PDFlib Products
Overview

The PDFlib Product Family

PDFlib is the leading developer toolbox for generating and manipulating PDF documents. PDFlib's main targets are dynamic PDF creation on a Web server or any other server system, and to implement »Save as PDF« in existing applications. You can use PDFlib to dynamically create PDF documents from database contents, similar to dynamic Web pages. PDFlib has proven itself in a wide range of other use cases as well.

The PDFlib product family comprises three different products:

PDFlib is the base product for generating PDF output. PDFlib offers all functions required for creating PDF documents with text, graphics, images, and interactive elements such as annotations or bookmarks.

PDFlib+PDI includes all PDFlib functions plus the PDF Import Library (PDI). With PDI you can open existing PDF documents and incorporate some pages into the PDFlib output.

PDFlib Personalization Server (PPS) includes PDFlib+PDI plus additional functions for variable data processing using PDFlib Blocks. PPS makes applications independent from layout changes. The designer creates placeholders for variable contents (text, image, PDF pages or SVG graphics) using the PDFlib Block Plugin for Acrobat. These Blocks contain a variety of properties, such as font size, color, and image scaling. On the server PDFlib Personalization Server fills the Blocks with variable data.

PDFlib PLOP

PDFlib PLOP is a versatile tool for linearizing, optimizing, repairing, analyzing, encrypting and decrypting PDF documents. PLOP linearization and optimization features create efficient and small PDF documents for fast Web delivery. PLOP protection features encrypt or decrypt PDF documents and apply or remove permission settings, such as »printing not allowed« or »content extraction not allowed«. Both password security and certificate security are supported. PLOP's repair mode automatically detects damaged PDF documents and fixes the problems if possible. PLOP can also insert XMP metadata in a PDF/A-conforming manner.

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PLOP DS offers all features of PLOP plus the ability to apply digital signatures to PDF documents. The signatures can be validated in Adobe Acrobat and Acrobat Reader. Due to support for the latest PAdES standards PLOP DS can be used to create qualified electronic signatures according to the eIDAS regulation which are accepted in all EU countries.

PDFlib TET

The patented PDFlib Text and Image Extraction Toolkit (TET) is a developer product for reliably extracting text, images and metadata from PDF documents. TET makes available the text contents of a PDF as Unicode strings, plus detailed glyph and font information as well as the position on the page. In addition, TET contains advanced content analysis algorithms for determining word boundaries, grouping text into columns and removing redundant text, such as shadows or artificially bolded text. TET optionally converts PDF contents to an XML-based format.

PDFlib TET PDF IFilter

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The pCOS Interface

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The pCOS interface is not a separate product, but is included in PDFlib+PDI, PDFlib Personalization Server (PPS), PDFlib PLOP, PDFlib PLOP DS, and PDFlib TET.

Benefits of using PDFlib Software

Rock-solid Products

Tens of thousands of programmers worldwide are working with our software. PDFlib meets all quality and performance requirements for server deployment. All PDFlib products are suitable for robust 24x7 server deployment and unattended batch processing.

Speed and Simplicity

PDFlib products are incredibly fast – up to thousands of pages per second. The programming interface is straightforward and easy to learn.

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Our products support all international languages as well as Unicode. They are used by customers in all parts of the world.

Relevant Standards supported

PDFlib products support relevant standards including ISO 32000, PDF/A, PDF/X, PDF/VT, PDF/UA, XMP metadata, ICC profiles, as well as industry standards such as the Pantone® and HKS® color libraries.

Professional Support

If there's a problem, we will try to help. We offer commercial support to meet the requirements of your business-critical applications. By adding support you will have access to the latest versions and have guaranteed response times should any problems arise.

Library or Command-Line Tool?

All PDFlib products are available as a programming library (component) for various development environments. PLOP, PLOP DS, TET and pCOS are also available as command-line tools for batch operations.

Who uses PDFlib Products?

Customers from a variety of industries and businesses make use of the powerful PDFlib products, for example:

- Software developers integrate PDFlib into all kinds of applications to enable reliable and high-quality PDF output.
- Businesses create their invoices with PDFlib. Dynamic invoice generation is one of the most popular scenarios.
- Bulk mailers merge personal data to existing PDF documents.
- Prepress companies use PDFlib to build systems for creating, assembling, or personalizing PDF for commercial printing.
- Archive departments extract text from existing PDF documents with PDFlib TET for repurposing the contents.
- Search engines index PDFs with PDFlib TET.
- Web developers automatically optimize PDF content for fast Web delivery with PDFlib PLOP.
- Companies encrypt confidential PDF documents with PDFlib PLOP.
- Qualified digital signatures can be created with PDFlib PLOP DS.
- ...and many more!

Supported Development Environments

PDFlib products are everywhere – they run on practically all computing platforms. We offer variants for all common flavors of Windows, macOS, Linux and Unix as well as for IBM i5/iSeries and zSeries systems.

The core is written in highly optimized C/C++ code for maximum performance and small overhead. Via a simple API (Application Programming Interface) the functionality is accessible from a variety of development environments:

- COM for use with VB, ASP, etc.
- C and C++
- Cobol (IBM zSeries)
- Java
- .NET for use with C#, VB.NET, ASP.NET, etc.
- PHP
- Perl
- Python
- RPG (IBM i5/iSeries)
- Ruby

Licensing

We offer various licensing programs for server licenses, integration and site licenses, and source code licenses. Support contracts for extended technical support with short response times and free updates are available.

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