

Subject: Conversion to PDF/A

Beginning in 2011, the U.S. District Court in Pittsburgh will start the conversion to PDF/A format for all documents uploaded to the Court Electronic Case Filing (ECF) system. The Court will start posting documents in PDF/A format beginning June 1, 2011. ALL Court ECF filings uploaded on or after January 1, 2012, MUST be in PDF/A format. Below is information describing PDF/A, possible solutions and cost estimate as 12/31/2010:

Information explaining what PDF/A is can be found at: <http://www.pdfa.org>

Judiciary information concerning the ECF conversion to PDF/A can be found at:
<http://www.pacer.gov/announcements/general/pdfa.html>

Creating documents in PDF/A format:

- Adobe Acrobat v 5 or higher must be used to create PDF/A documents.
- Scanners with built in encoders such as "Scan-to-PDF" do NOT support PDF/A format.
- Scanners that cannot directly interface with Adobe Acrobat (non – twain or SCSI) may not be able to create PDF/A files due to the use of 3rd party encoders issued with the scanner.
- Off-the-shelf programs that create PDF's may not support PDF/A encoding. A list of compliant products are available on the PDF/A Competence center website :
<http://www.pdfa.org/doku.php?id=pdfa:en:products>

Apple Users:

- Users of Mac's with Word 2008 are unable to publish PDF/A documents.

Solutions:

Apple Users:

- Microsoft Office 2011 for MAC Retail: \$279.00

Microsoft Users:

- **Scanners with direct scan to PDF/A support**
- Twain/SCSI Scanners range in price from low end from \$200 to higher end at \$900<.
- Typically the higher end scanners include the last versions of Adobe Acrobat.
- *All-In-One printer/scanners typically are not Twain/SCSI and almost always use 3rd party or proprietary encoders to create PDF documents.*

- **Adobe Acrobat X**
- Adobe Acrobat X Professional – (*latest version shipped Nov.30 2010*)
- Full Version [Mac or Windows] \$499.00
- Upgrade \$199.00

- Adobe Acrobat X Standard – (*latest version ships Nov.30 2010*)
- Full Version [Windows Only] \$299.00
- Upgrade \$139.00

- **Office 2010 provides for PDF/A creation**
- Office Home & Business 2010 - \$279.00
- Office Professional 2010 - \$499.99

Open Source Software:

Numerous Open Source Shareware software packages are available for download that **claim** to convert Microsoft Word documents to PDF/A format. The U.S. District Court does **not** recommend, endorse, or support any of these software packages. Popular Open Source software packages include:

- OpenOffice.org (<http://www.OpenSource.org>)