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Document management — AFP interchange for PDF

Gestion des documents — Échange AFP pour PDF

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Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 171, *Document management applications*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Document file formats, EDMS systems and authenticity of information*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 22550:2019) as a minor revision.

The main changes are as follows:

1) The French title for this document was changed to more accurately reflect the purpose of the AFP interchange for PDF.

2) Figure A.1 in Annex A was updated to improve readability.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Advanced Function Presentation (AFP) is a coordinated set of document creation, viewing, archiving and printing hardware, software, and services that is used heavily in the high-speed transactional printing market, which includes the printing of financial statements, utility bills, books, and marketing materials (e.g. brochures).

AFP has proven itself in these environments due to its performance, reliability, and flexibility.

— AFP performance comes from its hierarchical object-oriented structure, resulting in a condensed data stream size and efficient reuse of print resources (document objects). The document objects managed automatically by AFP include text, fonts, overlays, images, graphics, and other resource objects such as bar codes and ICC profiles for colour management.

— AFP reliability in print environments comes from an architected bi-directional printer data stream interface that manages every page through a print system, making sure that each page gets printed correctly for security, audit, and accounting purposes.

— AFP flexibility comes from its ability to include other standard document formats such as TIFF, JPEG, and PDF as included objects within an AFP object container. These included objects can then be used like any other document object in the AFP system and can be placed anywhere on a page where they can then be printed or viewed.

While AFP has had the ability to include PDF in object containers for many years, more customers in the transactional print environment are creating workflows that combine PDF content within AFP documents. This allows them to use PDF to create the document content and then embed these PDF pages in AFP to get the performance and management they need in high-speed print environments. These 'hybrid' workflows allow them to get the best of what both PDF and AFP have to offer.

AFP itself originated within IBM as a mainstream presentation architecture. In 2009, the AFP Consortium (AFPC) was formed as a peer-based open standards organization composed of companies from around the world with an interest in AFP. The entire AFP architecture is now developed and maintained by the AFP Consortium.