

What is (was) PDF?

Short for Portable Document Format, a file format developed by Adobe Systems. PDF captures formatting information from a variety of desktop publishing applications, making it possible to send formatted documents and have them appear on the recipient's monitor or printer as they were intended.

To view a file in PDF format, you need Adobe Acrobat Reader, a free application distributed by Adobe Systems.

FPDF

FPDF is a PHP class which allows to generate PDF files with straight PHP, that is to say without using the PDFlib library. The advantage is that the latter requires a fee for a commercial usage. F from FPDF stands for Free: you may use it for any kind of usage and modify it to suit your needs.

FPDF has other advantages: high level functions. Here is a list of its main features:

- Choice of measure unit, page format and margins

- Page header and footer management

- Automatic page break

- Automatic line break and text justification

- Image support (JPEG and PNG)

- Colors

- Links

- TrueType, Type1 and encoding support

- Page compression

FPDF requires no extension (except Zlib to activate compression) and is compatible with PHP3 up to version 1.31.