Top IT considerations for PDF solutions

When selecting an enterprise PDF solution, there are many factors to consider. While perceived license savings are attractive, a sound decision weighs price against hidden costs and potential compromises to your business.

Comprehensive approach to security

While reducing costs is always an IT priority, security is not the place to compromise. Adobe invests heavily in providing comprehensive and proven security measures, including participating in the Microsoft Active Protections Program.

Adobe delivers enterprise-class application security, including application sandboxing. Adobe's sandboxing security, Protected Mode, uses industry-leading techniques to protect systems and data. Additionally, IT can selectively enable JavaScript for specific PDF files, sites, or hosts in Windows and Mac OS.

The risk of a data breach is also present at the document level. Because geographically dispersed teams are commonplace and include members from outside the firewall, IT must support information exchange and collaboration while simultaneously mitigating risks to sensitive or confidential information. Adobe Acrobat DC includes a full spectrum of document security options, from basic password security to certificate-based controls.

Ease of deployment and management

Adobe supports the widest range of deployment strategies, including Microsoft System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM), System Center Updates Publisher (SCUP), Group Policy Objects with Active Directory, Apple Package Installer, and Apple Remote Desktop. Because the Windows installer is based on standard Microsoft technology, Adobe installers are likely to work with most other Microsoft-compatible deployment tools. In addition, virtualization support is available for common hosting environments, including Citrix XenApp, Citrix XenDesktop, Microsoft App-V, VMware Horizon, and Windows Terminal Server.*

Adobe provides detailed documentation of best practices for enterprise deployment of Acrobat DC. And only Adobe offers free tools, such as the Customization Wizard and the Enterprise Toolkit for Acrobat DC and Acrobat Reader DC, to quickly configure the installer and application features prior to an enterprise-wide deployment. IT administrators can also deploy Acrobat DC and Adobe Creative Cloud apps together using the Creative Cloud Packager. And Creative Cloud for enterprise administrators can create self-service Acrobat DC packages with Creative Cloud serial numbers using the Customization Wizard. Additionally, a Multilingual User Interface for Acrobat DC or Acrobat Reader DC allows IT to roll out the same worldwide image with a single install job, including all language resources in both Windows and Mac OS platforms.

Reliable performance, ISO compliant

Acrobat DC allows employees to create documents that conform to ISO specifications, such as PDF/A and ISO 32000, as well as verify conformance and potentially correct compliance errors. Adobe actively contributes to the evolution of the ISO standard so that the PDF format will continue to expand and meet future needs. Unlike Acrobat DC and Acrobat Reader DC, other PDF tools often take years to implement the entire ISO PDF specification.

Conforming to ISO document standards is more than a nice-to-have. Not meeting regulatory requirements for document submissions can cost organizations millions of dollars. For example, valuable information can be permanently lost without reliable retrieval well into the future. Further, fidelity loss can critically impair

* Citrix XenApp, Citrix XenDesktop, Microsoft App-V, and VMware Horizon work with either named user licensing or serialized deployments, while Microsoft WTS only works with serialized deployments.

business communications. Fidelity refers to the ability to maintain crucial formatting, templates, or formulae between machines and across platforms from desktops to tablets. In most cases, alternatives display a PDF file without alerting the user that essential details were lost.

Acrobat DC customers worldwide benefit from the most dependable PDF experience. Standardizing on Acrobat DC avoids interoperability issues and formatting integrity problems that arise when consuming and working with non-Adobe PDF files. The benefit of avoiding these issues translates into fewer help desk costs and less risk of productivity stalls.

"Adobe Acrobat Pro DC has significantly changed my behavior with PDF documents from simply viewing to actually doing…. Now, I automatically turn to Acrobat Pro DC to help optimize and create PDF documents for review, editing, and commenting—making it a much simpler process to collaborate with others on the team."

—Michael Cooper, cofounder and creative director, Republic Publishing

Innovation, productivity, savings

Reliability goes beyond dependable software and support. Addressing the key concerns and needs of knowledge workers drives innovation at Adobe. Only Acrobat DC enables employees to reliably view and interact with PDF documents across platforms and devices. For example, the free Acrobat Reader mobile app enables staff to work with PDF files on Android, iOS, and Windows Phone devices. Extending content to mobile devices increases the value of corporate assets. Real-time access to information translates to a more informed workforce better equipped to do their jobs—such as content reviews—without being limited to specific platforms, devices, or locations. The latest Acrobat Reader mobile app offers functionality such as annotation and commenting tools, form-filling features, secure access, and electronic signatures.

Adobe's strategy and support for Enterprise Mobile Management is rapidly evolving. The Acrobat Reader mobile app supports Android for Work, which allows IT administrators to remotely configure Acrobat Reader for their employees. Acrobat Reader for Microsoft Intune is available for Android and iOS, providing mobile device and application management from the cloud.

Flexible solutions and extensive support

There may be times when your organization has specific needs that desktop software cannot deliver out of the box. Acrobat DC has a freely available and extensive software development kit (SDK) that allows you to integrate the software into existing systems to create even more powerful solutions. Develop plug-ins or specialized tools for Acrobat DC, and enable users to easily access and perform critical tasks on PDFs in content management systems or other systems of record. Many commercially available plug-ins for Acrobat DC provide additional capabilities as well. In addition, a network of Adobe authorized trainers, developers, consultants, and online learning resources can help ensure your success quickly.

Seamless PDF integration with Microsoft Office 365, SharePoint, and OneDrive

Maximize your Microsoft investment and increase team productivity by providing a more streamlined workflow with PDF documents. Acrobat DC gives Office 365 users instant access to the world's best PDF tools from inside the applications they use every day. Now users can convert documents to high-quality, password-protected PDF files that preserve fonts, formatting, and layouts directly from Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Teams can also convert PDFs to editable Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and RTF files, as well as create, combine, and organize PDFs directly from inside SharePoint and OneDrive.

Acrobat DC also takes the pain out of deployment and security. Centrally deploy and manage the integration of Acrobat and PDF services using Office 365 Admin tools in a matter of minutes. You can even use a web-based installer to configure your Office 365 accounts without installing additional software on users' desktop machines. And you can make sure business-critical documents stay secure with Office 365 cloud security. Users no longer need to download documents from SharePoint and OneDrive to convert to PDF or to add password protection, which means you don't have to worry about sensitive documents being kept on unsecured computers.

Accessible electronic content

PDF files aren't all the same. This is especially true in regards to accessibility for users who have difficulty hearing, seeing, or making precise movements. Acrobat DC and Acrobat Reader DC provide strong accessibility support for consuming and working with PDF documents and forms. Only Acrobat DC empowers users to create, optimize, and verify document conformance to established specifications, including PDF/UA and WCAG 2.0, prior to distribution.

Why compromise?

Standardize on the world's best PDF solution. Give your workforce the tools they need to create, edit, and sign PDFs anywhere. Get the tools you need to speed installation and manage updates. Rest assured knowing your company's PDFs are protected by Adobe, the leader in digital document security.

Although initially license fees may seem to be a significant portion of the total cost of software ownership, they actually represent only a fraction of the cost. Additional outlays for procuring and managing software can negate any upfront savings. How much protection does your organization need for data and systems, and what is an acceptable return on your investment? By choosing Adobe, IT can support the way enterprise works today—and the way business will work in the future.

For more information about the Acrobat DC offerings suitable for business, read the Acrobat DC for business overview.

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