

EPUB INDUSTRY-STANDARD FILE FORMAT FOR DIGITAL REFLOWABLE PUBLICATIONS

Top features

- Text reflow according to screen size—ideal for reading on mobile devices
- Open, nonproprietary file format standard developed and maintained by the IDPF
- Simple table of contents and navigation implementation
- Advanced control with font embedding and CSS styling
- Ability to embed images, objects, and Adobe Flash multimedia files
- Access to validation and other tools via open source projects
- Accessibility support and NIMAS compliance
- Interoperability for unencrypted files

Adobe and EPUB

- Ability to read and manage EPUB and PDF files with Adobe Digital Editions
- Copy protection of EPUB and PDF files with Adobe ADEPT
- Easy and low-cost file creation with Adobe InDesign CS3

EPUB is an XML-based file format designed to reflow text according to screen size. In addition to PDF, Adobe® Digital Editions software supports the EPUB standard, giving users the ideal format to organize and read digital publications on mobile devices.

The way in which digital publications are created and consumed has undergone a dramatic shift with the introduction of the EPUB file format standard. The EPUB file format was developed and is maintained by the International Digital Publishing Forum (IDPF, www.idpf.org), a nonprofit standards organization composed of commercial trade and academic publishers, software companies, consumer electronics manufacturers, and publishing and accessibility associations. The standard was developed with the participation of over 60 companies and organizations and was unanimously approved by IDPF members.

EPUB specifications

The EPUB file format comprises three specifications: Open Container Format (OCF), Open Publication Structure (OPS), and Open Packaging Format (OPF). OCF is simply a zip-based standard used to encapsulate all of the pieces of a digital publication into a single file. OPS describes the digital publication's markup or content (words on the page). And OPF provides the navigation, packaging, metadata, and table of contents (how the pages relate to one another). The extension that denotes this file format is .epub, just as .pdf is the file extension that denotes PDF documents.

Adobe Digital Editions, ADEPT, and EPUB

Adobe Digital Editions users can read their digital publications in either PDF or EPUB format. They can also organize and read PDF and EPUB files on all of the mobile devices that Adobe Digital Editions supports. Adobe Digital Experience Protection Technology (ADEPT) is a hosted application used by publishers, distributors, and retailers to copy-protect PDF and EPUB files for sale or loan to consumers.

The advantages of EPUB and PDF

Adobe Digital Editions supports EPUB and PDF file formats because of the advantages that both offer the content creator and the reader. PDF represents a fixed-page view and gives the publisher complete control over page layout and presentation. The reader consumes content exactly as the publisher intended. EPUB allows digital publication text to reflow according to screen size, enabling the publisher to distribute and the reader to consume digital publications on a variety of screen sizes. Adobe Digital Editions and the mobile devices that it supports can read both PDF and EPUB digital publications.

An open standard for digital publications

EPUB is developed and maintained by the IDPF, a nonprofit standards organization.

EPUB specifications are based on open standards in the public domain such as XML, XHTML, CSS, Unicode, DTBook, OASIS Open Document Format, and others. There is no fee associated with the creation, distribution, or consumption of the EPUB file format.

Creating EPUB files in Adobe InDesign® CS3

Adobe InDesign CS3 software allows content creators to export EPUB files. Beautiful and rich commercial content can be created directly from InDesign CS3, which includes advanced EPUB options for text styling, font embedding, and CSS styling as well as direct export of images, objects, and embedded Adobe Flash® multimedia files within the EPUB file.

EPUB and multimedia

EPUB allows the integration of multimedia components to create engaging experiences in digital publications that can be read on a PC or a variety of mobile devices both online and offline. With InDesign CS3, publishers and creative professionals can design and author interactive content rich with video, graphics, and animation for unique and engaging digital publications. Publishers can include interactive games, quizzes, charts, tables, and media such as music and video.

Tools supporting EPUB and validation

Because of the open and patent-unencumbered status of the EPUB file format, tools and applications are available from a variety of companies and organizations. Of particular note is an EPUB validation tool, developed in part by Adobe, available as an open source project. The purpose of the tool is to give publishers and content creators a way to check their content to help ensure that their EPUB files

are fully compliant with IDPF specifications. Standard, validated EPUB files are much less likely to have problems in today and future eBook hardware and software. The EPUB validation tool is located at <http://code.google.com/p/epubcheck>.

Accessibility and EPUB

EPUB allows markup in two vocabularies: XHTML and DTBook. DTBook is a National Information Standards Organization (NISO) standard that defines the format and content of an electronic file comprising a digital talking book (DTB). DTBs are designed to make print material accessible and navigable for sight-impaired and print-disabled persons.

K-12 publishers can create EPUB digital books using the DTBook vocabulary, with additional required information, to create a sellable commercial digital book file that also conforms to requirements of the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS).

EPUB and digital rights management

For commercial publishers, retailers, and distributors that wish to distribute and sell EPUB digital publications with copy protection, Adobe offers Adobe ADEPT. ADEPT is a convenient hosted application that protects PDF and EPUB formats for use with Adobe Digital Editions.

Consumer benefits of EPUB

Unencrypted EPUB files can be opened and read on any hardware or software that implements the standard. For unencrypted digital publications, this means that readers enjoy full interoperability between hardware and software. EPUB also allows publishers to easily produce content for sale, dramatically increasing the number and quality of digital publications for the consumer.

For more information

For details about the EPUB standard, visit the International Digital Publishing Forum website at www.idpf.org.

For more details about Adobe Digital Experience Protection Technology, visit www.adobe.com/products/adept.

For more details about Adobe Digital Editions, visit www.adobe.com/products/digitaleditions.

To request more information about ADEPT including a proposal and trial accounts, send e-mail to adept@adobe.com.



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