



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?

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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.

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