

# PDF Signing for Adobe CDS - Creating Trusted Documents

Certified Document Services (CDS) provides a cost effective PDF digital signing solution.

## How to create trusted documents with CDS

Certified Document Services (CDS) is a service which is enabled by the Adobe root certificate authority and was introduced into the Adobe® Acrobat® product range supporting SHA-256 from version 7.0 onwards. CDS empowers document authors to digitally sign Portable Document Format (PDF) files, using an industry standard X.509 digital certificates chained to the Adobe Root Authority to allow automatic validation of authenticity of the author using the free Adobe Reader software. No additional client software or configuration is required.

A major advantage to any organisation with stakeholders in multiple countries, is the built-in international language support within the PDF reader itself. Available in over 30+ languages, Adobe Reader ensures a consistent digital signature experience worldwide. CDS was designed specifically to enable any organisation providing documents to large and disparate recipients, who may be in multiple countries, to increase the assurance level of the document. The document's integrity and authenticity are digitally preserved by the addition of the CDS signature to the PDF. Document authors are able to increase this assurance level without requiring recipients to deploy additional processes - it simply works, ensuring an effective ROI through a vast reduction in the investment normally associated with supporting a proprietary security system.



Following a thorough verification of the 'Applicant' requesting a PDF Signing for Adobe CDS certificate, GlobalSign will issue a 'pickup' link which allows a certificate to be generated and securely stored on a SafeNet® hardware cryptographic device. Authors can digitally certify PDFs using certificates "chained" up to the trusted Adobe Root. Recipients simply need to open the document using the Adobe free reader to instantly verify the authenticity and integrity of the document. Adobe's simple to interpret "Blue Ribbon, ng Triangle, and Red X" trust messaging allows even novice users an easy to understand method to determine if the document is legitimate.







**Authenticity Check Fails** 

Integrity Check **Fails** 

## Solutions by Industry

## **Electronic Invoicing**

Electronic VAT invoicing offers numerous advantages to organisations both large and small – cost reductions, low carbon footprint ecosystems, greater security and trust for all stakeholders and faster cash collection than traditional out-dated paper billing

The New England Journal of Medicine, 2004, reports "paperwork represent 31% of all healthcare costs". CDS can help relieve the burden on physicians surrounding cumbersome processes involving patient paper-work while being part of a CFR 21 Part 11 compliant solution.

## Manufacture and Design

Architecture, Engineers and Construction (AEC) professionals benefit from CDS with faster design collaboration, more efficient and less expensive electronic document storage, and stronger protection via tamper evident engineering and product documentation as documents are exchanged among customers, partners, contractors, and building departments.

### Education

More and more educational institutions are increasing student and alumni satisfaction as universities and colleges disseminate sensitive documents like transcripts and admissions letters electronically in a fraction of the time and costs seen with their paper equivalent.

## Government

CDS supports both local and federal government initiatives including the Government Paperwork Elimination Act helping reduce costs, enhance citizen accessibility to government information, and reduce unnecessary environmental waste while at the same time providing high assurances to its citizens that the information is legitimate.

## **Financial Services**

Industry best practices coupled with government imposed regulation like Sarbanes-Oxley make CDS an attractive option as a thorough audit of the signature properties are embedded in the document itself. Well after the Digital ID expires, the signature characteristics are preserved providing relying parties strong authentication of both the organisation and individual or role that signed the PDF, whether the content is still intact, and the exact date and time of the transaction as determined by a RFC 3161 compliant time-stamp.

## The Notarial and Legal Professions

CDS provides unequalled support of trusted documents in multiple languages. This alone facilitates cross border transactions as both sides are able to interrogate the authenticity of a document in their local language; the ideal solution for eNotarisation.

## The SafeNET iKey 4000 & eToken Pro

GlobalSign's PDF Signing for Adobe CDS Certificates are usually provided with either a SafeNET iKey 4000 (SHA1 capable) or a SafeNET eToken Pro (SHA256 capable). As an extension of smart card technology both keys plug into any USB port to provide strong portable user authentication without the need for costly reader devices. installed on to either token ensure regulatory compliance with the FIPS 140-2 Level 2 requirements of the Adobe CDS program.

For organisations with high volume signing requirements or the need for automation, GlobalSign is able to provide a HSM (Hardware Security Module) in either PCI, PCI(e) or Network attached. In addition, GlobalSign's ePKI (Enterprise PKI) solution is

