

PDF Accessibility

“Everybody is a content creator!”

Adobe Acrobat Pro 8

Webmaster User Group April 4, 2007

Accessibility Concerns

July 14, 2006

IOUCA accessibility standards identify:

- Limited accuracy of speech-output
- Inaccessible “read-order” of forms
- Slow download for older technologies
- Security feature “disables” accessibility

(more...)

Accessibility Concerns

(continued)

- Most PDF online not accessible
- Scanned, image-only documents
- Untagged reading order
- User unable to modify or save PDF forms

Meeting with Adobe

November 16, 2006

ADOBE meeting with IOUCA to address accessibility issues...

- Acrobat 8 Pro built-in accessibility features:
 - Text to Speech functionality
 - Auto-scroll
 - Read Out Loud *(more...)*

Meeting with Adobe

(continued)

Accessibility checker:

- Read order
- OCR for scanned PDF
- Add form-fields

(more...)

Meeting with Adobe

(continued)

Accessibility checker:

- Verify, add, or modify tagging
- Validate against Section 508 & WCAG
- Add alt-text description to graphics

So, now what??

Pros:

- Acrobat 8 Pro accessibility features can address the concerns with PDF & minimize the accessibility limitations
 - Free to end user
 - Backward compatible with older versions
 - Policy Server allows deactivation of “bad” PDF
- (more...)*

So, now what??

Cons:

- Can be expensive
- Can be intimidating out of the box to content creators
- Requires training

Let's Explore the Process

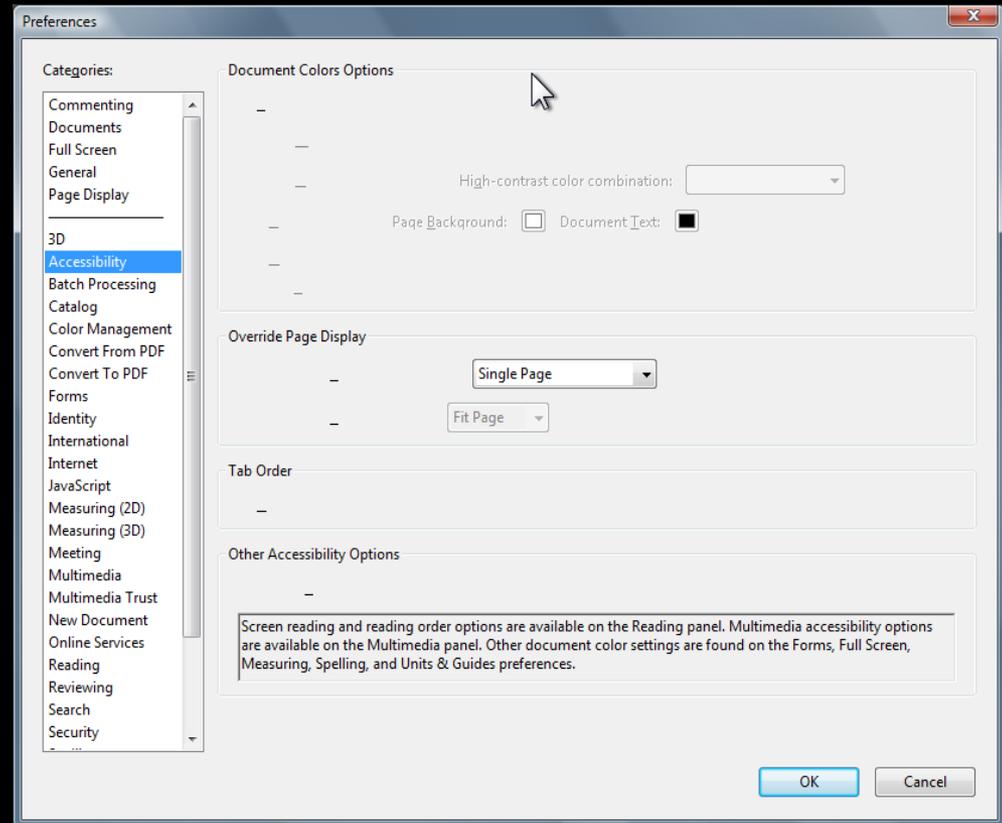
1. Open Acrobat 8 Pro
2. Set Accessibility Preferences
3. Activate Preflight:
 - Advanced > Preflight
 - Shows PDF version compatibility
 - Shows PDF/X & PDF/A status

PDF Accessibility Preferences

Edit > Preferences > Accessibility

Then adjust settings for:

- Convert from PDF
- Convert to PDF
- Forms
- JavaScript
- New Document
- Reading (Order Options)

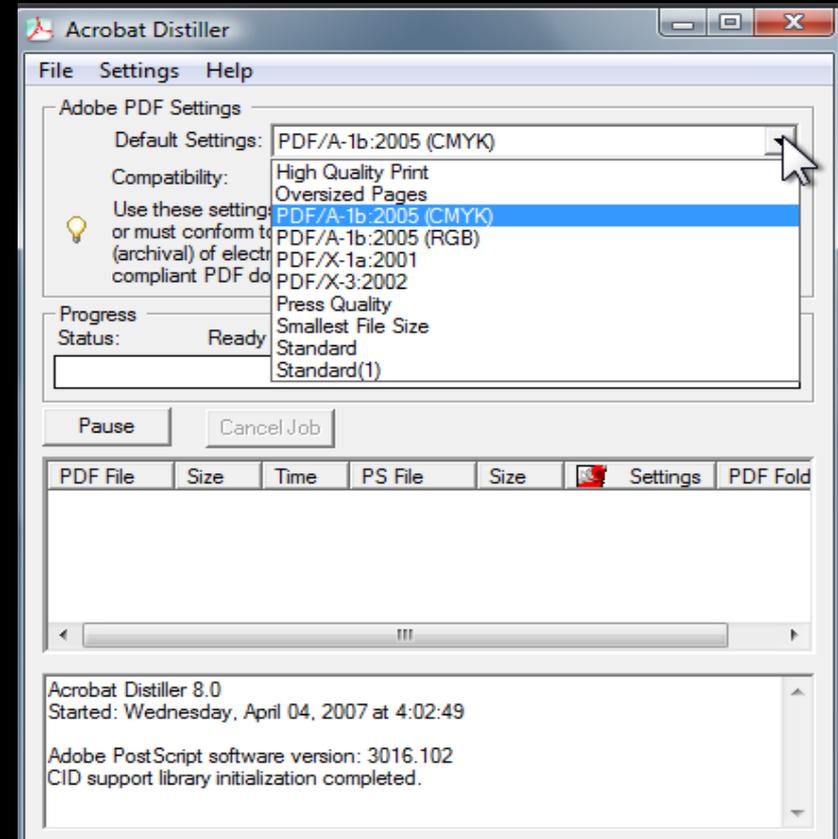


Acrobat Distiller

Acrobat Distiller > Settings >

Then adjust Default Settings:

- PDF/A
- PDF/X
- Smallest File Size
- Standard *(more...)*



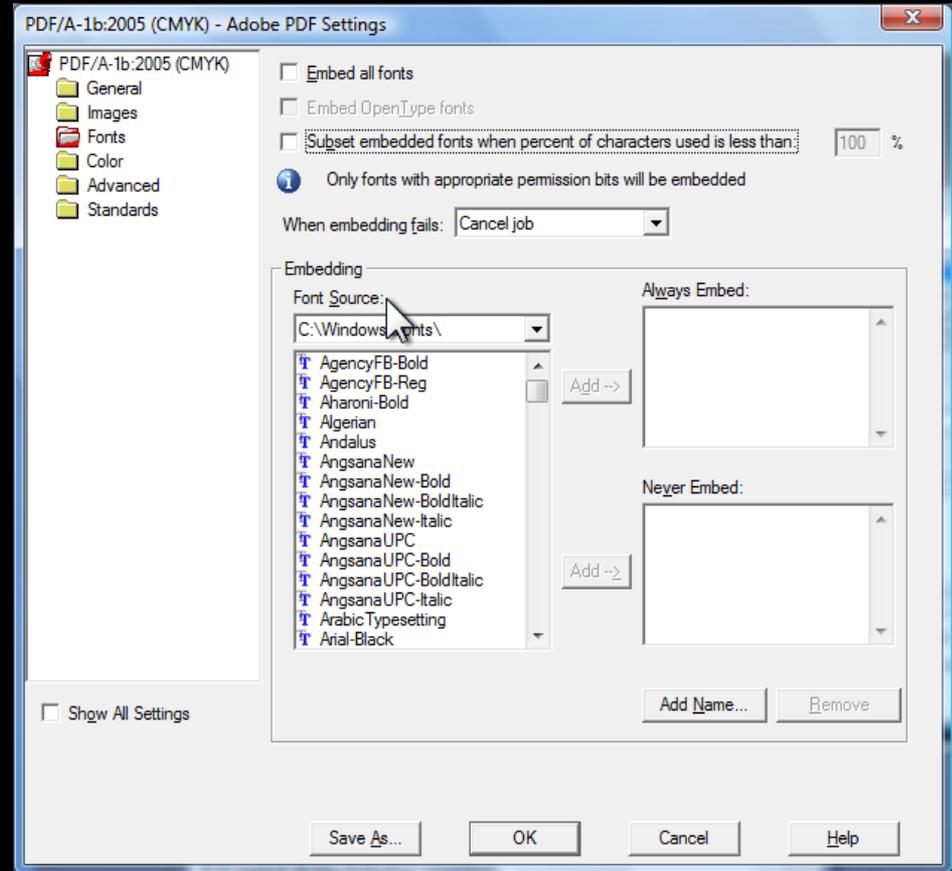
Acrobat Distiller

Acrobat Distiller > Adobe PDF Settings > Fonts

Then uncheck:

- Embed all fonts
- Subset embedded fonts...

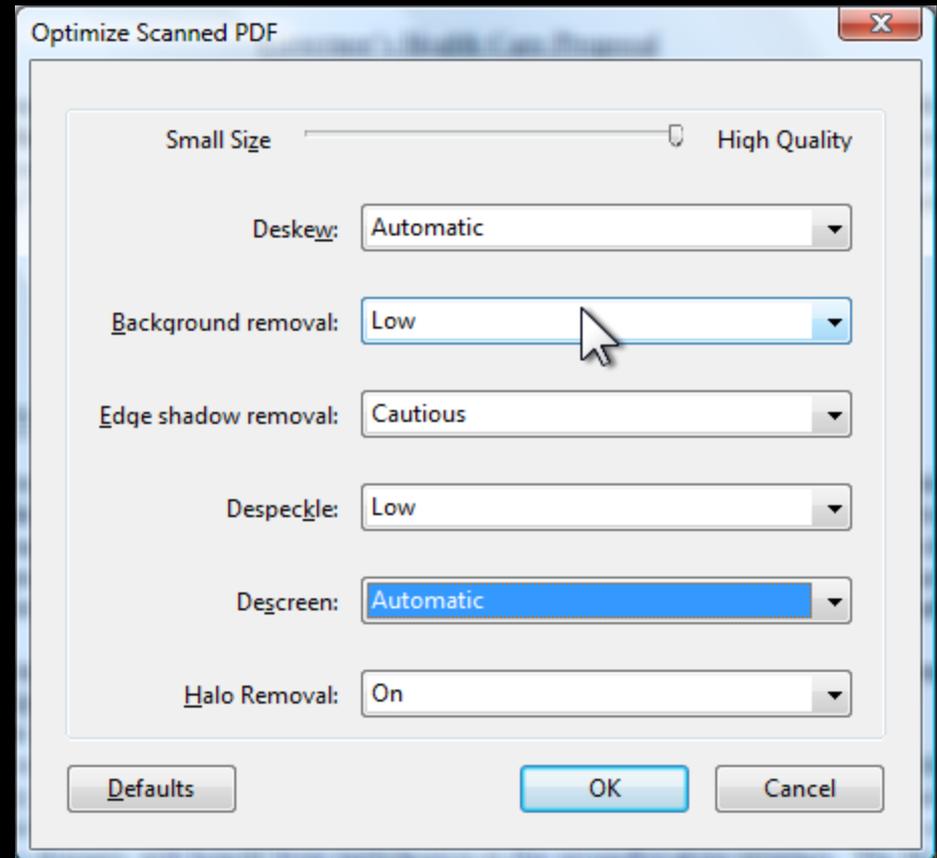
(This will minimize PDF size & prevent system crashes.)



Optimize Scanned PDF

Advanced > PDF Optimizer

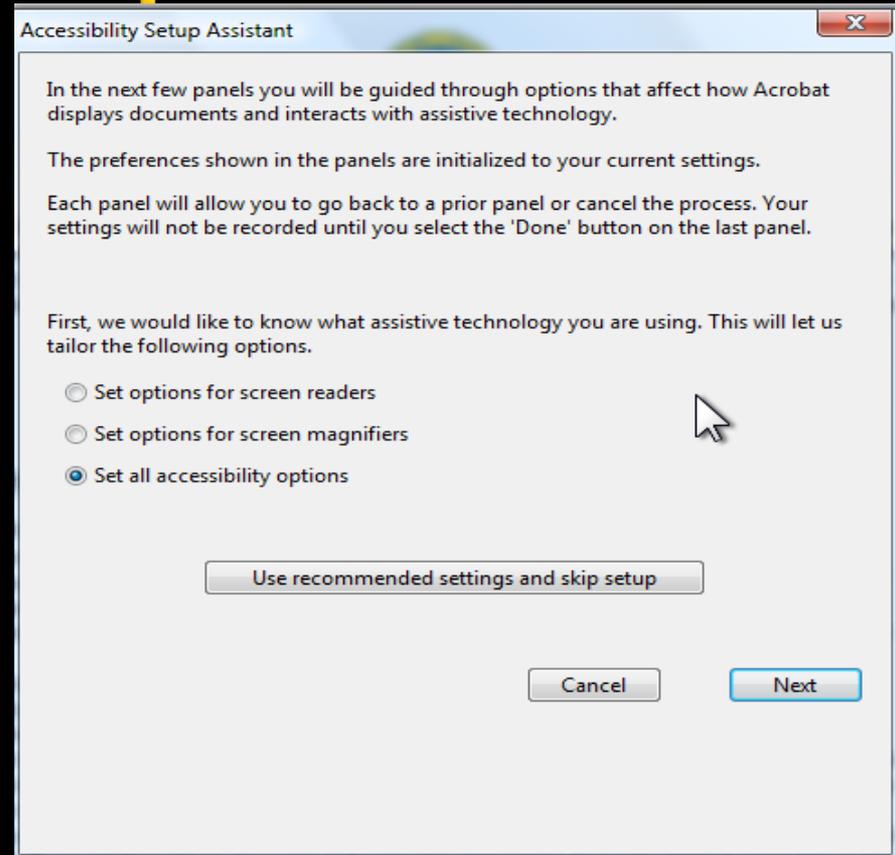
This feature provides more options to assemble PDF from multiple documents with different formats (i.e. Excel, Word, PowerPoint).



Accessibility Setup Assistant

Advanced > Accessibility >
Setup Assistant

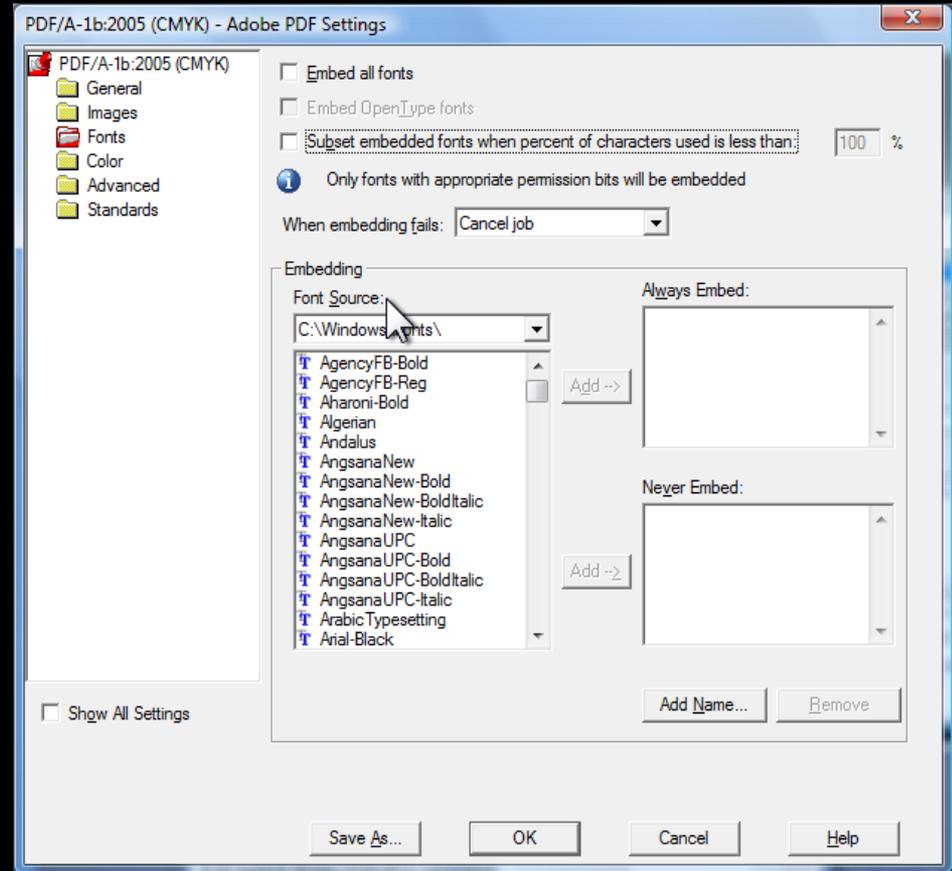
Either use the default settings or manually set options for screen readers and magnifiers.



Combine Files

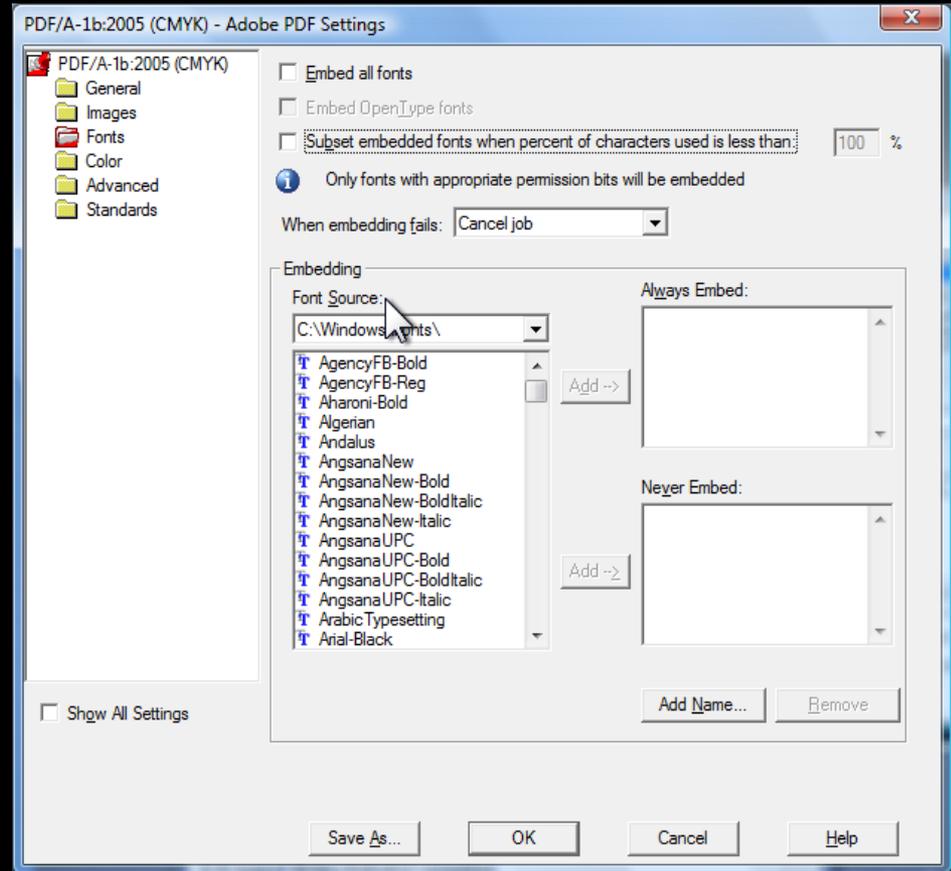
Acrobat Distiller > Adobe PDF Settings > Fonts

This feature provides more options to assemble PDF from multiple documents with different formats (i.e. Excel, Word, PowerPoint).



Policy Server

- This purchased feature allows Government to shut-down a known “dirty PDF”.
- Send a broadcast to every user with dirty PDF to upload replacement PDF.



Saving Forms

For users with disabilities who need to save PDF forms, this option exists for free now in Acrobat 8 and is available at no cost for up to 500 unique individuals per form... beyond 500 requires a purchased license.

- Requires Reader Extensions
- IRS uses this feature for many of their forms.

“Scanned Page Alert” Feature

“This page contains only an image of a scanned page. There are no text characters. Would you like to run character analysis to try to make the text on this page accessible?”

Do Not Show Again

OK

Cancel

Redaction Feature

Removes sensitive data from PDF before publishing.

“Read Out Loud” Feature

View > Read Out Loud > Select Read
Options

Questions?

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