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2 History (2)

Adobe Systems made the PDF specification available free of charge in 1993. In the early years PDF was popular mainly in desktop publishing workflows, and competed with a variety of formats such as DjVu, Envoy, Common Ground Digital Paper, Farallon Replica and even Adobe's own PostScript format. [...]

3 Technical foundations (2)

A PDF file is often a combination of vector graphics, text, and bitmap graphics. [...]

4 File format (2)

A PDF file contains 7-bit ASCII characters, except for certain elements that may have binary content. [...]

5 Imaging model (2)

The basic design of how graphics are represented in PDF is very similar to that of PostScript, except for the use of transparency, which was added in PDF 1.4. [...]

6 Vector graphics (3)

As in PostScript, vector graphics in PDF are constructed with paths. [...]

7 Raster images (3)

Raster images in PDF (called Image XObjects) are represented by dictionaries with an associated stream. [...]

8 Text in PDF (3)

Text in PDF is represented by text elements in page content streams. [...]

9 Transparency (3)

The original imaging model of PDF was, like PostScript's, opaque: each object drawn on the page completely replaced anything previously marked in the same location.

10 Additional features (2)

11 Logical structure and accessibility (3)

A "tagged" PDF (see clause 14.8 in ISO 32000) includes document structure and semantics information to enable reliable text extraction and accessibility.