Straive™

Making PDFs Accessible

Portable Document Format (PDF) files have become increasingly popular for digital publishing, remote education/training, financial reporting, and online services. But PDFs must be formatted appropriately to allow assistive technology users to access the valuable information within them.

Characteristics of Accessible PDF files

- Searchable text
- Fonts that allow characters to be extracted to text
- Interactive labeled form fields with accessible error messages and no timing
- Other interactive features: hyperlinks and navigational aids
- Document language and title indication
- Security that will not interfere with assistive technology
- Document structure tags and proper reading order
- Alternative text descriptions for non-text elements
- No reliance on color or sensory characteristics alone to convey meaning
- Use of color combinations that provide a sufficient degree of contrast
- Audio controls
- Use of text instead of images of text
- No use of flashing or blinking elements
- No focus changes without user initiation
- Consistent navigation and identification of elements

Source
https://www.adobe.com/accessibility/pdf/pdf-accessibility-overview.html

Reasons to Implement Accessibility

Inclusivity
Documents can be accessed by as many people as possible.

User Experience
When correctly implemented, accessibility increases general usability. People have more options for engaging the content (e.g., text, speech).

Brand Loyalty
Customers, students, and employees seek organizations who act to improve equity.

Legal
Around the world, countries are increasingly adopting digital accessibility laws.

How Assistive Technology Can Help

Screen Readers
Software reads on-screen text, text alternatives, and status messages; announces tagged content; and supports navigation.

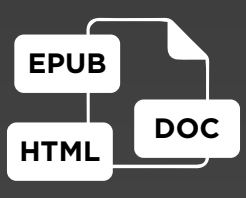
Screen Magnifiers
Software expands selected text and images for better visibility.

Closed Captions
On-screen text recreates audio content.

Audio Descriptions
An extra audio track describes the visuals in a video.

Straive Advantage

In-house knowledge and skills for expanding accessibility design and remediation beyond PDFs:



- EPUB
- PPT
- Word
- Excel
- HTML5 interactives
- Videos

Straive Expertise

- 24-hour on-demand workforce
- Consulting
- Testing
- Design and development
- Remediation
- Project/product management