

Printing a Fillable Form to PDF

Is it possible to print a fillable form to pdf from a pdf?

The SSA publishes fillable forms at its website. If I download the form to a pdf (as opposed to PRINTING) the form to a pdf, the downloaded form will retain the fillable fields. If I fill in the fields and try to print to a pdf, I get an error message like the following:

```
%%[ ProductName: Distiller ]%%
```

This PostScript file was created from an encrypted PDF file.

Redistilling encrypted PDF is not permitted.

```
%%[ Flushing: rest of job (to end-of-file) will be ignored ]%% %%[ Warning:  
PostScript error. No PDF file produced. ] %%
```

Yet, I can print the file to a physical printer and then scan the printed document. The extra steps accomplish what needs to be done, but wastes paper in the process. Is there any way around this?

I don't understand the technical reason why, but I cannot print to adobe.pdf. My system locks up every time. But often I can do what you want by just saving it as a pdf. I understand that technically there is a difference but should be same result for your purposes.

I downloaded an SSA form and tried both. Couldn't print to pdf, but no problem with save as, and the form stayed fillable/editable. I am using Acrobat DC Pro.

Henry R. Reckler, Colorado

I understand what you are trying to do. I have never found a way to actually accomplish "printing" a pdf to another pdf.

There are a couple of weird cludgy programs that claim to do this, but I have always found their fidelity to be lacking.

If you find something I would also appreciate knowing.

Geoff Wiggs

It's a protection feature. It sucks ass.

I get around this by printing to the Microsoft writer.

Roger Traversa, Pennsylvania

When you print to PDF, a dialog opens underneath the document you're trying to print, and it wants to know where you want to save the PDF. If you don't switch to that dialog and tell it where to save the PDF, it looks like your computer is locking up. Make sure that's not the problem you're seeing.

Mike Phillips, North Carolina

Please provide a link to the particular form you're trying to print to PDF.

Are you filling in and printing the PDF with Chrome, Acrobat, or another program? Also, what happens if you try to print to CutePDF?

Mike Phillips

Depending on the program you are using I think you can also "flatten" the file to accomplish what you're trying to do.

Andrew Mays, Illinois

Nope, that's not the problem. I tell it where, and give it a name, but it just doesn't want to print it. It shows a progress bar, that gets to what looks like about 60%, and then everything just locks up.

Henry R. Reckler

I used to have that problem, and I think I changed the file location to solve it, but I really don't remember. Again, you can try CutePDF as a solution, as well.

Mike Phillips

Concur with Roger. California state court uses many pre-printed PDF documents (called "Judicial Council Forms") with fillable fields and everyone I have ever encountered has the same problem Avram describes. If you print it to paper and scan it back in, it's fine.

I forget if someone told me this or if I googled it, but I'm fairly certain this inability to print a fillable PDF to a PDF is security feature of some kind built in to PDF files, Adobe Acrobat, etc. I just live with it.

I haven't tried printing it to Microsoft Writer so I can't comment on that.

Andy I. Chen, California

Maybe the security is to prevent you from being able to create a new pdf to edit the form itself. With the SSA form I tried for Avi, I could "save as" but not print to pdf or edit the SSA pdf form, either before or after "save as" another file name. No problem when I want the future editing capability, but a pain when something needs to be sent online in pdf form. I would rarely want to send anyone an editable filled in form.

Henry R. Reckler

I don't use Adobe and that may be my saving grace. Whenever I'm using a fillable form, I open it in FoxIt Software's free reader which has a comment feature that allows me to fill in the forms.

I then use FinePrint Software's pdfFactory to print to a file or to a printer. From the file I can later print to a printer if that is my choice, or I can email the file to a client or whomever. In most cases, this will work for me.

Miriam Jacobson, Pennsylvania

Agreed. It's because it's encrypted. Look at the top it'll say "secured" where the title is listed.

> > This PostScript file was created from an *encrypted *PDF file.

> > Redistilling *encrypted *PDF is not permitted.

I can't remember if e-faxing will bypass the security feature. But I use hellosign, and I can send secured PDF's through Hellosign no problem.

Andy,

<https://ceb.com/free-jc-forms>

You can thank me later ;)

Also, if you want to change any of the forms (I hate when text fields are set to scroll, for case numbers etc, so I disable that) you go File>Save

As>, save it under a different name. Depending on which Acrobat you

As>have,

if it's pro, you can then edit their form fields to suit you.

Joseph D. Dang, California

Three days ago, I sent Andy a form with the security removed, but I haven't heard back whether it makes any difference. Let me know if you want to test one. I'm not having a problem printing or saving any of these files.

Mike Phillips

Just following up on this thread with my own experience today. I have protected bank personal financial statement forms I needed to fill out for a client. One is a .doc form, and one is a .pdf form. Both are protected in some manner. I wanted to save them in editable fashion, but be able to also save them as flattened PDFs that I could email and/or print. I tried various options, and found that the easiest was simply to print to "Microsoft Print to PDF" giving them an appropriately different names so I did not replace the editable versions. I did not separately install the Microsoft Print to PDF and assume is just part of the Word application. I have Word 2013 on my system. Hopefully that will be a simple fix for Avi Sacks and anyone else with the issue.

Henry R. Reckler

You might look at the program DocHub. It allows you to download PDFs and type into them like forms. It also has a nifty signature feature that allows you to put your signature into these forms. The free features are pretty good and the full version is reasonable - maybe \$10/month.

Jerry W. Cain, Jr., Georgia

