

## The PDF Association's ISO Liaison

To help drive PDF standards development and adoption, the PDF Association maintains a category A liaison with ISO's TC 171 and TC 130. This relationship allows experts from member companies to actively participate in the development of PDF-related ISO standards, including via in-person ISO meetings.

The PDF Association's PDF/A Competence Center played an important part in fostering worldwide adoption of the PDF/A archiving standard.

Today, the PDF Association operates a variety of Competence Centers and other initiatives to promote utilization of ISO standards for PDF technology.

## Competence Centers

The PDF Association hosts the following Competence Centers (CCs), each with its own working group(s):

■ **PDF Competence Center:** Focused on ISO 32000, this CC's Technical Working Group (TWG) is a starting-point for new PDF developers, for general PDF technology questions and provides a forum for discussing improvements and new features.

■ **PDF/A Competence Center:** Founded in 2006, the PDF/A Competence Center was the forerunner of the PDF Association. Today, its TWG focuses on PDF technology in the archival context.

■ **PDF/UA Competence Center:** Committed to promoting accessibility via adoption of PDF/UA (ISO 14289), this CC supports both developers and users. Its products include the *Matterhorn Protocol*, the *PDF/UA Reference Suite* and *PDF/UA in a Nutshell*.

■ **PDF/VT Competence Center:** By promoting ISO 16612, this CC fosters best-practice for variable and transactional data applications in the printing and output management industry.

■ **PDF/E Competence Center:** Led by the 3D PDF Consortium, this CC tackles issues of interest in the aerospace, manufacturing, construction and other engineering-focused use-cases for PDF and 3D PDF.

## About the PDF Association

Founded in 2006, the PDF Association ([pdfa.org](http://pdfa.org)) promotes adoption and implementation of ISO Standards for PDF technology, including ISO 32000, subset standards and industry best-practices. We work closely with the respective ISO working groups developing new PDF standards.

### Developers: 4 reasons to join

The meeting-place for PDF developers:

- **Technical Working Groups:** technical documentation and workshops on PDF standards.
- **Inspiration and opportunity:** monitor and propose new specifications and ancillary best-practices.
- **ISO Standards:** access to in-process ISO drafts, and the ability to participate in the process.
- **veraPDF:** a joint project of the PDF Association's PDF Validation Technical Working Group (TWG) and the Open Preservation Foundation, veraPDF ([verapdf.org](http://verapdf.org)) is the industry-supported PDF/A test-suite and validator-accepted worldwide.



### Marketers: 4 reasons to join

The industry association for the PDF electronic document world:

- **Reputation:** showcase your commitment to ISO-standardized PDF technology.
- **Promotion:** a members-only venue to promote products and services online and at events.
- **Business intelligence:** industry information, research, news and networking.
- **Leadership:** demonstrate your vision for PDF.

### How to join

For details and application forms, email [info@pdfa.org](mailto:info@pdfa.org) or visit [www.pdfa.org/join](http://www.pdfa.org/join).



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# PDF Association

## Promoting ISO Standards for PDF Technology

- Access in-depth technical resources
- Collaborate with PDF experts worldwide
- Stay in touch with ISO standards development
- Promote your PDF solutions

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[www.pdfa.org](http://www.pdfa.org)

## What is the PDF Association?

Founded in 2006 as the PDF/A Competence Center, the PDF Association promotes open standards-based electronic document implementations using PDF technology through education, expertise and shared experience.

- **Developers** use the PDF Association to share their knowledge and experience with ISO-standardized PDF technology.
- **Decision-makers** use the PDF Association to help them understand the role and capabilities of PDF and PDF's subset standards in ECM, CCM, manufacturing, printing, publishing, and other electronic document applications.



## Why does ISO-standardized PDF matter?

- **Organizations** benefit from new capabilities and enhanced interoperability.
- **End users** see improved quality and functionality in their electronic document experiences.

## Why we need a PDF Association?

Adobe transferred PDF to the ISO in 2008, but ISO committees write standards; they don't promote adoption.

A global coalition of commercial and non-profit organizations, the PDF Association was created to help developers and users understand and leverage ISO-standardized PDF to improve reliability and flexibility in their use of electronic documents.

## The Portable Document Format

In 1991, Adobe Systems co-founder John Warnock announced "Camelot", a system that evolved into the Portable Document Format (PDF) first presented in 1993. That same year, Adobe published the PDF specification for any developer to use, and made the Adobe Reader free.

Today, almost every computer, mobile device or printer lets users create, edit, display or output PDF documents.

The Portable Document Format (PDF) is the *de facto* standard for electronic documents worldwide. No other technology comes close to PDF in marketplace acceptance.



Adobe founders John Warnock and Chuck Geschke

## PDF standards

- PDF 1.7 became an ISO standard (ISO 32000-1) in 2008.
- Since 2001, five ISO-standardized subsets of PDF have been published: PDF/X, PDF/A, PDF/E, PDF/VT and PDF/UA.
- PDF 2.0 was published by ISO's TC 171 SC 2 WG 8 in 2017.
- PDF is a national standard in dozens of countries.

## PDF is everywhere

- Today, trillions of PDF files exist across almost every business and government organization worldwide.
- PDF documents can contain file attachments, 3D objects, semantic tags, movies, forms, JavaScript and much more.
- Thousands of vendors worldwide offer PDF-based solutions including PDF viewing and creation tools, servers, plug-ins, cloud-based services, consulting, training and tools.

## PDF Association member benefits

Developers, service providers and institutions all benefit from membership in the PDF Association:

- **Showcase your PDF expertise:** Adding the PDF Association logo to your own marketing and promotional materials demonstrates your commitment to best-practice in PDF technology.
- **Influence development and promotional efforts:** Members-only resources, include Technical Working Groups, draft papers, surveys, presentations and more. By joining a Technical Working Group you can add your voice to influence upcoming standards and best-practice documents. Participating in a Marketing Working Group allows you to have an impact on the marketplace and aid in PDF standards adoption.
- **Extend your visibility:** Our website ([pdfa.org](http://pdfa.org)) is frequented by professionals looking for PDF-related information, and is well-ranked by search engines. Adding your company's information and links will improve your visibility. Members can list their products and services and add white-papers, articles, case studies or videos to the site.
- **Unique members-only marketing opportunities:** Participate in the PDF Association's worldwide conference and trade show presences with sponsorship options and reduced-cost tickets for employees, customers and contacts.
- **Be among the first to know:** The PDF Association's intranet contains valuable information for members, including survey results, meeting minutes and drafts of upcoming ISO standards.
- **International networking:** PDF Association working groups and in-person events provide opportunities to interact with leading experts to discuss PDF topics, float new ideas and find inspiration for your own innovations.

