



▶ Security Statement

Vitriumsystems™
www.vitrium.com

Innovating
Document
Technology

Protectedpdf allows online publishers to secure documents against unauthorized use, while providing legitimate readers with a highly satisfying user experience.

Protectedpdf uses a unique page-level document protection technology, which leaves selected content open for preview, while ensuring the rest is accessible to authorized users only.

With page-level protection, broad document distribution can be used to increase sales, without compromising security.

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Protectedpdf and Document Security

At Vitrium Systems, we have developed protectedpdf, a PDF rights management and tracking solution that offers excellent ease of use to readers while creating valuable marketing opportunities for publishers. Other document security solutions provide stronger protection than protectedpdf against deliberate, illegal and unauthorized use of PDFs but, in the process, they typically create a less satisfying reader experience. Vitrium believes that, in choosing protectedpdf over other more stringent applications, publishers stand to gain much more than they stand to lose.

Approaches to Document Security

Most document security solutions for PDF use external applications or plug-ins to offer publishers protection against unauthorized use and distribution. By deploying these systems, they make document access significantly more complex. At Vitrium, we believe that a large number of publishers looking for document protection have, as a top priority, an interest in maintaining the ease with which their readers currently view and share regular PDF documents. Protectedpdf allows readers to preview content and distribute documents to like-minded friends or colleagues, while the files remain in their protected state. In doing so, protectedpdf documents help publishers expand their markets, generate leads and research their readerships. Protectedpdf strikes a delicate balance between ease of use and content protection. It is designed to provide a reasonable deterrent against unauthorized use; one that does not impair the experience of responsible users.

Threats to Document Security

Many circumventions of PDF security occur naturally, often accidentally, via normal features in document-viewing software and computer operating systems. Protectedpdf effectively prevents occurrences of this kind. A second, more serious threat comes from programmers who purposely engineer ways to circumvent document protection. Although these hackers represent a relatively small community of skilled individuals, they are able to pass their knowledge along to regular users in the form of security cracking software applications.

Vitrium seeks to protect content against such calculated and concerted activities only to a degree at which the reader experience is not impaired. Protectedpdf is dependent on Adobe's Standard Security Handler infrastructure and is therefore vulnerable when applications are designed specifically to attack this infrastructure.

Our Commitment to Document Security

Security solution providers must be responsible for constantly improving their software infrastructures, in order to control any weaknesses that hackers may be able to exploit. At Vitrium, we take this responsibility very seriously because we know that document protection is a serious matter for our clients. We are continually developing our technology in order to maintain protectedpdf's effectiveness as a deterrent against unauthorized access.

The Question of Legality

It should also be remembered that numerous laws are in place that specifically criminalize the development and distribution of technology that can bypass measures taken to protect intellectual property – well-known examples being the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (in the US) and EU Copyright Directive (in Europe). Protectedpdf covers all clearly legal and/or accidental ways in which users might bypass PDF security. Only the most high security (and therefore the least user-friendly) methods of PDF protection are able to secure documents against the illegal use of software engineering.

The Perpetual Threat

Even the toughest security solutions do not guarantee permanent protection – there is a perpetual threat from persistent hackers. Over one billion people have downloaded the free Adobe Reader, so there is a great deal of motivation to build tools that will circumvent PDF security. The more rigorous an application's security measures are the more determined third-party programmers will be to overcome them. So, while other applications may provide tougher PDF protection measures than protectedpdf, none can claim to be impenetrable.