

# PDF is a Four-Letter Word

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**So, who *is***


**ABLE**  
*Tech*

**?**

**...and why are they  
talking to me?**



# Who we are

- We are **Oklahoma's Assistive Technology (AT) Act Program.**
- There's an AT Act Program in **every U.S. state and territory.**
- We're a sponsored program of 

# What we do

- AT evaluations, consultations, and demonstrations
- Short-term device loans
- Financial loans
- Refurbish durable medical equipment (DME)
- **Digital accessibility training and technical assistance**

For more info, go to  
**okabletech.org**

# Today's Roadmap

1. PDF Pitfalls
2. You've Got Options
3. Hands-on Activity
4. Q&A



# Learning Objectives

1. Understand why exporting your content to PDFs may not be the right answer.
2. Evaluate the purpose of your digital content.
3. Explore some common alternatives to converting your digital content into PDFs.

# PDF

## Pitfalls



# Pitfall #1

Using a PDF is the most accessible option.

# Reality #1

PDFs **can be** very accessible,  
but PDF remediation is also:

- Highly technical
- Time-consuming
- Expensive

# Pitfall #2

I just need to make a  
tiny change.

It's not a big deal, right?

# Reality #2

Any change, **even a minor one**, requires fixing the source file, then exporting a new PDF.

This **erases any accessibility work** done to the original PDF.

# Pitfall #3

People will steal my content if I upload my source files, so I use PDFs instead.

# Reality #3

**PDFs can be edited, too.**

And even if people do edit the source file once they download it, **it's just a copy.**

# Pitfall #4

Well, I'll just lock my  
PDFs down so they can't  
be edited, then.

# Reality #4

Documents that are locked down to prevent editing often **block assistive technology from working correctly**, or at all.



# Pitfall #5

So, I've got this form...

# Reality #5

## **PDF forms have many limitations.**

- Even harder to remediate than regular PDFs
- Have to redo the form fields every export
- Limited options compared to webforms: No branching, static field size, etc.
- Inaccessible, frustrating signature experience
- Acrobat bugs that will make you want to cry

**You've got  
options**

# Order of Operations

1. Turn it into a webpage.
2. Distribute the source file.
3. Rebuild it.
4. Remediate it.

# **Hands-on Activity**

**Hands-on**

**~~Activity~~**

**Homework**

**Delete 5 **obsolete**  
PDFs on your  
website.**

**(Or even more, you rebel.)**

# AT Act Program Survey



Survey link: [tinyurl.com/abt-a11y-survey](https://tinyurl.com/abt-a11y-survey)



**Q&A**

**Questions? Ask us!**

[abt.a11y@okstate.edu](mailto:abt.a11y@okstate.edu)

# Thank You!

