

NEWS RELEASE

Ghent Workgroup answers all your questions about PDF standards in a new free FAQ

GHENT, BELGIUM – 25 January 2022 – The Ghent Workgroup (GWG) is thrilled to announce that it has published a new user guide that provides answers to the most frequently asked questions about PDF standards. This user guide has been written by David van Driessche, Executive Director of the Ghent Workgroup and co-chair of the Specification and Process Control subcommittee.

If you work with PDF documents, chances are that sooner or later you're going to encounter PDF standards. You might knowingly save a PDF conforming to this or that standard, but you might also use standards without even being aware of it. Why? Because many of the vendors who create software using PDF implement standards for you: saving a PDF file for a specific use from that software likely uses some standard under the hood.

It is, of course, always better to be aware of what you are doing. Using PDF standards correctly is important, and knowledge about the different standards and what they can and will not accomplish for you can make all the difference in getting the result you're looking for. That's why Ghent Workgroup thought it might be interesting to create a document that clarifies some of the language you might encounter, demystifies some of the curious statements you might hear and that provides pointers to help you navigate the wonderful world of PDF standards.

“One of the biggest restrictions to adoption of any complex technology is people having the feeling they don't understand it,” says David van Driessche: “As the Ghent Workgroup, we need to overcome this by making things simple. This document aims to do that. Of course, a Frequently Asked Questions document like this is never really finished and will continue to evolve together with our industry.”



Some of the questions covered in this user guide are: What's the difference between PDF standards and PDF specifications? What should I know about PDF/X-1, PDF/X-4 and PDF/X-6? What version of PDF/X should I be using? What is PDF/A and what are the different versions? Etc.

The user guide is free to download on this page: <https://gwg.org/learn-more/user-guides/>

About Ghent Workgroup

The Ghent Workgroup, formed in June 2002, is an international assembly of industry associations, suppliers, educators and industry members from around the globe. The Ghent Workgroup's objective is to establish and disseminate process specifications for best practices in graphic arts workflows.

Since its inception almost 20 years ago, the organization has consistently produced numerous process specifications for PDF exchange, as well as developing useful tools for automating processes and testing and establishing consistent PDFs for print, publishing and packaging production – all available free at www.gwg.org.

Members are comprised of graphic arts associations including CIP4 (Switzerland), KVG0 (the Netherlands), Febelgra (Belgium), Fespa (UK), Medibel+ (Belgium), PDFX-ready (Switzerland), Printing United Alliance (USA), and VIGC (Belgium). Vendor members include Agfa, callas software, Canon, DALIM Software, EFI, Enfocus, Esko, Global Graphics, Heidelberg, HYBRID Software, Kodak, PageProof, Ricoh, Tech Research (TagG) and Ultimate Technographics. Industry members are ArtOption, Four Pees, Igepa Sagamgraphic, JP/Politikens Hus, Litografia Rosés, Prinovis, RRD and ybam. Educational members are Arteveldehogeschool Gent, CEC LATAM, Future Schoolz India, Government Institute of Printing Technology (GIPT), Media University Stuttgart, Ryerson University, the University of Ljubljana, the University of Novi Sad, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), The Regional Institute of Printing Technology Kolkata and the University of Wuppertal.

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