Debunking Common PDF Myths

By Patty La Bella

Originally developed in 1993 by Adobe Systems, the Portable Document Format (PDF) has become the "go-to" file type used in nearly every industry as a means to create, view, edit, and save paper files into digital documents.

While many of us work with PDFs on a daily basis, there's still a lot we don't understand about them. Moreover, in order to make the most out of the format, there's more we can learn about PDF technology.

In this blog, we'll examine the most common myths about the PDF, take those myths to task, and put to rest the misconceptions that comes with them. Let's start **debunking** the most common myths about PDFs!

Debunking Common PDF Myths:

Myth #1: Adobe Acrobat is the only PDF software on the market

While Adobe is the original creator of the PDF, it definitely is not the *only* PDF software company out there. According to Capterra, there are well over 70 reputable PDF software makers in the world. Some, like Adobe, offer desktop-only PDF software. However, others, like ActivePDF, offer server-side enterprise PDF developer tools that put this same type of PDF power into their applications and automated processes that service millions of people every day.

Since January, 2000, ActivePDF has provided high-volume, automated PDF developer Software Development Kits (SDKs), as well as online PDF viewing and editing for businesses throughout the world.

Learn how business all over the world are implementing ActivePDF developer SDKs into their everyday workflows:

[Download Case Studies]

Myth #2: PDF SDKs are super expensive

Back in the day, automated PDF SDKs came at a high price. However, the growing need for digital transformation and compliancy has forced more professional organizations to turn to PDF automation tools. The result was an increasingly competitive PDF software market that drove pricing and licensing down to a more affordable level.

Because of this, more PDF software programs and developer tools are implemented by companies of all sizes, needs, and budgets. ActivePDF has created an affordable selection of software programs and licensing options that cater to the specific needs and functions of small-to-medium businesses.

Myth #3: PDF security requires technical skills

ActivePDF Global Marketing Director Derek Gerber shares that one of the biggest benefits of implementing PDF is that everyone has the capacity to build high-level security into PDF files. This can range from the basics of password protection to the more intense process of preventing cyber crime.

Basic PDF security is possible through developer tools and SDKs such as ActivePDF OCR, Toolkit Ultimate (which includes the ability to redact, extract, control printing, watermarking, and more), Reader Plus (which retains forms and documents securely behind your firewall), and DocConverter (featuring the highest standard of PDF encryption). These are the features that provide confidence in knowing that your most sensitive files are protected from hackers, cyberattacks, and just plain human error.

Sometimes you need a "One-in-All" PDF SDK to Extract, Redact, Rasterize, and more. Try Toolkit Ultimate today!

[Download Toolkit Ultimate]

Myth #4: Digital signatures are not secure

To say, "PDF led the way in digital signatures," is an understatement. PDF technology added the ability to embed digital signatures in documents in 1999 — one year before the ESIGN Act made online signatures legally binding.

ActivePDF's partnerships with leading digital contract-signing providers utilize the creation and application of digital signatures with timestamps and other features for proof of authenticity and security. Standards-based signatures can automate and streamline all business-critical agreement workflows, and save time and money while staying secure and compliant within local and industry eSignature standards.

Myth #5: PDF files take up way too much space

There are many contributing factors to large PDF file size, such as conversion preferences, embedded images or other design elements, and (if scanning hard copies) scanner types and settings. These factors generally contribute to a PDF file that takes up a considerable amount of much-needed space.

The good news is, that PDF software now includes compression technology, such as Compressor Enterprise by ActivePDF. This developer API can be customized to maximize file size reduction, without sacrificing the quality of the content.

If you want to know more about compressing high volumes of PDFs with handy tips and tricks, check out the ActivePDF Learning Center article *How to Compress PDF Files for Size & Performance.*

Compressor Enterprise quickly reduces PDF file sizes locally or in The Cloud. Get your free trial today!

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Like so many software programs, misconceptions can stop the progress of digital transformation. We hope by debunking some of these common PDF myths, you now have a better understanding about how PDF developer tools work, their affordability, security confidence, digital signatures, and compression software.