

# PDF (Portable Document Format): a final common pathway to the Web, the printer and the publisher



## What is PDF?

PDF is a propriety text, graphics and page description and display technology that is based on Postscript from Adobe, Inc.

\* Postscript uses math to define text fonts, images and their display or print representations or output.

\* Postscript output is converted or Distiller to PDF by a Adobe Acrobat program that results in a more compact file. The distillation is not unlike the making of stout Scotch whiskey. 10x concentration is not uncommon.

\* The result is the union of text, image and layout information and content into one document fit for distribution and display.

## What are the advantages of PDF?

\* First, the document can originate from any application tool on any platform.

\* Second, screen display can use the free Acrobat Reader for viewing. The original application is not needed.

\* Third, multiple font types, including scientific and foreign language symbols can be embedding into the document and need on be native to the receiving Operating System.

\* Fourth, typesetters support PDF

## How can PDF be used?

### Forms

Presentations with links and annotations  
e- message attachments

### Technical Manuals

Documentatinon  
Distributions

### Workgroup collaboration

Document management and storage  
Security and Digital Signing

### Web Distribution and Publishing

Local indexing using Catalog  
Web indexing using Google

### Federal, State and Agency standard

## PDF Trivia

\* PDF is the screen display on the new Mac OS X that is based on Unix.

\* Mac Sherlock 11 can index PDF files on a local drive.

\* PDF is a popular format for high-tech electronic distribution of user and developer-manuals. CD ROM is an inexpensive and searchable medium.

\* The Palm OS can display PDF.

\* The Adobe Acrobat Suite is available in the SRJC for < \$90.