



The Power of PDF...

From the Developer's Trenches

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Dimensions of Development

Developing for PDF/Acrobat

Developing with PDF/Acrobat

Developing for Acrobat/PDF

Enhancing a product (Acrobat)

Working with a document

Enhancing a document for a specific purpose

Productivity tools

Developing with PDF/Acrobat

Using PDF as a base for new products

Acrobat as a development environment

Creating "lightweight applications"

Why PDF as Application Base?

Natural evolution from forms

Stable runtime environment

Many supported platforms

High quality user interface/backgrounds

Low-cost development

Easy deployment

Possibility to bypass IT

PDF in Comparision

Java

Database runtime applications

Web-based applications

When to use PDF Applications?

When you are already in a PDF environment

Unknown user configuration

Restrictions for installing software at client side

Heterogenous environments

Appearance control important

Printing an issue

Limited budget

Needed tools

Acrobat

Programming Text Editor

Simple development Database

Webserver

Needed documentation

Acrobat JavaScript Object Specification

JavaScript 1.5 Core Specification and Guide

SDK documentation

FDFToolkit documentation

Practical experiences

Example: Review application and Quiz

Reason for the PDF based application:

- **Already in a PDF environment**
- **Low development cost**
- **Short development cycle**

What is missing?

Real Development environment

JavaScript debugging tools

JavaScript libraries

MacOS X Support



Wrapping up

PDF/Acrobat is a good development platform for lightweight applications.