Omitted Palm OS, Pocket PC, etc.)

- Adobe Reader 7.0
 - Windows 2000 SP2; XP Pro, Home, Tablet PC
 - Mac OS X \geq 10.2.8
 - Linux – various
 - Solaris 8, 9, 10
- Adobe Reader 6.0.1
 - Windows 98 SE; ME; NT 4.0 SP6; 2000 SP2; XP Pro, Home, Tablet PC
 - Mac OS X \geq 10.2.8
- Acrobat Reader 5.1
 - Windows 98 SE; ME; NT 4.0 SP5 or 6; 2000; XP Pro, Home
 - Mac OS 9.1, 9.2, 9.2.2, OS X \geq 10.1.3
- Acrobat Reader 5.0
 - Windows 95 OSR 2.0; 98 SE; ME; NT 4.0 SP5; 2000; XP
 - Mac OS 8.6, 9.0.4, 9.1, OS X
 - IBM AIX 4.3.3, 5.1
 - HP-UX 10.2, 11.0
 - Linux 2.2 kernel on X86

- Acrobat Reader 4.0.5
 - Windows 95; 98; NT 4.0 SP3
- Acrobat Reader 3.0
 - OS/2

Conclusions

Third party vendors still have a place

Backward compatibility appears to be more of an issue

- Operating system
- Browser

A few new features of interest to JACoW

More research needs to be done