DocumentSignTM - Certification & Accreditation Certified Document Services (CDS) provides a cost effective PDF digital signing solution

Electronic Certification & Accreditation Drivers

The importance of 'Trust' in the age of the Internet cannot be underestimated as the Internet continues to expand and the availability of desktop publishing tools becomes virtually ubiquitous. This is especially true considering the diverse nature of many global businesses where language barriers of cause issues with interpretation of local regulations. It is also paramount to understand in the Internet model that it is not necessarily the direct client of the testing authority that needs to rely upon the information. It could easily be a relying party at a sub level, or an auditor several years hence. Once a relying party makes a business decision on the suitability of a business partner as verified by a certification body, it is the brand of the authoritative certification body itself that suffers if the certificate of compliance is later shown to have been manipulated or modified. Compliancy and the need to adhere to growing regulatory requirements now forces relying parties to question the authenticity and integrity of material received. Strong irrefutable audit trails are essential for future reference. Only digitally signed documents supporting long lived digital signatures offer this level of scalability to multiple relying parties and their need to archive content used to facilitate critical business decisions.

The Authenticity and Integrity of a certificate of compliance remains the primary concern for any relying party. i.e. it is vital to know 'who' created or approved the certificate, and whether the certificate has been tampered with or modified in any way post publication/release.

For many organisations the electronic document format of choice is unquestionably PDF (Portable Document Format) mainly due to the fact that almost 800+ million people have access to Adobe's Acrobat reader supporting multiple languages across multiple operating systems. Now an ISO standard, the growth in the use of PDF documents across a number of industry verticals has been widely recognised as best practice for well over 10 years. Unfortunately many organisations fail to recognise is the simple final step which has been available since the release of Version 5 of Adobe's Acrobat product range in 2004 – The Application of Digital Signatures. Used both to secure and to attest to the authenticity of the signed content digital signatures add significant value to any underlying document. Whilst Adobe's Acrobat product offers the ability to digitally sign a document with any X509 compliant digital certificate it was the release of CDS (Certified Document Services) at version 6 which allowed authors to meet all of the critical requirements previously discussed. As one of the services enabled by the Adobe root certificate authority. CDS enables document authors to sign Portable Document Format (PDF) files using digital certificates that automatically validate when recipients have the free Adobe® Reader® software installed. No additional client software or configuration is required. CDS was specifically designed to enable organisations and individuals who publish high-value documents to large and disparate recipient groups to increase the assurance level of their electronic communications. By using CDS signatures from an Adobe CDS partner to sign a PDF file, document authors are able to meet authenticity and integrity requirements whilst optionally being able to include the secure creation time of the document.

The customers of certification and accreditation bodies highlight daily their need for a digital alternative to the certificate of compliance by scanning and publishing it on their web site.....so why not meet this need?

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What is the CDS (Certified Document Services) Program?

Certified Document Services (CDS) is one of the services enabled by the Adobe root certificate authority and was introduced into the Acrobat product offering with version 6.0. CDS enables document authors to sign Portable Document Format (PDF) files, using standard digital certificates, which automatically validate when authors are using free Adobe® Reader® software. No additional client software or configuration is required and the advantage to international bodies or stakeholders concerned with international language support is that the PDF reader is available in over 30+ languages; An ideal multilingual platform for certification and accreditation providers wishing to empower their customers with the ability to demonstrate compliance. CDS was designed to enable government endorsed accreditation bodies and recognised certification bodies who publish high-value documents to large and disparate recipient groups in multiple countries to increase the assurance level of the document. The document's integrity and authenticity are digitally preserved. By adding a CDS signature to a PDF file, document authors can increase this assurance level without requiring recipients to deploy additional software. This therefore suits the Certification and Accreditation model (where PDFs are everyday use) perfectly.

GlobalSign

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Following a thorough verification of the body requesting a DocumentSign digital ID, GlobalSign will issue the digital ID in the form of a Digital Certificate, securely stored and protected on a SafeNet[®] hardware cryptographic device. Authors can digitally certify PDFs (*desktop and server-based solutions available*) using certificates "chained" up to the trusted Adobe Root. Recipients simply need to open the document. Adobe's simple to interpret "*Blue Ribbon, Yellow Warning Triangle, and Red X*" trust messaging allows even novice users an easy to understand method to determine if the document is from a legitimate source.



By clicking on the signature properties, recipients can view additional information, such as signing certificate details including information about the certificate policy, signer's contact information, certificate status, and time-stamping details that become the foundation for strong authentication, data-integrity and non-repudiation of the transaction.

Remember! For the highest assurances of who created a document, look for the Blue Security Bar and Blue Rosette.

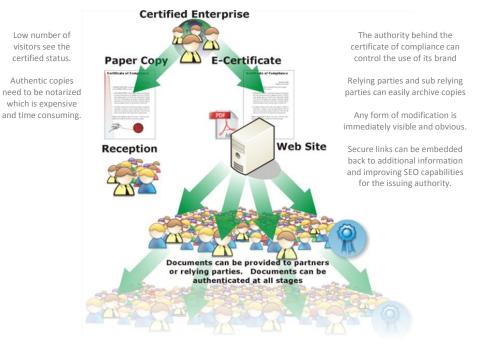
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DocumentSign[™] - Who benefits from CDS Digital IDs for the Adobe PDF Platform: Certified Document Services (CDS)



What are the advantages to a Certification Body?

As illustrated below, the number of replying parties exposed to the brand of the certification body is significantly higher for an electronic document delivered via the web site of a certified body. the brand is also fully controlled by the brand owner rather than letting the certified enterprise decide how best to scan/display the document on their web site.



What is 'Certified Document Services'

Certified Document Services (CDS) is one of the services enabled by the Adobe root certificate authority. CDS enables document authors to sign Portable Document Format (PDF) files, using standard digital certificates, which automatically validate when authors are using free Adobe[®] Reader[®] software. No additional client software or configuration is required.

CDS was designed to enable organizations and individuals who publish high-value documents to large and disparate recipient groups to increase the assurance level that the document's integrity and authenticity are preserved. By adding a CDS signature to a PDF file, document authors can increase this assurance level without requiring recipients to deploy additional software.



Solution Highlights...

PersonalSign™ Pro Digital ID for Adobe PDF is a desktop solution designed for individuals and organizations with low volume requirements. Authors can certify PDFs using Adobe® Acrobat® or Adobe® LiveCycle® solutions and a GlobalSign DocumentSign™ Digital ID securely stored on a cryptographic device. For low volume requirements this is a SafeNet FIPS 140-1 level 2 USB token. (*highlighted below*)

DepartmentSign Digital ID for Adobe PDF is an automated PDF digital signing solution designed for organizations with medium volume requirements. A role-based credential e.g. 'Marketing Department' is issued and its corresponding private key securely protected on a SafeNet FIPS 140-1 level 2 cryptographic device such as a Luna[®] PCI HSM (Hardware Security Module)

Enterprise PKI Lite (from Q2 2009) for includes options for an Enterprise to manage the full lifecycle of Digital IDs issued under their organization name. i.e. Individual signing USB tokens or central-based credentials for either role-based signings or server held individual Digital IDs. Distributed implementations involve providing organization administrators (acting as the organization registration authority) a bulk shipment of Safenet USB tokens which work in conjunction with Acrobat Standard/Professional/3D. Centralized, server-based implementations work with SafeNet hardware security modules (optionally sold) that are highly integrated with Adobe's LiveCycle Enterprise Server suite. The net result is a highly automated solution with robust signing functionality.



SafeNET iKey™ 2032 USB Cryptographic security comes as standard for all PersonalSign and PersonalSign professional solutions – Portable/Flexible/Reliable

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