

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.