

# How to create Acrobat PDF files

Acrobat PDF (Portable Document Format) files are great for exchanging fully formatted documents, sending files to a service provider, or putting formatted documents on the Web. Anyone with the free Adobe Acrobat Reader ([www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)) can view and print PDF files. However, Acrobat Reader does not provide the capability to create PDF files. Here are several options for creating PDF files.

- Some applications have the ability to “save” or “export” directly to PDF format. Recent versions of PageMaker, InDesign, FrameMaker, Illustrator, Photoshop, CorelDraw, and FreeHand have this capability.

- You can purchase the full version of Acrobat 5 ([www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)) for \$250, and use the included “Distiller” or “PDFWriter” printer drivers to create PDF files from any application. The Acrobat installer also adds a feature called “PDFMaker” to Microsoft Word and Excel that makes it easy to create PDF files from those applications. The full version of Acrobat also gives you the capability to optimize PDF files, add electronic signatures, extract text and graphics from PDF files, create electronic forms, and many other features.
- Subscribing to Adobe’s “Create Adobe PDF Online” service ([cpdf.adobe.com](http://cpdf.adobe.com)) for \$10/month or \$100/year allows you

to upload files from most popular applications through your Web browser, and have completed PDF files emailed back to you.

- Another option is the “Jaws PDF Creator” ([www.jawspdf.com](http://www.jawspdf.com)) for \$120 from Global Graphics. The Jaws PDF Creator printer driver allows you to create PDF files from any application.

*Keith Gilbert provides training & support services to help graphic designers and communicators convey print and Web messages effectively. Gilbert Consulting, 651 633-7148 [www.gilbertconsulting.com](http://www.gilbertconsulting.com)*