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**Latest developments
regarding PDF and PDF/X**

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What is PDF/X?

**PDF/X is a subset of PDF,
restricted to what makes sense
for prepress.**

PDF

+ prepress

+ digital master

+ deliver

+ predictable

PDF/X

Why PDF/X?

Initial goal:

**Reliable method for delivering
predictable digital ad files.**

Why PDF/X?

Actual goal:

**Reliable method for delivering
predictable digital ad files.**

A short history of PDF/X-1

- **1995 round table meeting at DDAP**
- **1996 first standards discussions at CGATS**
- **October 1999: PDF/X-1 accredited as ANSI standard**
- **Early 2000: submission of PDF/X-1 to ISO (15930-1)**
- **Late 2000: revised version of PDF/X-1**
- **2001: balloting on PDF/X-1 going on now including sub-variant PDF/X-1a (no embedded pixel files)**
- **Later in 2001: accredited ISO standard**

A short history of PDF/X-2

- **1999: 'incomplete' variation of PDF/X-1**
- **2000: struggling to standardize incompleteness
(e.g. reliable identification of fonts or highres images)**
- **2001/2002: completed draft expected**

A short history of PDF/X-3

- **1998: Some Europeans unhappy with focus on CMYK, embedded legacy files, lack of CMS options**
- **1999: various phone conferences to resolve issues**
- **March 2000: Some Europeans insisted on having not only PDF/X-1**
- **September 2000: PDF/X-3 as a CMS-enabled variation of PDF/X**
- **2001: PDF/X-3 will become ISO standard**

What's different?

- **PDF/X-1: CMYK and spot colors**
- **PDF/X-3: additionally option for color managed workflows**

What do they have in common:

- **output intention**
- **trim and bleed boxes**
- **limitations for comments**
- **avoid ambiguity**
- **maximize predictability**

Output intentions

- **Technote from Adobe on request from CGATS/ISO**
- **smart way of indicating intended output condition**

What's in it for me?

- **standardized way for exchanging digital masters**
- **less heterogenous workflows**
- **less requirement for communication and training**
- **focus on doing it in one way instead of many ways**
- **reduced ambiguity**
- **increased predictability**
- **...**

Where are we at?

**It's coming to a desktop near
you...**

PDF/X tools:

- **PDF/X-1 Checkup from Apago**
- **PDF/X-3 Edition of pdfInspektor2 from callas**
- **more tools to follow soon**

Stay tuned:

www.ddap.org (English)

www.prepress.ch (Swiss German)

www.callas.de (English/German)

www.eci.org (German/English)

www.apago.com (English)