



datasheet

# PDFlib Products in the Real World

## 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 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

The PDFlib product family comprises the following products:

**PDFlib** offers all functions required to generate 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 pages into the PDFlib output. It also includes the pCOS interface for querying PDF objects.

**PDFlib Personalization Server (PPS)** includes PDFlib+PDI plus additional functions for variable data processing using PDFlib Blocks. PPS makes applications independent of any layout changes.

### »Save as PDF« for Applications

*I work with a software development company and want to implement a »Save as PDF« feature in our applications.*

PDFlib integrates with all kinds of applications to enable reliable and high-quality PDF output. Many well-known developers of graphics programs, geographical information systems (GIS), pre-press and DTP applications and from many other domains rely on PDFlib to add PDF generation features to their products.

### Invoices for an Online Shop

*How can I create PDF invoices dynamically in my online shop?*

Dynamic invoice generation is one of the most popular PDFlib scenarios. The generated PDF invoices can be viewed in the Web browser, made available for separate download, or e-mailed to the user.

Use PDFlib to place transaction data (customer details, item list, prices, etc.) on a PDF page. Add images, such as a company logo, in a variety of image formats. Use PDFlib+PDI to incorporate existing PDF material, for example company stationery as background.

### Mail Merge

*How can I merge personal data into an existing PDF document to create mass mailings?*

PDFlib+PDI imports one or more pages of an existing PDF and adds individual text and images to create individual letters. The programmer adds code for retrieving text or graphics from a text file or database. A single large PDF containing all letters can be produced for printing, or many personalized small PDFs for e-mailing to the recipients.

If you need more flexibility because slightly different mailings must be produced or changes in the page design occur frequently, you can use the PDFlib Personalization Server (PPS). It facilitates both the designer's and the programmer's job when it comes to variable data processing.

### I need to create PDF/UA for accessibility

*I am facing strict requirements regarding Tagged PDF for accessibility. How can I conform to PDF/UA requirements?*

PDFlib offers convenience features for creating Tagged PDF for improved accessibility and repurposing of PDF documents. The standard PDF/UA-1 for universal accessibility is fully supported. All standard PDF tags as well as custom tags are supported. PDFlib+PDI and PPS can process existing Tagged PDF documents while maintaining the imported document structure (tag tree). This means you can assemble pages from existing Tagged PDF documents and enhance them with additional content.

## Commercial Printing

*Can I use PDFlib to prepare prepress data for commercial printing?*

Customers use PDFlib to build systems for creating, assembling, or personalizing PDF documents for commercial printing. In many cases these production systems are accessible via a Web browser. The PDFlib product family supports a variety of features for the graphic arts industry, including color management with ICC profiles, CMYK color, spot colors with built-in PANTONE® and HKS® tables. PDFlib supports the relevant standards PDF/X-3, PDF/X-4 and PDF/X-5 as well as optimized PDF/VT.

## Mass Generation of Bills

*I am responsible for creating the bills at a major telecommunications provider. We plan to migrate from paper-based bills to online PDFs and distribute them via e-mail or Web.*

PDFlib has a proven track record in mission-critical environments. Even with millions of bills in each run you won't experience performance or reliability problems. PDFlib works on any kind of server, including midrange and mainframe systems.

## Spice up existing PDFs

*Can I add stamps and page numbers to existing PDF pages?*

First you import the pages from your PDF with PDFlib+PDI. Then you add a transparent stamp, running page numbers, barcodes, company logo, or any other content. You can even add interactive elements including links, form fields, bookmarks, etc. With these features you can approach PDF problems with a postprocessing solution.

## Other PDFlib GmbH Products

**PDFlib TET** extracts Unicode text, images and metadata from any PDF document. TET includes patented content analysis algorithms for identifying word boundaries or dehyphenating text, and much more.

**PDFlib TET PDF IFilter** extracts text and metadata of PDF documents and makes it available to search and retrieval software on Windows.

**PDFlib PLOP** linearizes, optimizes and protects PDF documents, and adds XMP metadata.

**PDFlib PLOP DS** applies digital signatures to PDF documents according to EU regulations.

## Supported Development Environments

PDFlib is everywhere – it runs on practically all computing platforms. We offer 32- and 64-bit variants for all common flavors of Windows, macOS, Linux and Unix, as well as for IBM i5/iSeries and zSeries mainframes.

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

- COM
- C and C++
- Java

- .NET and .NET Core
- Objective-C
- Perl
- PHP
- Python
- RPG (IBM i5/iSeries)
- Ruby

## 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.

### PDFlib Products all over the World

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

### 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.

### 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 also available.

## About PDFlib GmbH

PDFlib GmbH is completely focused on PDF technology. Customers worldwide use PDFlib products since 1997. The company closely follows development and market trends, such as ISO standards for PDF. PDFlib GmbH products are distributed all over the world with major markets in North America, Europe, and Japan.

## Contact

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