

Adobe Acrobat Reader and eBook Authoring

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Introduction

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In this article a brief overview of Adobe Reader's features will be described for the express purpose of familiarizing yourself with what may be included in your eBook. Included will be some Tips for the writing and editing steps of the eBook authoring process. This is a very non-technical description of the features.

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Tool Bar Actions

Acrobat Reader has tools not found in standard word processing software. You can identify each button on the tool bars at the top of your page by placing your cursor over a single button to see what it does. Don't forget to explore the buttons at the bottom of the Reader page. Take some time after downloading Acrobat Reader to “play” with the buttons to familiarize yourself with their functions. You can use Help to help you.

This article will cover the general uses of the most commonly used ones and the ones that you may wish to use for the benefit of your eBook readers.

The Hand Tool Button

The hand tool button is used in Reader instead of the usual cursor found in word processing software.

Show/Hide Navigation Pane Button

The Navigation Pane can be hidden or shown by clicking on the Navigation tool button at the top of the page. This Pane is important because it allows readers to use two very special features of Adobe Acrobat that make eBooks so useful. The Navigation Pane holds the Bookmarks palette and the Thumbnails palette among other palettes as they are called. More will be said about these two palettes later. As the term Navigation indicates, these palettes allow the reader to navigate around the document with ease.

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TIP

As an eBook author, you can also predetermine the boundaries of the zoom area for the reader when he clicks on it or uses a bookmark to get to it. Try clicking on the zoom button on the toolbar. Drag your mouse to make a marquee (a dashed-line rectangle) around the area you want to zoom in to. Release the mouse button and the marquee area will fill the screen. Using the zoom capabilities effectively makes the reader's experience more worthwhile.

Screen Sizing Tools

At the top of the screen in Reader you will see 3 buttons side by side appearing like pieces of paper with a folded corner. These buttons set the page view for the reader.

The first button will show your eBook page in Actual Size (100%) with most of the content shown on the middle of the screen. You will have to scroll to see the remainder of the page content.

The second button is the Fit in Window button showing the full page at 80% of the original size with the page in the middle of the screen and a border around the full page which you can see.

The third view is the Fit Width view which will probably show up as 152% of the original but in this view you see only a portion of the full page but it is very large stretching across the entire width of the screen. This makes it much easier to read.

TIP

As an eBook author, you can have your eBook compiler set your eBook to open to the reader in any of these view as best fits your needs. You can also set the page view option for certain bookmarks perhaps combining the zoom feature with the page view feature.

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There are basically three kinds of links.

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Summary

The intent of this article was to inform eBook authors of some of the features of Adobe Acrobat Reader that they should be aware of during the authoring process. The article is a reference only and does not include all features of Adobe Acrobat Reader. Authors are encouraged to “play” with Reader becoming familiar with the features offered to the purchasers. One of the best ways of doing this is to download eBooks available to you for free and see how those authors used Reader to their advantage. At the same time, take note of any authoring strategies used in these books that you may wish to use in yours.

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