



Developing with Adobe Acrobat:
Acrobat SDK

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PDF Sages

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Choose a Product

- Adobe Acrobat
 - Full
 - Approval
 - Reader
- Acrobat Distiller
- PDF Generation Libraries



Adobe Acrobat

- IAC
- Plug-in

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IAC

- Fast development
- Much is not available

IAC

- Windows
 - DDE
 - COM (not Reader)
 - JSObject – COM to access JavaScript
- Mac
 - AppleScript

Plug-In API

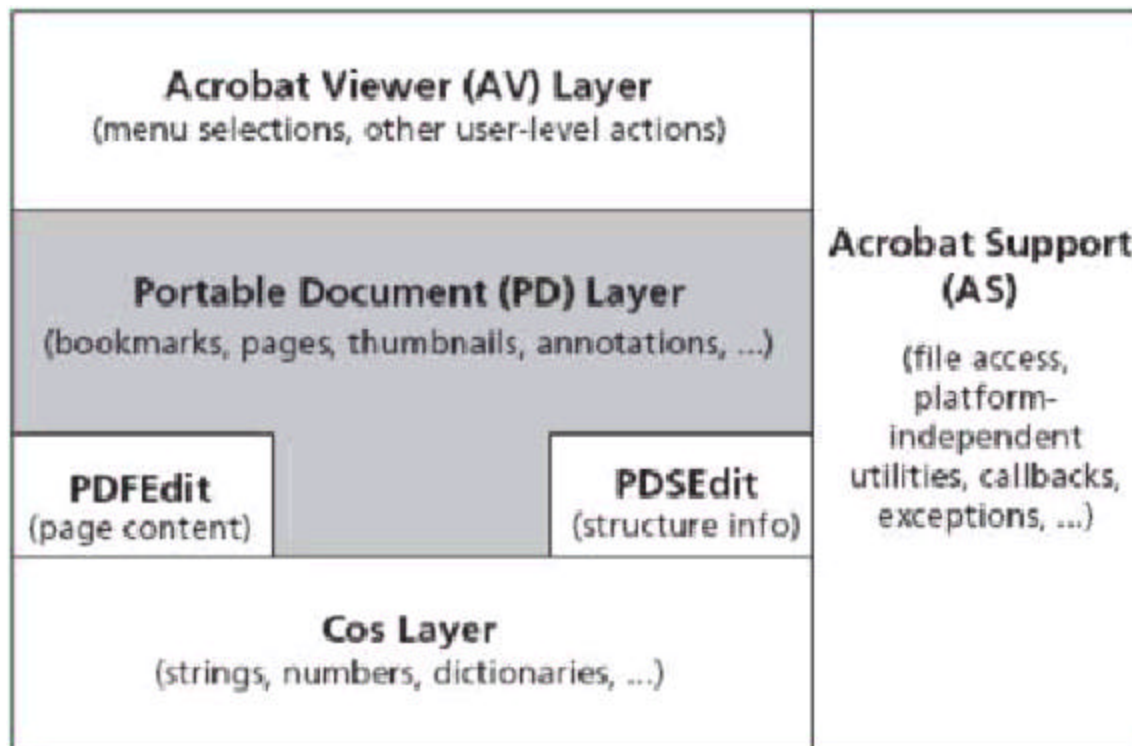
- Written in C or C++
- Most everything is available
- Beware of what is not available
 - Search results
 - Some things available only at low level (Cos)

Things You Can't Use

- Pdf.ocx – Viewing PDF in your own app
 - Use the IE Browser Control
 - Use a third party product
- Don't use PDFMakerX
 - Use a third party product



Acrobat API Layers – the diagram



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Digging In

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ASAtom

- Rather than working with literal strings all the time, many SDK calls take ASAtoms.
- Think of them as a list of name/ values pairs which are keyed by strings.
 - Improved memory management & speed
 - many developers use a single set of global ASAtom variables.
- ASAtomFromString()
- ASAtomGetString()
- ASAtomExistsForString()

Error Handling

- DURING/ HANDLER/ END_HANDLER
- In Acrobat itself, these map to something akin to setjmp/ longjmp
 - Trying to mix them with C++ exceptions can be a problem.
 - Don't nest them within a single function
- ERRORCODE
 - The global last error that occurred
 - ONLY VALID inside the Handler/EndHandler block
- E_RETURN and E_RTRN_VOID
- Volatile variables





DURING

```
AVDoc doc;  
doc = AVDocOpenFromFile  
(pathName, fileSys, "Title");
```

HANDLER

```
err = ERRORCODE;  
AVAlertNote("Error!");
```

END_HANDLER

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More on Error Handling

- Acrobat does NOT always “throw” .
- Other methods
 - NULL, PDxxxIsValid(), etc.
- CosNull is not NULL
 - If want a null CosObject, you can call CosNewNull() to get one. BUT that should be treated as a valid object and NOT as NULL.

Notification Handlers

- Registering for a notification

`ASCallbackCreateNotification`

`AVAppRegisterNotification`

`AVAppUnregisterNotification`

- `AVDocWillSave` & `AVDocDidSave`

- Don't keep anything PD acquired during a save!!!

- `AVAppDidInitialize` vs. `IdleProc`

- Don't Open and Close `AVDoc` directly

- Use `IdleProc` to close

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Starting a Plug-in

- **TEMPLATE**
- Wizard
- Build a sample



Final Tips

- `_DEBUG`
- ASCab
- Read Core API Overview
- Try to read API Reference
- Read and understand the PDF Spec



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