

Most Accurate OCR for PDF Tool?

For those of you who've had the opportunity to work with multiple brands to OCR PDF files, do you have any thoughts on solutions that you've found to be the most accurate?

I've been satisfied with Acrobat Adobe X (I've not updated...)

R. Gary Spencer, Georgia

Not sure what you mean by accurate. The following will scan to PDF without errors as far as I can see, plus scan from color and save in color and scan sloppy/poor originals. (Most recent use was to copy a blue Texas birth certificate and print, in color, to nice paper. Cannot tell the copy is not an original unless you 'candle' the paper.

The following will also open PDFs and you can convert and save them to Word/WordPerfect. I am thinking some errors may be found there.

This has been mentioned before on Solosez, I think.

The product is Nuance's OmniPage, which is outstanding and does much more than scan and permit saving to PDF. For example, as stated earlier, you can open a PDF and then save in Word or WordPerfect and many other formats. (Warning, WordPerfect 'saves' end up with all kinds of codes not included in native WordPerfect files, but what the heck.) OmniPage asks if scanning black and white, gray scale, or color. The scan lamp moves slower on gray scale and even slower for color.

When scanning it asks if scanning one-sided or two sided paper. Our main Brother MFC 8860DN handles two-sided quite nicely.

I have had OmniPage Ultimate 19, circa 2013, for some years and it is one of the most powerful tools in the office. I am sure we started with a version earlier than 19 and do not know if/how we got upgraded to 19.

Am thinking you need to make sure it is OmniPage Ultimate.

I think you can obtain older versions for under \$120.00.

Again, great tool, worth every penny.

I add, we also have Acrobat 9 Pro Extended, circa 2008, which is a powerful tool but which does not convert to text as well as OmniPage. I do not know what this sells for online. I recommend it as well as OmniPage to round you out.

We also have the Office 365 subscription and get along quite well with ancient WordPerfect12.

Rob Robertson, Texas

Accuracy is a function of scan quality and the absence of handwriting. On the output side I find that Nuance tends to put things into text boxes which makes it a pain to use. The newer version is better. I do have older versions of paperport and Omnipage I have used but might try.

John Davidson, Pennsylvania

I'm just about to upgrade my OmniPage, because I have a 500+ page tabular report to convert.

I've used Acrobat and a number of other products (Iris, e.g.) over the years, and OmniPage was the best I've used. It's especially good for bringing in tabular data; you can define the table with a grid on the page, and the data will be parsed on scanning. Acrobat sucks at that. You can also define flowing column areas, etc., so it's a lot like reverse page layout; where Acrobat goes left-to-right, you can tell OmniPage where the columns are, and it will keep blocks of text as blocks of text, rather than giving you a line from column one, then a line from column two. (Acrobat can be told to do that, but I've not had very good luck with its ability to accurately discern page layout, even when there's ample white space - and when there are rules between columns, ironically, Acrobat seems to get *more* confused.)

It also has some of the best "learning" I've seen, since you can define how picky you want it to be, when it should confirm with you what's a 5 and what's an S, Oh from Zero, etc., and you can save that learning across documents, so other documents with the same fonts, etc., will "learn" from previous scans and conversions.

Richard J. Rutledge, Jr., North Carolina

I second the comments of Rob Robertson Esq and Rick Rutledge Esq. I have used OmniPage 18 for 4+ years now and it is a very powerful and very versatile software/utility for a law office to have. I cannot imagine practicing law without it. Try out a demo and compare the demo to other software programs to see which one works best in your law practice. Good luck.

Bob Beatson, Maryland

Adobe Acrobat is OK for routine scanning. Its main problem is that you cannot correct text errors.

For OCR generally, most reviews favor OmniPage. PC Magazine has scored ABBYY ahead of OmniPage for the past few years.

Steven Finell, California

New version of Adobe does allow you to correct (or add or delete) text.

Laura Mann, New Jersey

Adobe DC, their cloud based version does a great job of OCR, plus their whole suite of tools. It costs \$15 a month. I love it.

The oCR process is a bit slower than i would like, but not horribly slow. Only speed freaks like me would probably be offended.

Matthew S. Johnston, Maryland

We've come a long way since the 1990s when I was one of the first in my firm to use our OCR system -- two interconnected computers, one with huge discs (but both with removable discs) to read the images that had first been scanned professionally. In this case against McDonald's Corporation, I learned to search for "Aids" if I wanted a document with the logo of a big "M" and small "cDonald's" printed across it.

John T. Mitchell, Washington, DC

I use PDF pen pro on MAC and am happy with it. Adobe has a subscription style service online that does only PDF to word conversions. It's something like \$20 a year.

Shimon Yiftach, California

For the past few years, PC Mag has rated ABBYY as the most accurate OCR software.

Steven Finell
