

# Certified PDF and the New Enfocus PitStop Library

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## Certified PDF: The Secure, Efficient and Standardized PDF Workflow

### About Certified PDF

Certified PDF is a PDF workflow concept developed by Enfocus Software, based on industry needs and customer requests.

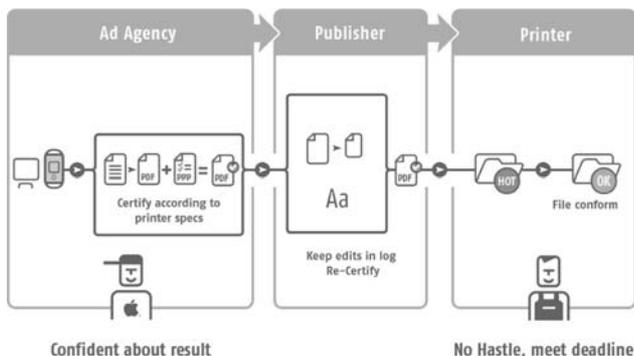


Figure 1. Certified PDF workflow concept

The Certified PDF concept was designed to address three fundamental issues faced by the majority of users implementing a PDF workflow:

- Guaranteed preflighting
- Document consistency
- Responsibility

### Guaranteed Preflighting

“Preflighting” is the process of checking a PDF document against various criteria to ensure that the PDF document meets all the requirements for output or publication. A set of these criteria is called a “PDF Profile”. Enfocus PDF Profiles can even do more than just checking; they can also fix some of the detected (potential) problems.

But how can you make sure that the PDF documents are checked against the correct criteria, i.e. the correct (version of the) PDF Profile? The answer: start a Certified PDF workflow for your PDF documents. This will streamline your preflighting process in the following ways:

- You, as a PDF document provider, will be able to preflight a PDF document with a PDF profile supplied by the PDF document recipient. You can also include the PDF profile and the corresponding preflight report in the PDF document. This way

there can be no doubt about the preflight status of the PDF document.

- You, as a PDF document recipient, will be able to verify that the incoming PDF document has been preflighted successfully with the PDF Profile you provided. Moreover, the PDF Profile embedded in the PDF document will be compared with the PDF Profile on your local hard disk to avoid version conflicts.

### Document Consistency

PDF editing tools, such as Enfocus PitStop Professional, are very convenient for making intermediate or last-minute corrections in PDF documents. However, PDF editing also involves a risk: as soon as you edit and save a PDF document, you create a version of a document that is different from the original document you made using a word processor or a desktop publishing software. These inconsistencies are hard to manage, and may introduce problems in archiving or when the document is republished at a later date.

To help reduce document consistency problems, the Certified PDF workflow features a mechanism that:

- Logs all the changes that are made to a Certified PDF document
- Stores these changes inside the Certified PDF document

Based on this information, an edit log—a human readable PDF report—can be generated. You can use this edit log to change the source file(s) accordingly. To assist in this process, a Certified PDF document can also keep a reference to the source file(s) from which the PDF document was created. You can use this reference to make sure that the source file has not been edited since the PDF document was created.

### Responsibility

Changing a PDF document that was created by someone else can create ambiguity about who is ultimately responsible for the final result. Many printers or print service bureaus are extremely reluctant to make any changes to their customer’s documents for fear of having to assume responsibility if anything goes wrong. This includes issues that can be totally unrelated to the small correction applied.

The Certified PDF workflow settles responsibility issues by:

- Providing a detailed log file of all the changes made to a PDF document
- Keeping track of the PDF editing process, i.e. who applied which change and when
- Implementing a robust roll-back mechanism which allows you to easily return to a previously saved state—a “snapshot”—of your PDF document
- Offering the possibility to compare any two of these snapshots visually to detect and examine the differences

### Certified PDF and the Rest of the PDF World

So PDF documents can be handled and processed safely and efficiently in a Certified PDF workflow. But what if they leave this secure PDF world for even a short period of time? For example, what if someone changes Certified PDF documents with PDF editing software other than one of the Enfocus Software products? Even if these PDF documents enter the Certified PDF workflow later on in the process, you are no longer absolutely sure that they are up to standard. Unless, of course, other PDF software tool providers—or ideally all of them—can use the Certified PDF technology as well. Wishful thinking? Not really, because the new version of the Enfocus PitStop Library has opened up this technology to all PDF players. Read more about this in New Enfocus PitStop Library: Access for All.

### New Enfocus PitStop Library: Access for All

#### Enfocus PitStop Library: The Engine That Drives All Enfocus Software Products, and Others

The Enfocus PitStop Library is the “under-the-hood” technology behind all Enfocus Software products. It is a collection of software components which you use when you, for example:

- Start a Certified PDF workflow with Enfocus Instant PDF, because you are then using the Certified PDF component
- Edit and preflight a PDF document with Enfocus PitStop Professional, because you are then using the PDF Profiles component
- Assign Action Lists to your hot folders with Enfocus PitStop Server, because you are then using the Action Lists component

Each of these products has its own user interface and specific features, but they all use the same software components from the Enfocus PitStop Library. And it is the technology from this Enfocus PitStop Library that does the actual work in the background.

Moreover, not just Enfocus Software products use this Library, but also major suppliers such as Agfa, Creo, Electronics for Imaging (EFI), Fujifilm, Heidelberg, Xerox, and Screen Europe have integrated or bundled Enfocus technologies into their own PDF workflow system offerings. OEM agreements allowed these third parties to incorporate the technology of the Enfocus PitStop Library in their own PDF software solutions.

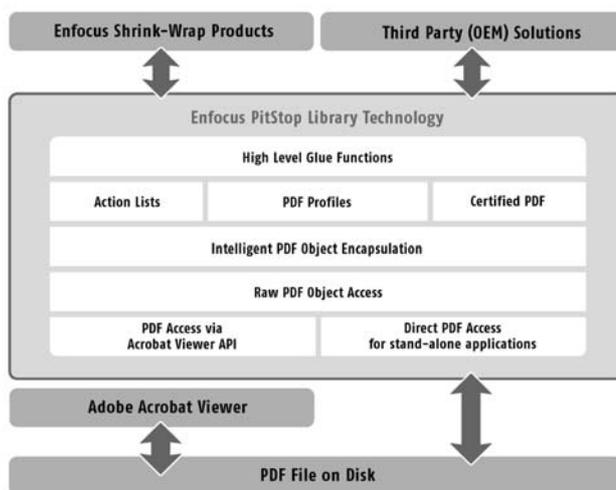


Figure 2. New Enfocus PitStop Library

### What’s New in the New Version?

Enfocus Software has spent a considerable amount of time and programming effort in writing a new version of the Enfocus PitStop Library. The previous version of our Library relied on software libraries from third parties. We licensed programming code from these third parties to develop the Enfocus PitStop Library, but this implied that we were constrained by technical limitations. So even if we knew how to develop new products, more tuned to the specific needs of our core graphic-arts market, we were not always allowed to do so.

The code in the new version of the Enfocus PitStop Library, however, is fully Enfocus-proprietary. We have rewritten our new Library from the ground up to support our own specific features like PDF editing, PDF preflighting and Certified PDF.

### New Opportunities

Having full ownership of our Library code offers new opportunities, not just for ourselves at Enfocus Software, but basically for every player in the PDF world:

- For PDF vendors, because we can now license our Enfocus PitStop Library, or a subset of it, to any interested third party we like, not just to the limited group of Adobe partners.
- For PDF users, because we have the creative freedom to develop PDF solutions that respond quicker and better to their demands. And if more vendors adopt the de facto standard for PDF, Enfocus Certified PDF, more users will experience the benefits of working with PDF documents in a Certified PDF workflow.
- For Adobe, because Enfocus Software products contribute to the popularity of PDF. And as we open up our technology to a wider audience, other PDF vendors will be able to add their share as well, using the new Enfocus PitStop Library, or a subset of it.

## **Biographies**

**Patrick Van Dam** joined Enfocus in June 2000 as Sales Account Manager. Since April 2001, he serves as Director International Sales and Marketing. Mr. Van Dam is the co-founder of Visual Communication Systems, a multimedia company where he has been acting as general manager from 1990 till 2000. Prior to founding Visual Communication Solutions, Mr. Van Dam served in various positions with Agfa, Aesthede and Philips. Mr. Van Dam obtained a degree in Electronics at the Higher Institute Mechelen.

**Peter Camps**, founder of Enfocus Software has served as Chief Executive Officer of the company since 1993 (then called First Class NV). Mr. Camps has over 15 years of experience in the international graphic arts business. From 1984 to 1990, he served in various positions, including Operations Manager and Vice President Operations for DISC NV (Now Barco Graphics NV), a company that develops and markets pre-press systems. From 1990 to 1992, Mr. Camps served as General Manager for Barco Graphics Inc., the North American subsidiary of Barco Graphics in Dayton, Ohio. Peter Camps holds a degree in Electrical Engineering.