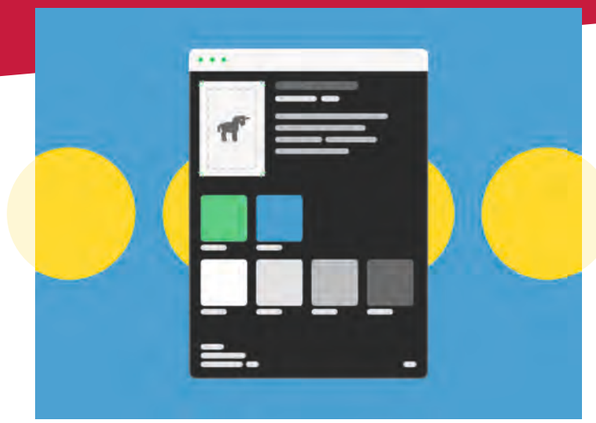
Why buy pdfToolbox?

pdfToolbox

Key Selling Points

callas pdfToolbox is by far the most complete and mature PDF processing technology for print production workflows. Why is that you ask? See what it excels at the most, and why you should have started using it years ago!



Automation needs standardization

It all begins with making sure your PDF documents are fit for purpose. And pdfToolbox has the best preflight engine on the market for that. Of course it supports all international and national standards, such as ISO PDF/X and PDF/A, the Ghent Workgroup and PDF/X-ready standards. It goes beyond that though: its preflight engine radically cuts back on false positives, and that's crucial for automation purposes.

Not all PDF documents are equal

Do you really want to make a separate preflight profile for each different product you print? For each different size? Of course not. Everything in a preflight profile in pdfToolbox is dynamic. With easy to use variables, you can make smart profiles that take product requirements into account.

Checks and corrections can be switched on or off on the fly, and their properties can dynamically change. pdfToolbox even has a fully integrated JavaScript engine, that allows more advanced customizations. Want to calculate the spine thickness of a book based on the number of pages in the PDF file? The number of color pages in a PDF document? All of that is possible (and much, much more).

Good communication is key

How do your prepress operators know what is wrong with a PDF document? How do you communicate that to your clients? How do you communicate to everyone in the language they understand?

The pdfToolbox preflight engine can create a multitude of reports. XML or JSON to integrate with a larger automated workflow, HTML or PDF to communicate to people. And of course, these reports can be fully customized to what is needed. Imagine being able to change everything in a PDF preflight report: branding, preview images, separation and color views, how preflight errors are formulated, the language used…

X-ray your PDF files

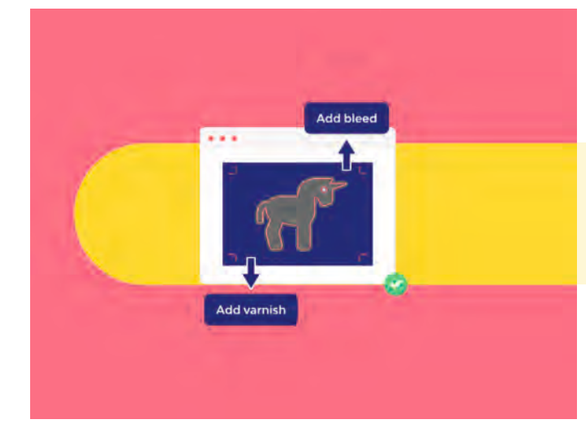
Sometimes you want to X-ray your PDF files to see exactly why they failed quality control. pdfToolbox Desktop allows just that with its Visualizer technology. The Visualizer tools allow for visual inspection of PDF files to further analyze common problems, such as ink coverage overruns, incorrect separations, thin lines, small text, safety zone issues or lack of proper bleed. In addition, the object inspector displays all object properties in a well-arranged way. Automatic preflight followed by visual inspection of suspect files: the key to an efficient workflow. Oh, and it also allows comparing different PDF documents to see where the differences are!

Conditional processing in process plans

A process plan is a step-by-step recipe on what to do with a PDF file. The steps can be preflight profiles, other process plans, single checks or fixes, actions (to export pages to images, include an imposition step ...) or variables. Based on the result of a step, processing can stop, or jump to any other step in the process plan. Process plans can use JavaScript for calculations, can generate multiple output PDF files and can jump back to older versions of a PDF file for the ultimate in flexibility. Trust me, you haven't seen anything like this when it comes to PDF processing.

Enrich your PDF documents

To send a PDF into a production workflow, it often needs a few finishing touches. pdfToolbox can easily add printer marks or outline page boxes for proofing purposes, but it can go much further. By using HTML snippets that are automatically converted into PDF and added to your documents, you can virtually add anything you need. Because the conversion is based on the Webkit engine, JavaScript is fully supported by giving you the ultimate flexibility, but still allowing you to use all print color spaces (CMYK, ICC based and spot colors). Last but not least, a full barcode library is embedded in pdfToolbox, so any type of barcode can be added as well!



Adding die-cut lines, varnishes, bleeds and more

Sometimes you want to analyze the contents of a PDF document and add additional vector elements based on that. The shapes technology embedded in pdfToolbox allows just that. Using tracing technology, it allows adding a correct die- cut line, an additional varnish or foil layer or an under-color white layer exactly there where needed. Complex shapes, combinations of shapes, choking and spreading are all fully supported.

What about missing bleeds? Of course, pdfToolbox also has you covered for that. Whether you have rectangular documents or documents with cut contours, the pdfToolbox engine comes with several built-in algorithms to add missing bleed.

Let me impose on you

pdfToolbox scales, fits, moves, extends, rotates and flips pages and page content easily. But it goes much further than that and imposes anything from simple booklets to fully-fledged brochures and books, as well as doing N-up and step and repeat impositions for digital printing. The imposition engine is completely configurable and can equally be used to for example create “good for proof” pages. And because it can be configured using JavaScript, the only limits are the limits of your imagination (well, technically your scripting!)

Beyond PDF

Once you have a good production file, it would be really helpful to be able to generate a separate PDF file for the cover and inside pages of a book perhaps? Or a preview image of some of the pages of the PDF file? A separate PDF document containing only the gold-foil elements perhaps? Or an SVG or DXF version of the die-cut elements in the PDF document? All of those are supported by pdfToolbox out of the box.

Highly scalable

When you build your workflow on an engine that is this powerful, it quickly becomes an essential part of your business. So how do you make sure it’s available and can handle the load? For starters pdfToolbox fully supports virtual environments. Using its built-in dispatcher and satellite capabilities, it can scale across multiple servers with ease. And using callas License Server it effortlessly fits in a scalable cloud setup.

Runs (just about) anywhere!

Manual processing is served by pdfToolbox Desktop that can run as standalone software or as a plug-in inside of Adobe Acrobat Pro. For automation, callas has a hot folder based version, but also a command-line tool that plays well with scripted environments and Enfocus Switch. And if you want to have a library to integrate, pdfToolbox SDK is for you.

pdfToolbox isn’t very difficult when it comes to operating systems either. The desktop version runs on just about any macOS or Windows computer. And the automated versions support all those and any Linux environment on top of that. It couldn’t be easier!