

# PDF/raster

Tired of TIFF? Try PDF/raster

## PDF/raster

A project started by the TWAIN Working Group in 2014 as part of its TWAIN Direct project to connect scanners to applications through networks. The TWAIN Working Group has worked in conjunction with the PDF Association in the development of the PDF/raster specification, to make sure PDF/raster is a proper subset of PDF in order to move forward with the formal ISO process.

In the development process, the TWAIN Working Group decided it was important that PDF/raster:

- Fit well into existing workflows
- Be compatible so either existing (large) libraries or a newly-developed small library could be used (important for an embedded system like scanner firmware)

## What is PDF/raster?

PDF/raster, a strict subset of the PDF file format is designed for storing and transporting multipage raster image documents, especially scanned documents.

PDF/raster provides the portability of PDF while offering the core functionality of TIFF, Bitonal, grayscale and truecolor images are supported. Compression options include uncompressed, JPEG, and lossless CCITT Group 4 Fax.

## What does PDF/raster do?

PDF/raster is intended to be a standard format for storing, transporting and exchanging scanned documents.

As a subset of PDF, it takes advantage of the widespread support for viewing, printing and processing PDF files.

## Benefits of PDF/raster

As a narrowly restricted subset of PDF, PDF/raster is much simpler to generate and interpret, allowing it to replace the TIFF and JPEG file formats for capture and delivery of scanner output.

PDF/raster features:

- Encryption
- Authentication (to ensure data has not been tampered within transit)
- Resistance to malware (exclusion of executable code and fonts)
- Modern and extensible

## Getting started with PDF/raster

[View a presentation about PDF/raster](#)

[PDF/raster specification](#)

(in process for ISO standardization May 2020)

*For more information on the PDF/raster, please visit [pdf raster.org](http://pdf raster.org) or contact Erin Dempsey at (910) 574-6631 or [erin.dempsey@twain.org](mailto:erin.dempsey@twain.org)*