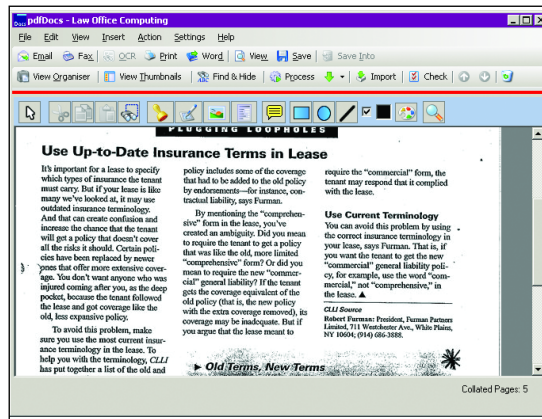


Imaging: pdfDocs Desktop version 1.7

There are many applications on the market that create Portable Document Format files. This most likely is because the original PDF program, Adobe Acrobat, is somewhat expensive. Most of the competing applications allow you to create and edit PDF files in a manner similar to Acrobat. However, while pdfDocs Desktop from DocsCorp creates PDFs in the usual way (*i.e.*, by printing to a special printer driver from within another application such as Microsoft Word), its implementation of PDF editing is somewhat unique. Rather than opening a PDF in a single editing window, you can import multiple PDF files into pdfDocs Desktop and then manipulate the multiple files as one collection. After you are done manipulating the PDFs, you then “process” your changes and save, print or view your resulting PDF file.

I happen to use Acrobat 6.0 Standard. I also have used other PDF editing programs. Because they work similarly, importing and processing files with pdfDocs took a little getting use to. However, after using it to edit multiple

PDFs as one file, I now see the beauty of the implementation. It's easy to move pages around among multiple PDFs. Just click and drag them into place using the pages'



With pdfDocs, you can edit multiple PDF files as one collection.

thumbnail images. In other PDF editing programs, you have to extract pages from one file and then insert them into another — a somewhat more tedious process. After you are done moving pages, you can save, print or view your revised PDF.

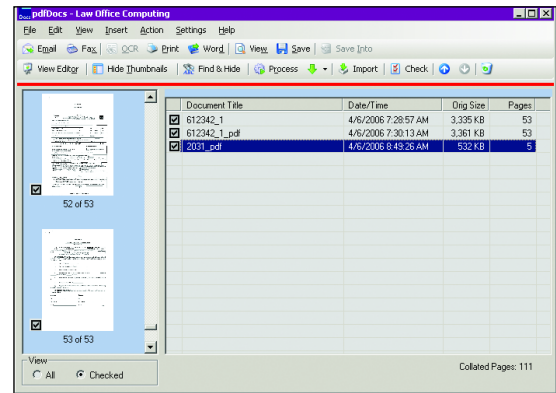
The “Organiser” view (an Australian company makes this program, hence the spelling) is where you import PDF files. The “Editor” view is where you annotate and edit. You can insert the usual stamps, shapes and comments into your PDFs. However, for attorneys, the “Find and Hide” feature is a great tool that allows you to create redacted PDFs. If your PDF has a text layer, you can use “Find and Hide” to search for text in your PDF and then redact it (*i.e.*, cover it with an opaque box using a color of your choice). The text itself actually is removed from the PDF, so someone viewing your PDF later can't move the opaque box out of the way and view the underlying text.

If your PDF doesn't have a text layer, you can drag an opaque box over text you want to redact. Of course, this is a more tedious process, but it's better than doing it on paper. In addition, if you want to redact text that appears in the same location on every page, such as within a footer, you can right click the opaque box you used to cover the first page footer and select “Apply to Pages” from the floating pop-up

menu. This allows you to apply the opaque box to all pages or to just a few. “Apply to Pages” also is available for other objects, such as circles, lines and squares. By the way, when pdfDocs imports files, it creates new copies so your original PDF file remains unchanged.

You also can create form fields within your PDFs. However, they are limited to just text (other programs allow calculations). Of course, you can't insert a form field at all with Acrobat Standard, so you are somewhat better off with pdfDocs in this regard, unless you can afford the more expensive Professional version of Acrobat.

Although pdfDocs allows you to insert squares, circles and lines within your PDFs, there is no polygon feature. You can't make objects such as polygons semitransparent like you can with Adobe Acrobat. You also can't rotate them. I need the ability to insert semitransparent polygons into ground lease site plans, so this is a somewhat serious limitation of pdfDocs for me. Of course, this is only



When importing files, pdfDocs makes new copies of the files so your original file stays the same.

version 1.7, and new features always are being added, so maybe this feature will be in a future implementation.

PdfDocs Desktop is unique in its ability to manipulate multiple PDFs at one time. While it doesn't completely implement all of the PDF standard features (*e.g.*, semitransparent polygons), pdfDocs Desktop is worth considering if you are looking for an Acrobat alternative. **LOC**

Reviewed by Richard C. Belthoff Jr., vice president and assistant general counsel at Wachovia Corp. He can be reached at richard.belthoff@wachovia.com.

Closing Argument

Pros: The ability to modify multiple PDFs as one file. It easily creates redacted PDFs.

Cons: The inability to create semitransparent polygons or other shapes.

Verdict: I recommend it as a good Adobe Acrobat alternative.

pdfDocs Desktop version 1.7 DocsCorp.

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Price: A single-user license is \$126, plus \$24 for annual support and upgrades. Contact company for volume pricing. Windows 98/NT/2000/XP/2003.