



Adobe® Acrobat® 7.0 and accessibility

Adobe is committed to providing solutions that improve document accessibility for people with disabilities such as blindness and motor impairments. As continuing demonstration of that commitment, Adobe has added a number of capabilities that improve the accessibility of both Adobe Acrobat 7.0 software and Adobe PDF.

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The new features and enhancements in Acrobat 7.0 address the needs of both users with disabilities and the authors of accessible content. Acrobat 7.0 and the free Adobe Reader® 7.0 software enable people with disabilities to access, read, and use Adobe PDF documents and forms—across multiple languages—more easily. And the improved tools for generating, reviewing, and enhancing Adobe PDF files found in the Acrobat 7.0 family simplify the creation and distribution of electronic content that is optimized for accessibility. Following is a summary of the new key capabilities. *Appendix I* provides a table that summarizes the key accessibility capabilities within the Acrobat 7.0 family.

Read PDF forms out loud

Previous versions of Acrobat and Reader synthesized text in PDF documents into speech using standard Microsoft® Windows® and Mac OS X text-to-speech capabilities. With Acrobat 7.0 and Reader 7.0, you can now use this capability to read forms aloud as well. Once you set your preferences to read form fields out loud, the simple act of tabbing to a form field causes Acrobat and Reader to read the text in it aloud.

Enjoy improved access when reading Adobe PDF files

Acrobat 7.0 and Reader 7.0 offer more options for opening and reading Adobe PDF files—even untagged documents—improving your access to electronic content and giving you more control over the user experience.

- **Configure Acrobat 7.0 and Reader 7.0 for use with conventional assistive technology**—When you first launch Acrobat 7.0 or Reader 7.0 while running a screen reader, screen magnifier, or similar assistive technology, an accessibility preferences wizard automatically walks you through options for configuring the software for use with these technologies, simplifying the process and improving overall usability.
- **Reflow untagged PDF files**—Previous versions of Acrobat and Reader enabled users to reflow tagged PDF files. With Acrobat 7.0 and Reader 7.0, you can now reflow untagged PDF files as well, eliminating the need to constantly pan the document when reading at high zoom levels.
- **Set preferences so the cursor is always active**—You can choose to have the text-selection cursor active whenever you launch Acrobat 7.0 or Reader 7.0, making it easier to track where you are when using a screen magnifier.
- **Automatically open PDF files to the last page read**—If you've previously opened a PDF file, you can elect to have Acrobat 7.0 and Reader 7.0 resume reading at the page where you last left off, so you no longer have to search the document to find your place.

For more details about these new features and more, read the *Adobe Acrobat 7.0 and accessibility FAQ*.

- **Navigate the search panel using keyboard commands**—Improvements to the search feature make it easier to use.
- **Receive immediate feedback and assistance when accessing untagged PDF files with assistive technology**—When you open an untagged PDF file using assistive technology, Acrobat 7.0 and Reader 7.0 display what the current accessibility settings are and allow the user to override these settings for the current document.
- **Access and navigate Help more easily**—Enhancements to the Acrobat user interface make it easier to search and navigate Help using a keyboard. The Help file focuses on the Content pane when opened. There are improved instructions on “Using Help for vision- and motor-impaired users.” And a prefix field in the index pane automatically moves to the index item that matches what you’re typing.

Create and optimize accessible documents more efficiently

Acrobat 7.0 streamlines the process of creating and optimizing accessible Adobe PDF files, saving you time and improving the quality of your files.

- **Check and touch up documents for accessibility**—The Accessibility Checker log and the Add Tags to Document report in Acrobat 7.0 Professional simplify the optimization workflow, making it easier for you to find and correct accessibility problems quickly. You can view and interact with the Accessibility Checker log directly within Acrobat. The Add Tags to Document report identifies areas in your Adobe PDF file that might need additional optimization, as well as figures and images that require ALT tags.
- **Convert existing Adobe PDF documents to tagged Adobe PDF files**—The Add Tags feature in Acrobat 7.0 offers faster, more accurate recognition of complex document structures, such as tables, for quick and consistent optimization.
- **Review and modify the tag structure on a page**—The TouchUp Reading Order tool in Acrobat 7.0 Professional enables you to visually review and modify a document’s logical reading order and basic object structure—quickly and easily.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more details about how Adobe products and solutions support accessibility, visit www.adobe.com/enterprise/accessibility.

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Appendix I: Summary of key accessibility capabilities in the Acrobat 7.0 family

READING ADOBE PDF FILES					
FEATURE	ADOBE READER 7.0*	ACROBAT 7.0 STANDARD	ACROBAT 7.0 PROFESSIONAL	WINDOWS	MAC OS X
Improved: Zoom in on text and reflow it to fit any size view in both tagged and untagged PDF files	X	X	X	X	X
Improved: Read PDF files and forms out loud using standard operating system text-to-speech synthesis	X	X	X	X	X
Take advantage of advanced reading functions using Windows-based screen readers	X	X	X	X	
New: Use the preferences wizard to configure Acrobat and Reader for accessibility	X	X	X	X	X
Improved: Quickly evaluate the accessibility of an Adobe PDF file	X	X	X	X	X
New: Receive immediate feedback and assistance when accessing untagged PDF files with assistive technology	X	X	X	X	X
Customize the font size in the bookmarks panel	X	X	X	X	X
Choose alternate reading orders	X	X	X	X	X
Take advantage of Japanese-language support	X	X	X	X	X
Improved: Use keyboard navigation	X	X	X	X	X
Improved: Access and navigate Help more easily	X	X	X	X	X
Improved: Navigate the search panel using keyboard commands	X	X	X	X	X
View documents in high-contrast mode	X	X	X	X	X
New: Set your preferences so the cursor automatically appears at the beginning of a page	X	X	X	X	X
New: Automatically open Adobe PDF files to the last page read	X	X	X	X	X
Save Adobe PDF content as text (TXT)	X	X	X	X	X
Export text from Adobe PDF files to Rich Text Format (RTF), XML, HTML, and Word (DOC)		X	X	X	X
CREATING ACCESSIBLE ADOBE PDF FILES					
FEATURE	ADOBE READER 7.0	ACROBAT 7.0 STANDARD	ACROBAT 7.0 PROFESSIONAL	WINDOWS	MAC OS X
Create tagged Adobe PDF files from Microsoft Office applications†		X	X	X	
Add security while retaining accessibility†		X	X	X	X
Convert existing Adobe PDF documents to tagged Adobe PDF files		X	X	X	X
Reduce the size of tagged Adobe PDF files for faster downloads		X	X	X	X
Add text to scanned pages for improved accessibility		X	X	X	X
OPTIMIZING ADOBE PDF FILES FOR ACCESSIBILITY					
FEATURE	ADOBE READER 7.0	ACROBAT 7.0 STANDARD	ACROBAT 7.0 PROFESSIONAL	WINDOWS	MAC OS X
Improved: Check and touch up documents for accessibility			X	X	X
Create and optimize accessible Adobe PDF forms			X	X	X
Improved: Review and modify the tag structure on a page			X	X	X

* Included in Acrobat

† Also a feature in Adobe Acrobat Elements, available only through volume licensing