

Why are PDF files popular?

The Portable Document Format has become a de-facto standard for document exchange across platforms and computing environments. More than 200 million PDF documents are posted on the World Wide Web. Key benefits that have driven this popularity are:

- **Integrity:** PDF files look like the original documents they were created from. They conserve their appearance after sharing - regardless of platform, operating system or local settings on each computer or device.
- **File size:** In many cases, PDF files can be more compact than their source documents - ideal for file transfer.
- **Security:** PDF files can be digitally signed and password protected to prevent unauthorized changes.
- **Sharing:** While the basic document content can be frozen, commenting and mark-up tools allow collective authoring and document review.