

Adobe® Acrobat® 6.0 and Accessibility

Adobe Systems Incorporated is committed to providing solutions that improve document accessibility for users with disabilities such as blindness and motor impairments. With a number of capabilities that increase the accessibility of both the Acrobat software and the information included in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files, Acrobat 6.0 is continuing proof of that commitment.

The new features and enhancements in Acrobat 6.0 address the needs of both users with disabilities and authors of accessible content. Acrobat 6.0 and the free Adobe Reader® 6.0 enable users with disabilities to access, read, and use Adobe PDF documents and forms—across multiple languages, including Japanese—more easily. And the improved tools for generating, reviewing, and enhancing Adobe PDF files found in the Acrobat 6.0 family make it easier for authors to create and distribute electronic content that is optimized for accessibility. Following is a summary of these new features.

Read PDF Documents Aloud

Acrobat 6.0 and Reader 6.0 synthesizes text in PDF files into speech using standard Microsoft® Windows® and Mac OS X capabilities, giving you basic access to PDF files. Acrobat 6.0 and Reader 6.0 also work with assistive technologies from vendors such as Dolphin Computer Access, Freedom Scientific, and GW Micro to support screen readers offering a full functioning reading experience. Capabilities can include intelligent navigation of PDF forms and documents and toggling between table and text reading modes.

Exercise Greater Control When Reading Adobe PDF Files

Acrobat 6.0 and Reader 6.0 offer more options for opening and reading Adobe PDF files, improving your access to electronic content and giving you more control of the user experience. Ideally, PDF files should be tagged because tagged files incorporate logical structure and alternative text descriptions for graphics, offering a host of benefits, including making it easier for screen reader users to navigate a document in the proper reading order and understand the meaning of the graphics.

- Quickly evaluate the accessibility of a PDF file—The Reader Quick Check feature in Acrobat 6.0 and Reader 6.0 quickly assesses whether a document is optimized for accessibility. Upon opening a file, it indicates if the document contains structural tags that help to define proper reading order. It also alerts you if it finds only scanned images, rather than readable text.
- Customize the font size—You can increase the text size in the software navigation panels, making it easy to read the bookmarks, comments, and signatures in an Adobe PDF file (Windows Only).
- Use keyboard navigation—With contiguous and non-contiguous text selection and a greater number of shortcuts, it's now simpler than ever to navigate a PDF file using your keyboard. Cycle through menus, toolbars, navigation panels, dialog boxes, the document window, and other parts of the interface without using a mouse (Windows Only).
- Choose alternate reading orders—With Acrobat 6.0, you can choose from several reading orders for both text and form fields, providing you with greater flexibility. This is especially important if you use a screen reader.

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Create Accessible Documents in Less Time

Acrobat 6.0 simplifies the process of optimizing Adobe PDF files for accessibility, saving you time and improving the quality of your documents.

- Check and touch up documents—With the enhanced Accessibility Checker in Acrobat 6.0 Professional, you can analyze documents and identify common accessibility problems faster—even tables and lists.
- Review and modify the reflow order of objects—The new Content Panel in Acrobat 6.0 Professional simplifies the process of checking and modifying the reflow order of objects on a page.
- Create and optimize accessible Adobe PDF forms—The improvements to the Tags palette interface make it easier to add tags to fillable Adobe PDF forms. As you create the forms, Acrobat 6.0 Professional can automatically insert each new form field into the Tags panel. Tagged PDF forms allow screen readers to recognize form fields, read any descriptive text associated with the fields, and identify the proper reading order.
- Convert existing PDF documents to tagged Adobe PDF files—Now available for both Windows and Mac OS X, the make accessible function includes enhanced recognition of complex document components such as tables. You can also use this tool in conjunction with the Acrobat 6.0 batch processing function to convert volumes of documents efficiently.
- Reduce the size of Tagged Adobe PDF documents—Improve access to Adobe PDF files by shortening download times using the Tagged PDF Compression feature in Acrobat 6.0.

Take Advantage of Japanese Language Support

When working with Japanese language files, both users with disabilities and document authors can utilize the full range of accessibility features available in Acrobat 6.0 and Reader 6.0.

Acrobat 6.0 and Reader 6.0 Accessibility Features

The following table contains all the accessibility features available with the Acrobat 6.0 family and Adobe Reader.

READING ADOBE PDF FILES					
FEATURE	ADOBE READER 6.0 (INCLUDED IN ADOBE 6.0 ELEMENTS)	ACROBAT 6.0 STANDARD	ACROBAT 6.0 PROFESSIONAL	WINDOWS	MAC OS X
New: Read PDF files aloud using standard operating system text-to-speech	X	X	X	X	X
Utilize advanced reading functions using Windows-based screen readers	X	X	X	X	
New: Quickly evaluate the accessibility of a PDF file	X	X	X	X	X
New: Customize the font size in the Acrobat 6.0 navigation panels	X	X	X	X	
New: Choose alternate reading orders	X	X	X	X	X
New: Take advantage of Japanese Language support	X	X	X	X	X
Improved: Use keyboard navigation	X	X	X	X	
View documents in high-contrast mode	X	X	X	X	X
Zoom in on text and reflow it to fit any size view	X	X	X	X	X
Save Adobe PDF content as text (TXT)	X	X	X	X	X

CREATING ACCESSIBLE ADOBE PDF FILES

FEATURE	ADOBE READER 6.0	ADOBE 6.0 ELEMENTS	ACROBAT 6.0 STANDARD	ACROBAT 6.0 PROFESSIONAL	WINDOWS	MAC OS X
Create tagged Adobe PDF files within Microsoft Office 2000 and Office XP		X	X	X	X	
Add security while retaining accessibility		X	X	X	X	X
Improved: Convert existing PDF documents to tagged Adobe PDF files			X	X	X	X
New: Reduce the size of tagged Adobe PDF files for faster download times			X	X	X	X
Add text to scanned pages for improved accessibility			X	X	X	X
Export text from Adobe PDF files to Text (TXT) format, Rich Text Format (RTF), XML, HTML, and Word (DOC)			X	X	X	X

OPTIMIZING ADOBE PDF FILES FOR ACCESSIBILITY

FEATURE	ADOBE READER 6.0	ADOBE 6.0 ELEMENTS	ACROBAT 6.0 STANDARD	ACROBAT 6.0 PROFESSIONAL	WINDOWS	MAC OS X
Improved: Check and touch up documents for accessibility				X	X	X
Improved: Create and optimize accessible Adobe PDF forms				X	X	X
New: Review and modify the reflow order of objects on a page				X	X	X

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