

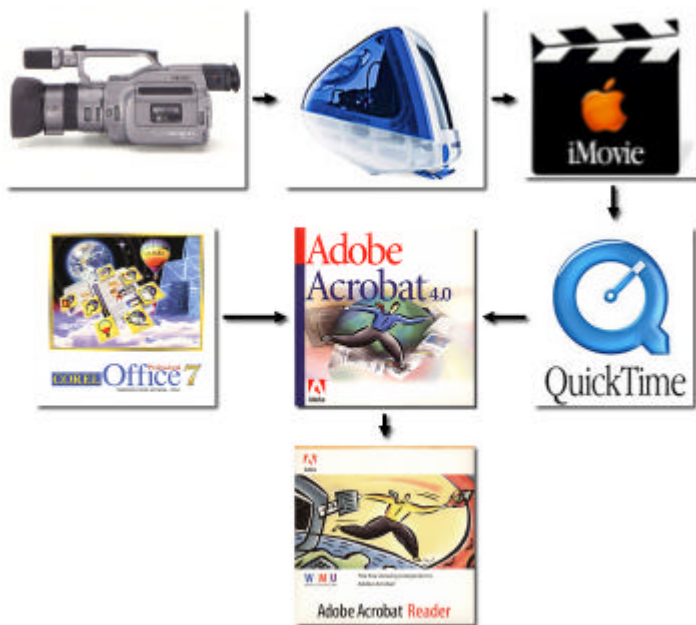
SCL/LTDF Project: “Extending the scope of Adobe Acrobat PDF resources used in support of SCSE ‘Diving and Underwater Technology’ modules”.

Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) is the open de facto standard for electronic document distribution. Adobe PDF is a universal file format that preserves all of the fonts, formatting, colours and graphics of any source document, regardless of the software application and hardware platform used to create it. Adobe PDF documents have many advantages:

- i. Anyone, anywhere can open a PDF file - all you need is the free Acrobat Reader.
- ii. PDF files always display exactly as created, regardless of fonts, software, and operating system.
- iii. PDF files always print correctly on any printing device.
- iv. PDF files are smaller than their source files and are ideal for distribution on the Web, as e-mail attachments or on CD-ROM.
- v. PDF files can contain many interactive elements - including Web links, bookmarks, cross-document links, forms, sound and video.

This SCL/LTDF project has used recent developments in desktop computer technologies to produce and then integrate video content into PDF documents; the illustration below shows the workflow for a typical project:

1. A [digital camcorder](#) is used to record 'raw' video footage; this is imported into an [Apple iMac](#) computer and then edited using software such as [iMovie](#). The finished video clips are stored as [QuickTime](#) movies.
2. In the meantime a 'framework' text document is produced using a normal word processing package (eg [Corel Office](#)); [Adobe Acrobat](#) is then used to 'print' the document - this creates a basic PDF file.
3. The penultimate stage in the process is to use Acrobat's tools to generate the interactive elements in the PDF file - this will include adding links to the QuickTime movies.
4. The final step is to publish the PDF document - usually on CD-ROM or on the Web. Students use Adobe's [Acrobat Reader](#) to open the PDF documents; Apple Computer's QuickTime application is used to access the video clips. If the PDF documents are distributed on CD-ROM then free installers for Acrobat Reader and QuickTime can be included on the disc; these applications can also be freely downloaded from the Web.



This project has successfully demonstrated that Adobe Acrobat can be used to produce flexible and stimulating media-rich learning materials - providing that both the author and the end user have access to suitable hardware and software. The package of authoring tools used in this project has proven to be stable, reliable and easy to use.