

Why Upgrade?

A dozen reasons for upgrading to Acrobat 5.0

Ted Padova

Author of the Acrobat 5.0 PDF Bible



Welcome

It seems as though every time we become familiar with a software product, a new upgrade pops up and our learning curve goes berserk again. At times, we become a little reluctant to rush out to our software vendor and throw down the money for a product upgrade —and then have to face all that relearning.

Sometimes product upgrades offer a few more tools, menus, and palettes to add more functionality to a program. In some cases, a product upgrade represents a quantum leap in software development.

It is my belief that the new Adobe Acrobat 5.0 release is just that. It's a quantum leap not only in Acrobat development, but in its participation in a well-honed integrated solution with Adobe software and many other vendor applications.

The new Acrobat 5.0 software has many new features and a complete redesign of the user interface. There are countless reasons to upgrade to the new Adobe Acrobat 5.0. In this file, I picked out just 12 reasons why I think Acrobat 5.0 is well worth the upgrade.

Contents

12 Reasons to Upgrade to Acrobat 5.0

1. Integration
2. New User Interface
3. PDF Creation
4. Online Collaboration
5. Comparing Documents
6. Higher Levels of Security
7. Fields Palette
8. Autogenerating Form Fields
9. New JavaScript Implementation
10. New Batch Sequence Features
11. Soft Proofing Color
12. Spell Checking
13. The Baker's Dozen...

eTips and Techniques Books

SHOW...

Click on the **SHOW...** text above to display the Menu bar and Tool bars. By default this PDF will open with menus and tools closed. The **SHOW...** text only appears on this page.

- Place the cursor over the icons at right to display text in a help window below. Click the mouse button to invoke the action associated with each icon.

This file may be freely distributed electronically or in print form.



Integration

Adobe Acrobat 5.0 represents the final complement in a sophisticated, well-integrated software solution for print, web, and screen displays. Together with other Adobe products such as Adobe Photoshop 6.0, Adobe Illustrator 9.0 and Adobe InDesign 1.52, Adobe Acrobat 5.0 provides a seamless delivery mechanism of files with complete data integrity.

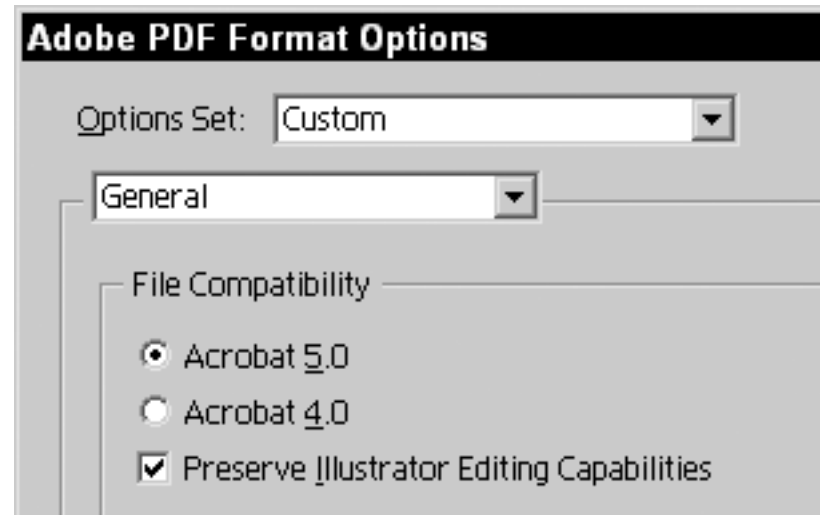
Did you know?

Adobe Photoshop 6.0 can contain vector objects and PostScript type on separate layers. The only export format that preserves the vector objects and editable type is — you guessed it, Adobe Acrobat PDF.

Adobe Illustrator 9 provides the ability to create transparency. If files are exported to EPS, the native data is lost and the final file displays a simulated transparent effect through the blending of the image elements. To preserve transparency and the native data and maintain fully editable files, the only format that will accomplish it is — you guessed it, Acrobat PDF.

In addition to these products, integration is further exemplified through multiple vendor support and integration tools all delivering files in PDF format. Programs like Adobe's own FrameMaker and InDesign and other vendor software such as QuarkXPress, Microsoft Office, CorelDraw and Macromedia Freehand all provide tools for direct export to PDF. And, with Apple's new introduction of its System X operating software, PDF creation is now being addressed at the operating system level.

Bottom line: If you work on a computer, you need PDF!



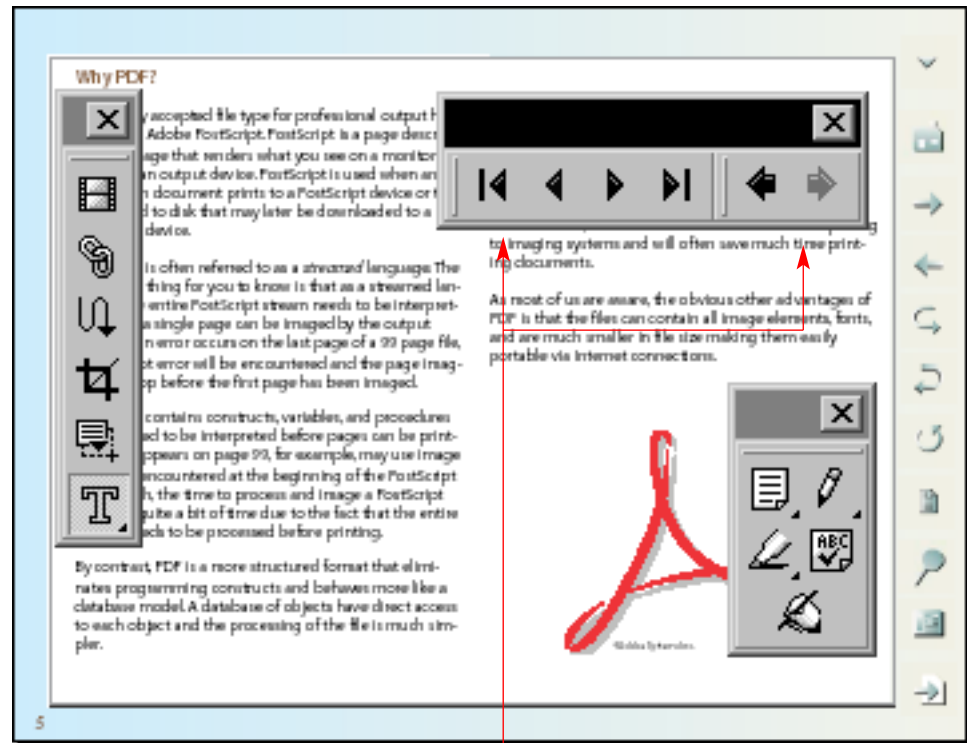
2

New User Interface

Acrobat 5.0 has introduced a completely new user interface. The new design will be welcomed by Microsoft Office users familiar with the same look and feel as Office applications.

Toolbars and tear-away palettes are part of the new design. Grab a toolbar, drag away from the top level menu bar and you can comfortably locate toolbars for easy access while editing PDFs or viewing them.

Toolbars can be assembled and relocated in both Acrobat and Acrobat Reader. To group toolbars together, drag a toolbar away from the top level Command bar. Drag a second tool group and place it on top of a toolbar undocked from the Command bar. Release the mouse button and the tools will be joined together in a single tool group.



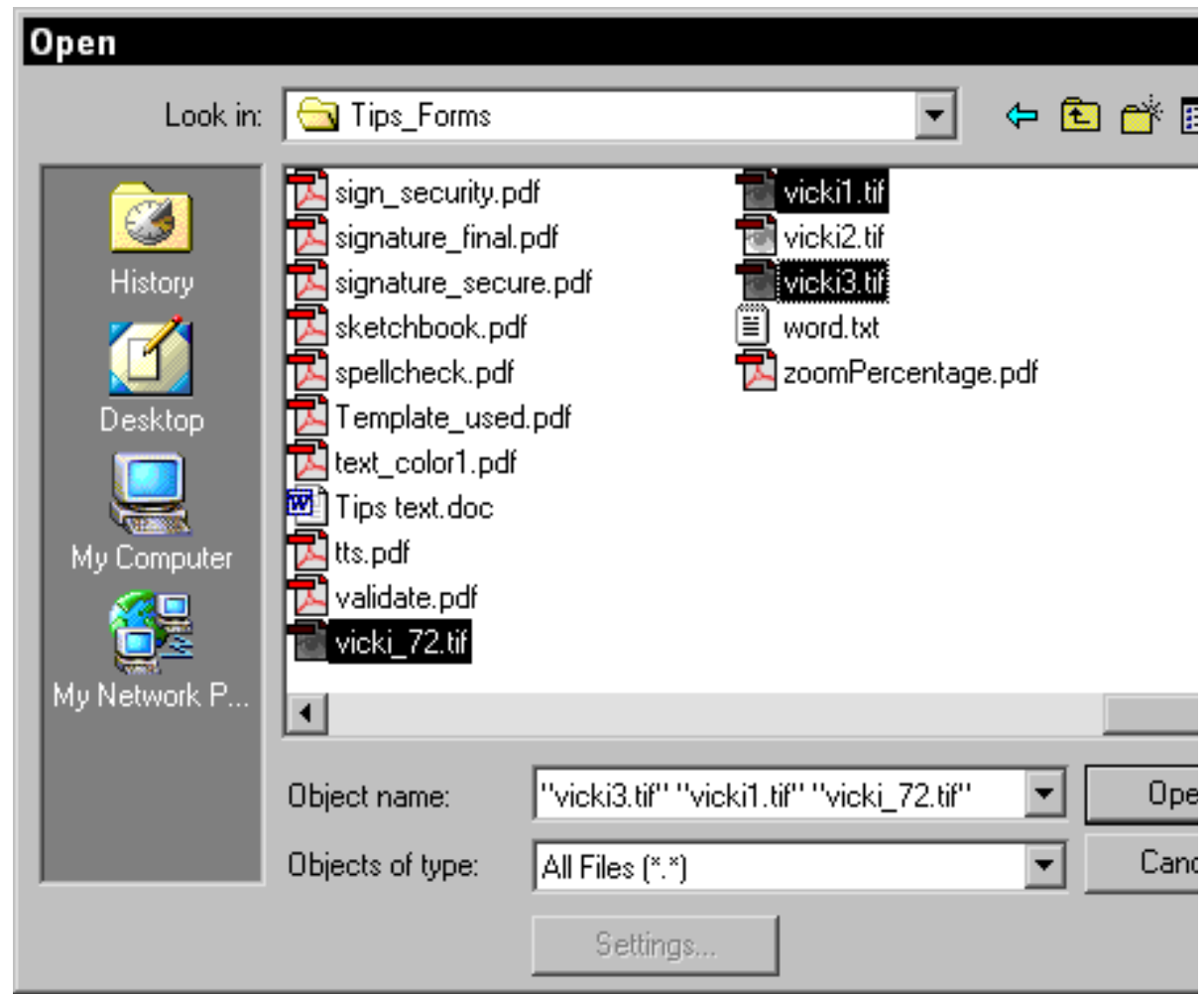
Toolbars joined together.

3

PDF Creation

Acrobat 5.0 has simplified the creation of PDF files. In Acrobat 5.0 you can open a number of different document formats directly to PDF. By selecting the File menu and choosing Open as Adobe PDF, image formats, text documents, and HTML files are converted on the fly to PDFs.

Acrobat Distiller can be opened directly from within Adobe Acrobat. For converting PostScript files to PDF, you no longer need to leave Acrobat to launch the Distiller application. Acrobat 5.0 enables you to address PDF creation through much easier means than ever before.

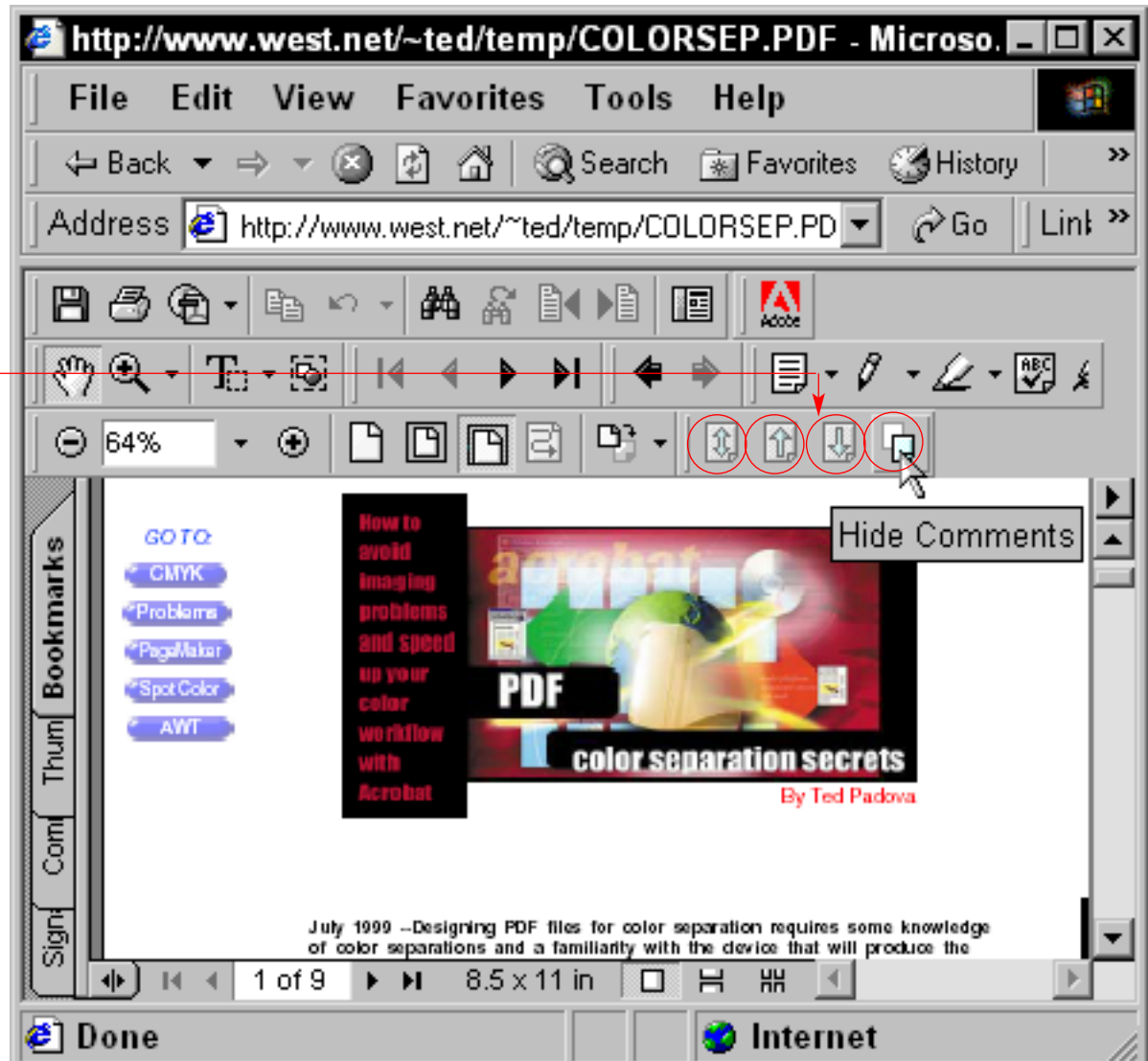


Multiple files can be selected and appended to a single PDF

Online Collaboration

Acrobat 5.0 has introduced an impressive means of collaborating with colleagues across the room, across town, or across the planet. It's the world of *collaboration*. Acrobat 5.0 enables you to share comments on PDF files hosted on networks and remote servers.

Post your PDFs on a server and coworkers can add and exchange comments directly online. You can update comments, download other user comments, and post your own comments to collaborated work. It's a new design for office workers and it's all available with Acrobat 5.0.



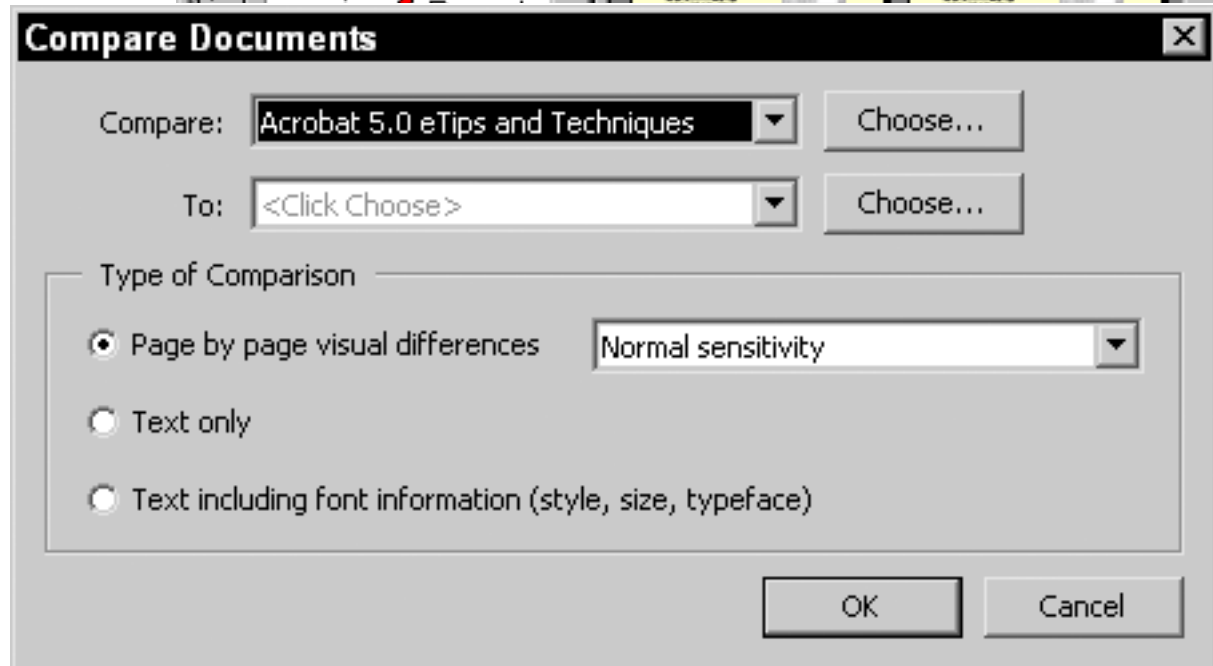
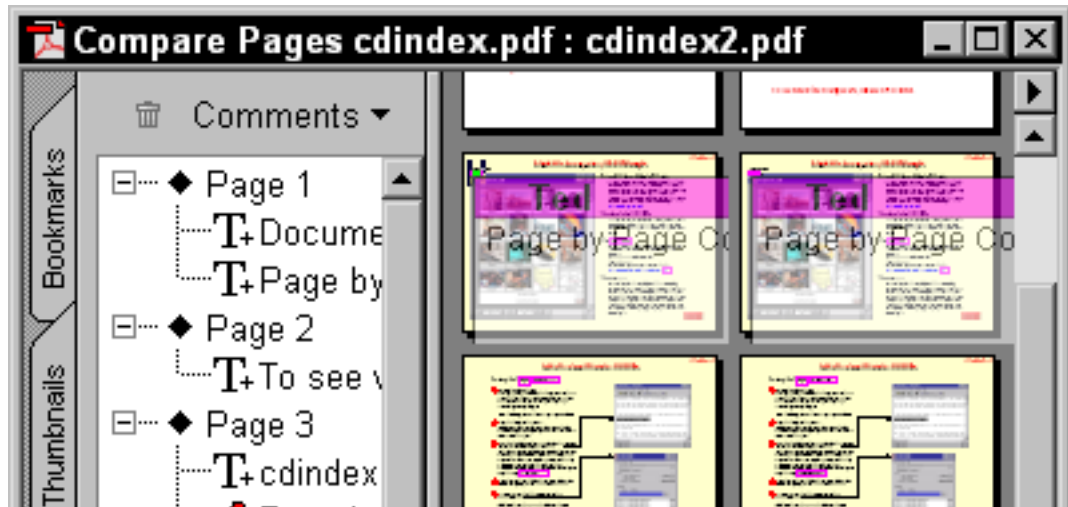
5

Comparing Documents

Acrobat 5.0 has the ability to analyze and compare documents for changes to the minutiae. The new impressive features of Compare offer you the ability to analyze text and graphics for any changes between two common PDF files.

For legal purposes and critical analysis for insuring the proper file will be distributed, revisions and changes can be compared within Acrobat and offer you a detail of the differences between documents.

It's polished, it's better, and it's all available with Acrobat 5.0.



6

Higher Levels of Security

Acrobat 5.0 introduces much improved security features. With the higher 128-bit security, users can protect files in more ways than the standard 40-bit security methods. For designers, PDF files can be secured against high resolution printing even though the PDF contains high resolution images.

Provide a user password to access a file for your client and they can print a proof print. Provide the service center a master password and they can access high resolution printing. The same PDF file is distributed to both users and your digital rights are protected all with the use of Acrobat 5.0.

Standard Security

Specify Password

Password Required to Open Document

User Password:

Password Required to Change Permissions and Passwords

Master Password:

Permissions

Encryption Level: 128-bit RC4 (Acrobat 5.0)

Enable Content Access for the Visually Impaired

Allow Content Copying and Extraction

Changes Allowed: General Editing, Comment and Form Field Authoring

Printing: **Low Resolution**

OK Cancel



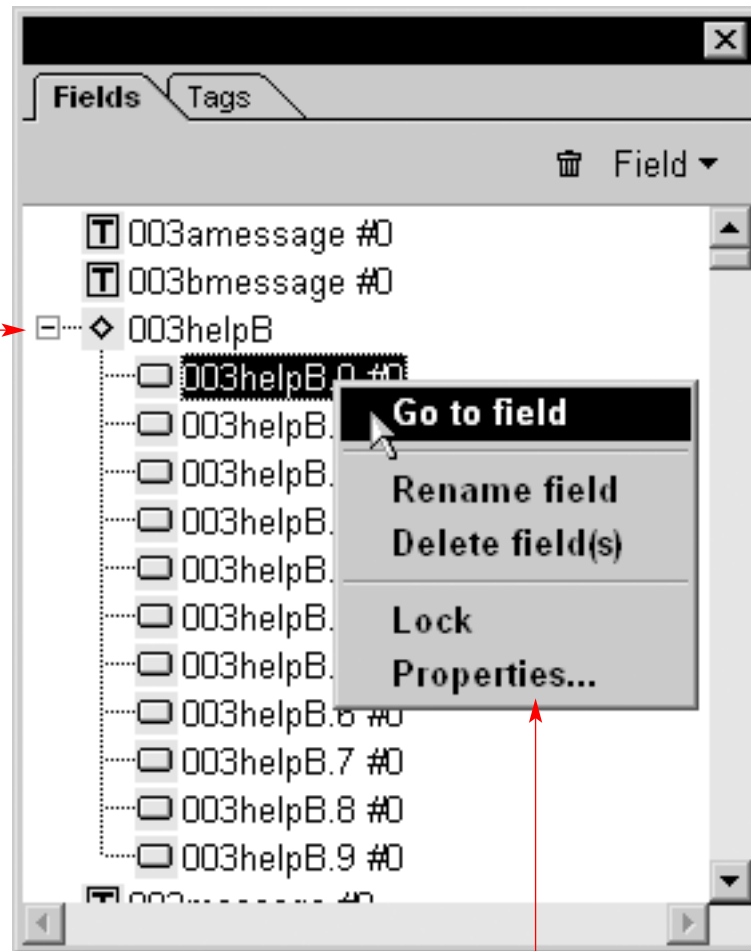
Fields Palette

For forms designers, the new Fields palette provides easy access to form fields in any document. Open the Fields palette and find the field where the properties need to be changed.

Fields are added to the Fields palette dynamically as you create new fields in a PDF. On a page or across multiple pages, the Fields palette offers a new tool to ease the burden of organizing and modifying form fields.

Nested fields can be expanded or collapsed.

Context menu can open the Properties dialog box.



Auto Generation of Form Fields

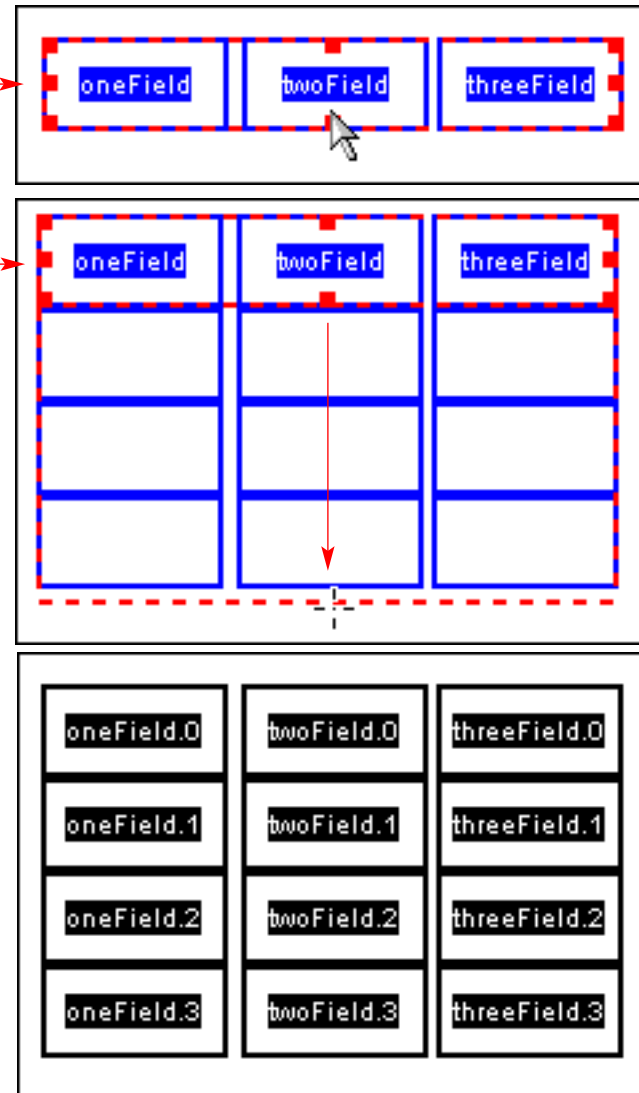
For complex forms where columns and rows need separate fields, Acrobat 5.0 offers ease in creating multiple fields. Manually create several fields across multiple columns, select the fields, then use a modifier key and drag down multiple rows, and Acrobat will automatically create fields for separate rows all with unique field names.

If a maze of columns and rows are part of your forms design, Acrobat 5.0 has automated a complex task that enables you to design forms in a fraction of time compared to earlier versions of the program.

Select fields in separate columns.

Drag down to create the number of desired rows.

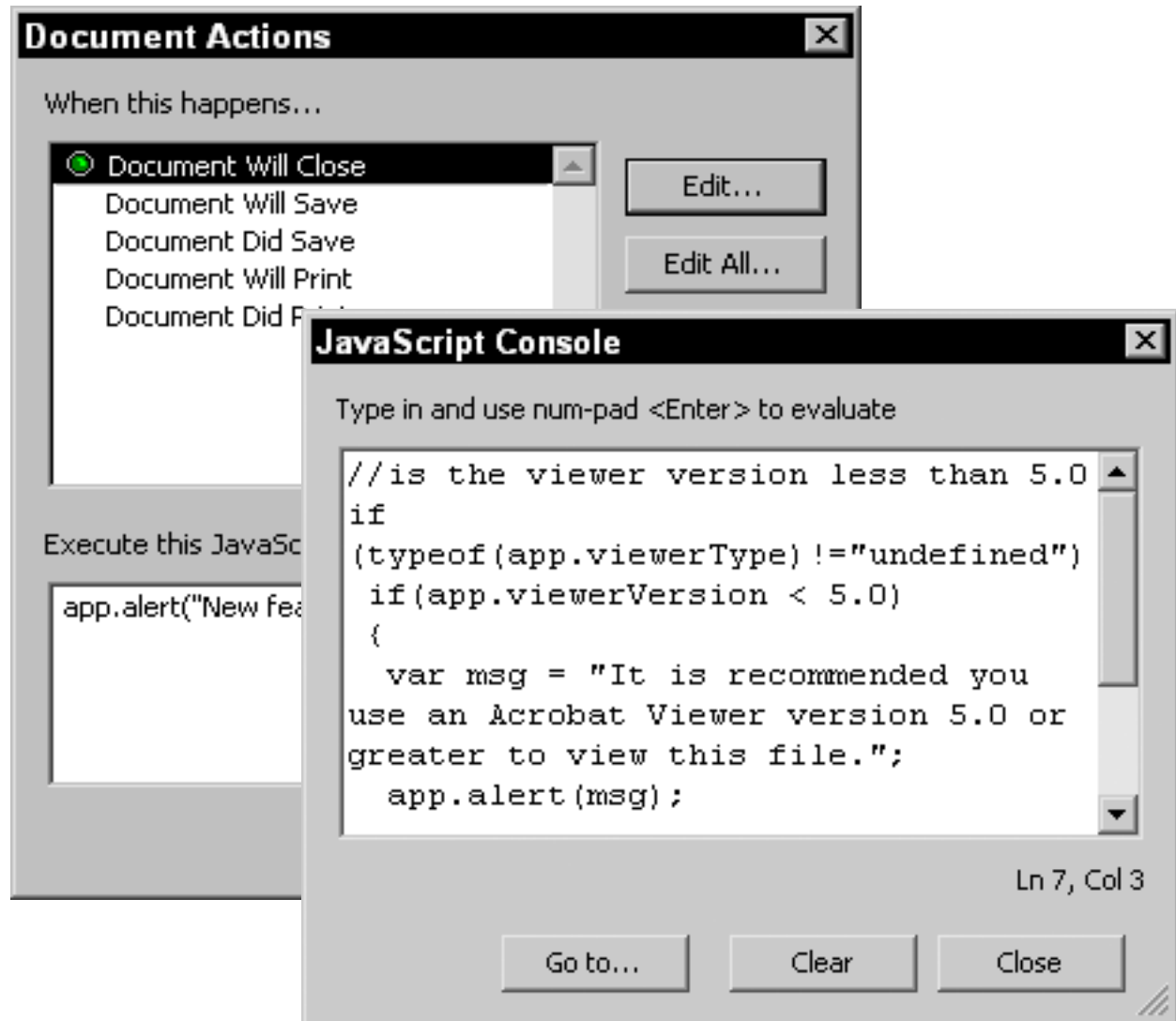
Acrobat automatically creates and uniquely names the new fields



New JavaScript Implementation

Acrobat 5.0 has added much more sophistication for data handling with an upgrade to the JavaScript implementation in Acrobat. Add pizzazz and flair to forms designs with new JavaScript routines and calls not previously available with earlier releases of Acrobat.

Dialog boxes, adding comments and annotations, and more Web-related features all make Acrobat 5.0 a must for forms designers and hosting PDFs on the Web.

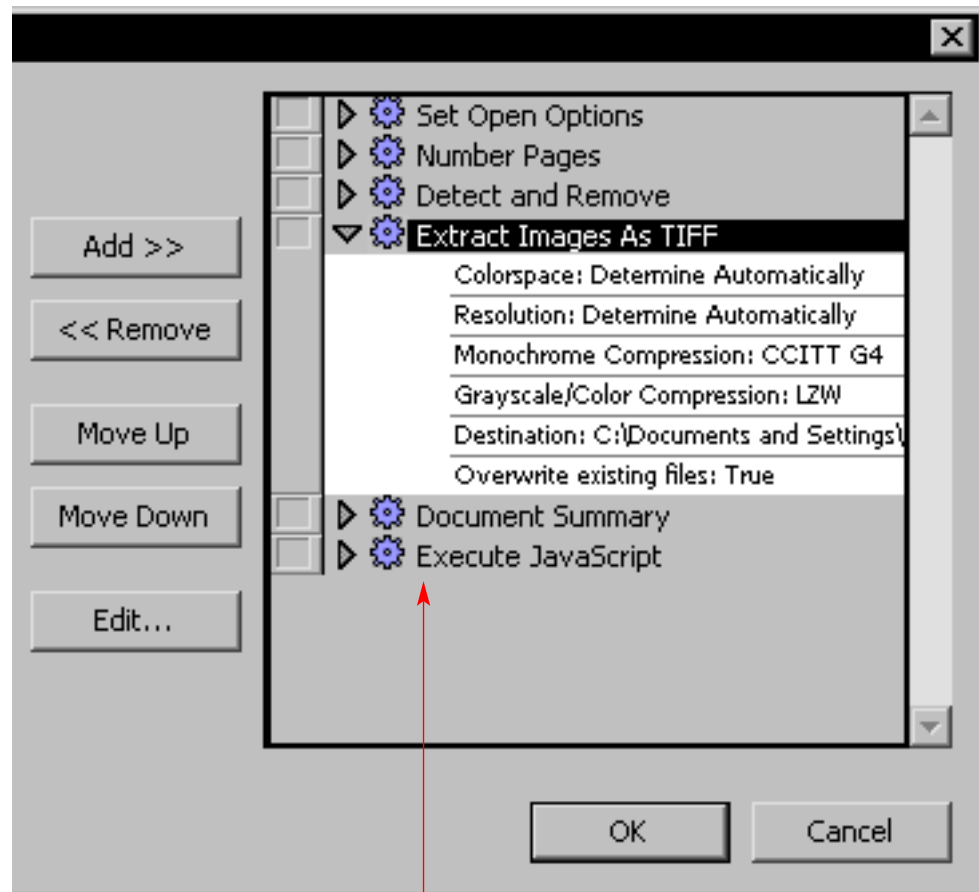


New Batch Sequence Features

Acrobat 5.0 allows you to perform a batch sequence on a folder of PDF files for virtually almost all Acrobat editing functions.

Through the use of preset operations you can choose from among those available in a menu. For custom alterations, you can write JavaScripts for user defined actions.

Batch sequences can take advantage of Acrobat 5.0 new export operations and save new files or overwrite existing files in formats such as JPEG, TIFF, EPS, PostScript, PNG or RTF as well as Adobe PDFs.



Custom JavaScripts can be added to Batch Sequences.



Soft Proofing Color

Color management and soft proofing color has been well integrated in Acrobat 5.0.

Through a menu command, select a profile and view the PDF onscreen for RGB to CMYK conversions. View your files as they may be displayed on the Web or when printed to CMYK devices.

Add more implementation with color handling through the Distiller application by addressing color profiles and a color management system. And, with a new feature for soft proofing color, you can preview overprints.

RGB file viewed without Proof Color.

Choose the CMYK profile to be used and Select Proof Color from the Tools menu.



Spell Checking

For form fields and comments, Acrobat 5.0 has introduced a Spell Checker. As you type words, they can be spell checked dynamically.

Through workarounds you can even spell check documents after they have been converted to PDF.

And, spell checking is not limited to a single language. Through the use of multiple language dictionaries and the ability to customize a dictionary, Acrobat 5.0 offers support for any industry using specialized vocabularies.



And...there's so much more

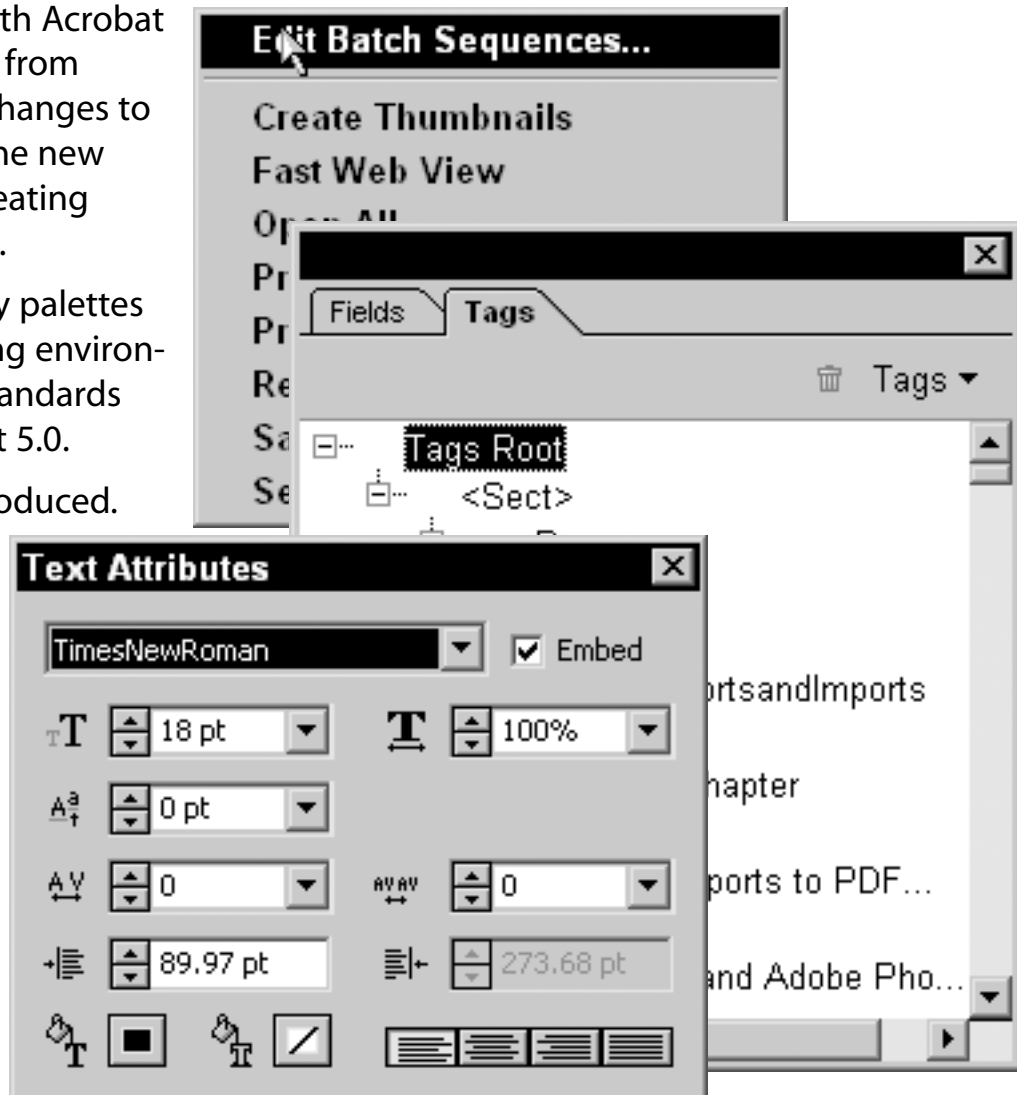
The new PDF 1.4 format introduced with Acrobat 5.0 supports advanced format designs from other application software. There are changes to the Acrobat Distiller application, and the new eBook JobOptions offer settings for creating PDFs to be displayed in eBook formats.

The new user interface offers tear away palettes and enables users to customize working environments. Accessibility following MSAA standards has been fully implemented in Acrobat 5.0.

New tools and palettes have been introduced. A thorough revamping of the Print dialog box enables users more advanced printing features.

Extracting data and saving files in image or PostScript formats offers more integration with applications receiving PDF data.

Batch processing files, global optimization, file size reductions with Fast Web View and much, much more are all available with the new Adobe Acrobat 5.0 software.



eTips and Techniques Series

by Ted Padova

ted@west.net

If you want to start learning Acrobat 5.0, I've put together two eBooks available now at: <http://www.mightywords.com>.

These publications get right to the heart of working with Acrobat 5.0 in single one-page tips and techniques. The [101 Acrobat 5.0 eTips and Techniques](#) (109 pages) addresses many new features of working with Adobe Acrobat and covers many workarounds for getting the most out of editing PDF files.

My [101 Acrobat Forms eTips and Techniques](#) (110 pages) is dedicated to creating and editing Acrobat forms. With more than 65 copy and paste JavaScripts, this book is designed to simplify forms actions for the non-programmer. A free download sample for each publication is available online at MightyWords.

If you want a comprehensive manual on Acrobat 5.0, the new [Acrobat 5.0 PDF Bible](#) is available at resellers everywhere.

