

About Password Protected PDF

The standard security of PDF documents can have two different types of password: a Document Open password and a Permissions password. When a Document Open password (also known as a user password) is set, anyone who tries to open the PDF must type in the password. When a Permissions password (also known as a master password) is set, recipients don't need a password to open the document, but they must type the Permissions password to set or change the restricted features. If the PDF is secured with both types of passwords, it can be opened with either password, but only the Permissions password allows the user to change the restricted features.

Failings of a Password Protected PDF document

The PDF security system is implemented so that a file with restrictions may be decrypted instantly by an unauthorised user who does not have the password, irrespective of the password length, even for 256-bit keys. A PDF document secured with a password for opening can be decrypted on a modern computer quickly and easily using freely available decryption tools. Many of these tools “guarantee” the removal of passwords from protected PDF documents.

“Password protected PDF files are a poor security solution for your business and should not be relied upon”.



PDF

A popular password removal tool is provided by Elcomsoft, here is a link to their [white paper](#).

Adobe makes it clear that it expects software developers to respect the intent of their PDF security system, therefore “respect” is the basis of their security model.

About SSLPost

SSLPost offers a robust recorded delivery service by email for sensitive business documents and messages. Using the highest level of security and encryption software, sensitive documents such as payslips and invoices can be delivered safely to your intended recipients. SSLPost software is easy to install and use and interfaces have been developed for many popular systems (such as SAP).

“SSLPost offers a robust solution that ensures your business documents are protected with the highest levels of security and authenticity”.



SSLPost

Benefits of SSLPost

SSLPost ensures that your confidential documents are delivered securely to authorised and registered recipients using best practice encryption technology, including the latest endorsed government standards.

SSLPost delivered documents include a fingerprint or seal that establishes the time and date that the email was sent and that the email has not been tampered with during its transmission.

Conclusion

Password protected PDF files are a poor security solution for protecting sensitive documents as it provides little, if any, protection. It can be worse than no solution at all as users are more likely to expose sensitive information, incorrectly believing it to be encrypted.

SSLPost encrypts documents to the highest level, using best-practice technology, to ensure all sensitive documents are secure and only able to be opened by the intended recipient. SSLPost enables both sender and recipient to be confident their sensitive documents are private, authenticated and have not been tampered with.