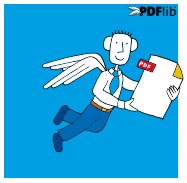

datasheet

PDFlib, PDFlib+PDI, PDFlib Personalization Server (PPS) 9.2

What is PDFlib?

PDFlib is the leading developer toolbox for generating and manipulating files in the Portable Document Format (PDF). 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. Application programmers need only decent graphics or print output experience to be able to use PDFlib quickly. Since PDFlib frees you from the technicalities of the PDF file format, you can focus on acquiring the data and arranging text, graphics, and images on the page.

The PDFlib product family is available in three different flavors: PDFlib, PDFlib+PDI (PDF Import), and the PDFlib Personalization Server (PPS) with the PDFlib Block Plugin for Adobe Acrobat.

PDFlib

PDFlib offers all functions required to generate PDF documents with text, graphics, images, and interactive elements such as annotations or bookmarks. Use PDFlib for the following and many other tasks:

- add «Save as PDF» capability to your application
- create PDF documents on a Web server in real time
- create database reports in PDF
- take advantage of advanced typography and full Unicode and encoding support for text output
- advanced color management functionality
- convert TIFF, JPEG, or other image formats as well as SVG graphics to PDF
- automatically format tables with all kinds of cell contents
- create PDF/X-1/3/4/5 documents for commercial printing
- create PDF/A-1/2/3 for archiving
- Create PDF/VT for transactional printing
- create Tagged PDF and PDF/UA-1 for accessibility

PDFlib+PDI (PDF Import)

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. Use PDFlib+PDI for all PDFlib tasks plus the following:

- impose multiple PDF pages on a single sheet for printing
- add text, such as headers, footers, stamps, or page numbers to existing PDF pages
- place images, e.g. company logo, on existing pages
- add barcodes to existing PDF pages
- assemble existing PDF pages
- add content to PDF/A, PDF/X or PDF/UA documents

PDFlib Personalization Server (PPS) and PDFlib Block Plugin

The 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 the page layout and converts it to PDF. She takes into account areas as placeholders for variable text and images. In Acrobat she drags a rectangular Block for each area using the PDFlib Block Plugin. Each Block contains a variety of Block properties, such as font size, color, image scaling. The PDFlib Block Plugin offers a Preview feature which shows the results of filling Blocks according to the specified properties.

The developer series code to fill PDFlib Blocks with text, images, vector graphics or PDF pages. He doesn't need to know the formatting or position of a Block. Use PPS for all PDFlib+PDI tasks plus the following:

- customize direct mailings with text and images
- fill templates for transactional and statement processing
- personalize promotional material with address data
- generate individual parts catalogs from a database
- produce customized documentation for multiple products

What's new in PDFlib 9?

PDF/A, and PDF/A-3

PDF/A supports two additional parts of the PDF/A standard for long-term archiving: PDF/A-2 is based on the PDF specification 1.7, offers more compression options, and many other features. While PDF/A-1 only allows TIFF and JPEG as image formats, PDF/A-2 also allows embedding of arbitrary file types.

PDF/A-3 goes a step further and allows for the embedding of arbitrary file types without restrictions. This is useful for storing documents together with the original data from which they were created, for example, word processing documents or spreadsheets. Many applications can extract such attachments when they open a PDF/A-3 document, so that users can work with the original data.

Tagged PDF and PDF/UA

Creating Tagged PDF is much easier through various enhancements in PDF/A-2 and PDF/A-3. Tagged PDF is a prerequisite for PDF/UA (Universal Accessibility), which is required for many public bodies. Tagged PDF also provides the foundation for structured data extraction.

Accessible documents can be created using the new PDF/UA-1 conformance option. The PDF/UA standard requires a number of features and improves Tagged PDF accessibility, similar to Version 1.7 (which is the minimum requirement for PDF/UA). Version 1.6 introduced accessibility in PDF/A-1a for the first time.

JPEG 2000

PDFlib supports JPEG 2000 in PDF/A-1 and PDF/A-2 (but not in PDF/A-3), as well as Tagged PDF, Unicode, and transparency in the JPEG 2000 data. This is important for accessibility, similar to Version 1.7. Other Version 1.6 enhancements are not relevant in the Web context.

PDF/X

PDF/X-5 is a specification for optimized PDF for variable and future, external printing. PDFlib includes output intent conditions for other standards such as ISO 19593 (Reference Output Medium Metric, ROMM) and Document Imaging (DI). Document Architecture (DA) and Document Exchange (DX) are not relevant for PDF/X.

Variable Vector Graphics (SVG)

PDFlib supports static graphics in the SVG format. SVG is the standard format for vector graphics on the Web, and is supported by most browsers. PDFlib supports the SVG features required for the profiles, tiny and tiny-plus. SVG 1.2 tiny.

Font handling and text output

Font handling and text processing have been enhanced in several ways:

- Ligatures: common sequences (fi) for text output glyphs
- Variable fonts: Variable font technology allows for a single font to represent multiple variations (weight, width, etc.)
- Support for OpenType Variable Fonts
- Support for all Unicode normalization forms (NFC, NFD, etc.)
- Support for Unicode Bidi (Bidirectional) text, including Arabic and Hebrew scripts, numbers, and mixed text

Upgrade from Acrobat 4 or older PDF

Acrobat 4 and older PDF versions are no longer supported. Use the following workarounds to convert these documents into the supported formats:

- Upgrade PDF documents to existing PDF versions using Acrobat or other tools
- Upgrade PDF documents to PDF/A-1a using Acrobat 6 or later

PDF/A Accessible Conformance (PDF and Block Plugin)

The following features are new in PPS:

- Tagged PDF: structure elements can be created in Common Block using properties
- Tagged PDF: use the imported tagged PDF structure in Block Plugin

Direct PDFlib Blocks (programmatically)

In addition to creating PDFlib Blocks interactively with the PDFlib Block Plugin for Acrobat, you can also create Blocks programmatically. After loading PDFlib Blocks or imported documents, you can use special API functions to fill Blocks with text, image, or PDF data. Block properties can be set from within the document, or from external sources like XML or CSV files.

PDF/A-3 Data Attachments

PDFlib includes a set of API calls for creating file-level PDF/A-3 attachments. Also included in PPS, generated PDF/A-3 files can be used for ZUGFeRD invoicing.

- Create file-level PDF/A-3 attachments (PDFlib for Perl not yet)
- Add PDF/A-3 attachments to PDF/A-3 files (PDI, PDF/A-3 files only, with PPS)

Enhanced encryption algorithm

- Support for AES-256 encryption (Unicode password, SHA-256 encryption, which is based on AES, is built in, supported in PDF 1.7, and even more secure than AES-128 in a revised way, but not yet in common use)

What's new in PPS/PDI 9.1 and 9.2?

PDF/A, PDF/X, JPEG 2000, JS, JDF/Ticket, Unicode Normalization, Variable Fonts, Bidi

- Support for Unicode Bidi text (Arabic, Hebrew, etc.)
- Support for all Unicode normalization forms (NFC, NFD, etc.)
- Support for Variable Fonts
- Support for Unicode Bidi text (Arabic, Hebrew, etc.)
- Support for all Unicode normalization forms (NFC, NFD, etc.)
- Support for Variable Fonts
- Support for Unicode Bidi text (Arabic, Hebrew, etc.)
- Support for all Unicode normalization forms (NFC, NFD, etc.)
- Support for Variable Fonts

Common Features in PDFlib, PDFlib+PDI, and the PDFlib Personalization Server

PDF/Basic	PDF 1.4 – PDF 1.7 (extension level 3) and PDF 2.0 (ISO 32000-2, UTF-8 strings, AES-256 encryption, Unicode passwords, JPEG 2000 compression, Tagged PDF, Unicode Bidi, Unicode normalization, Variable Fonts, JDF/Ticket, JS, XMP