# A sample PDF ﬁle

History and standardization

Format (PDF) Adobe Systems made the PDF speciﬁcation available free of

charge in 1993. In the early years PDF was popular mainly in desktop

publishing workﬂows, and competed with a variety of formats such as DjVu,

Envoy, Common Ground Digital Paper, Farallon Replica and even Adobe's

own PostScript format. PDF was a proprietary format controlled by Adobe

until it was released as an open standard on July 1, 2008, and published by

the International Organization for Standardization as ISO 32000-1:2008, at

which time control of the speciﬁcation passed to an ISO Committee of

volunteer industry experts. In 2008, Adobe published a Public Patent License

to ISO 32000-1 granting royalty-free rights for all patents owned by Adobe

that are necessary to make, use, sell, and distribute PDF-compliant

implementations. PDF 1.7, the sixth edition of the PDF speciﬁcation that

became ISO 32000-1, includes some proprietary technologies deﬁned only by

Adobe, such as Adobe XML Forms Architecture (XFA) and JavaScript

extension for Acrobat, which are referenced by ISO 32000-1 as normative

and indispensable for the full implementation of the ISO 32000-1

speciﬁcation. These proprietary technologies are not standardized and their

speciﬁcation is published only on Adobe's website. Many of them are also not

supported by popular third-party implementations of PDF.

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