

# Copresco's Overnight Lite

**Copresco explains why the...**

## PDF/X Standard Minimizes Print Problems

Copresco welcomes your questions on all aspects of digital printing.

We appreciate your interest and ask you to keep those inquiries coming.

*Thanks to Contemporary Graphics for posing this worthwhile question.*

**Q.** We have a PDF/X-1a file from a client. Can Copresco print it?

**A.** The answer is emphatically yes! The good news is, anyone can print PDF/X files. That is what these files are for: universal, error-free printing.

### Viva la Difference

**Q.** What is the difference between PDF/X and a regular PDF file?

**A.** In fact, there is no such thing as a "regular" PDF. You may recall from previous *Overnight Lite* articles that Adobe (makers of Acrobat and creator of the PDF format) has designed PDF for all sorts of uses. Print is only one.

### Not for Print

Some PDF uses include on-line forms, scanning and e-mail transmission of documents. PDFs created for any of these purposes may not be at all suitable for print.

PDF has had seven major version changes since its initial release, each one adding support for more of the "features" mentioned above.

Adobe's most recent versions include, for example, support for audio and video, that are totally useless and detrimental to the printing process.

### ISO Standard

PDF/X, on the other hand, is regulated by the International Standards Organization (ISO), meaning that it cannot be changed arbitrarily and that no single company nor any country controls the standard.

The best-known version is PDF/X-1a. If you create PDF/X-1a files, you can rest assured that just about any printer on earth will be able to process your print file.

### What Flavor?

If your document contains color, be aware that PDF/X-1a supports CMYK process colors and spot colors but not RGB color spaces.

If your document includes RGB color graphics, you will need to use PDF/X-3 instead. Many printers will not accept a PDF that includes RGB color, but Copresco does.

### X-File Choices

**Q.** Haven't PDF/X-1a and X-3 been replaced by newer versions?

**A.** X-1a and X-3 both date back to 2001. This is part of what makes them universal: they use PDF specifications that do not include all of the extraneous data that can cause printing trouble in newer PDF versions.

The latest versions of many programs include support for PDF/X-4 and PDF/X-5.

Ironically, the newer "X" standards are not yet universally supported. Many, in fact the vast majority of, print devices in use today do not support all the features allowed by X-4 and X-5.

In summary, PDF/X-1a is the ideal format. Either X-1a or X-3 will be great for your Copresco jobs.

### Available Software

**Q.** How do I create PDF/X files?

**A.** Recent versions of QuarkXPress and Adobe InDesign include presets for exporting files in PDF/X compliant formats. So do the last three versions of Acrobat, with which you can generate PDF/X files from almost any application.

Another option you may want to explore is Instant PDF from EnFocus, a software company whose people were heavily involved in the creation of the PDF/X standard.

### Nifty Stuff

This nifty program includes a "Save as Certified PDF" feature that will not only help you create PDF/X files but will help you to troubleshoot and correct the problems you encounter with the process.

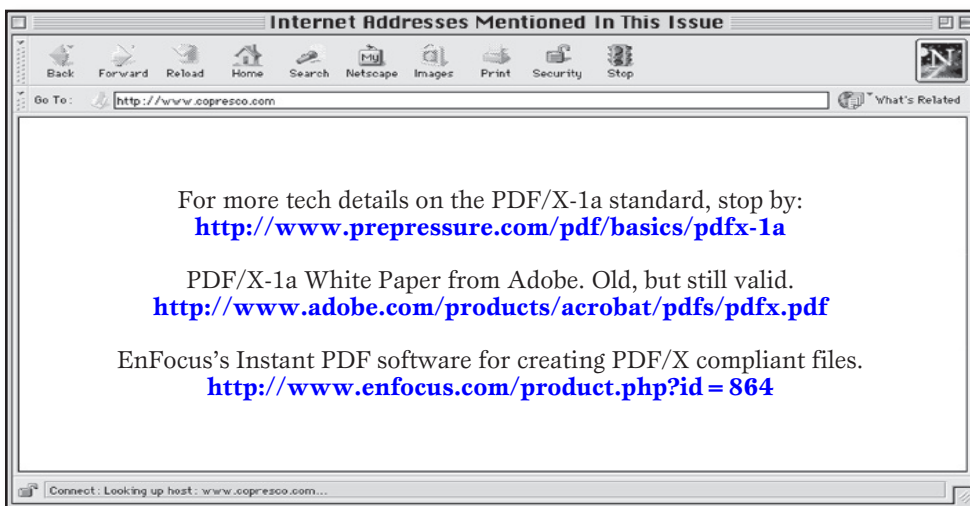
This serious professional software runs about \$250.

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Digital On-Demand Printing

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Address Correction Requested

A high school student reported recently that he lost more than 200 pounds just



by getting his hair cut. He got his dad off his back.



Ernest asked his friend Frank how long he had been working for the company. "Ever since they threatened to fire me," Frank replied.



Sign on a dairy farm: Everything we own, we owe to udders.



The universe is full of magical things patiently waiting for our wits to grow sharper. —Eden Phillpotts.



My brother-in-law decided to change his ways. He had a dream where he turned around to see his footprints in the sand, and all he saw were the marks of a heel.

You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you're going, because you might get there. —Yogi Berra



Man is the highest form of animal. But then, he also does the classifying.



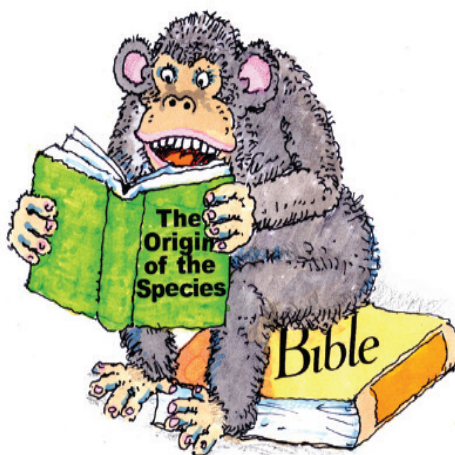
I was hanging out at the library, and I saw something scary: a large-print edition of a magazine for hunters.



My parents only had one argument in 45 years. It lasted 43 years.



Last week, an ape escaped from a local zoo. After hours of frantic searching, they found him in the library, reading the Bible. Next to him they found a copy of Charles Darwin's *The Origin of the Species*. When a policeman asked the



ape what he was doing, he responded, "I'm trying to decide once and for all if I am my brother's keeper or my keeper's brother."

"What are you doing?" the teacher demanded of three students who were whispering with their heads together in the back of the room. "We were telling naughty stories," one confessed. "Oops, I'm sorry," the teacher replied, "I thought you were praying."



Salesman to trainee: "Always be sincere, whether you mean it or not."



A powerful businessman died, and two of his colleagues decided to go to the funeral. When they arrived, they found the church so packed with people that they couldn't get a seat. "Look at this!" said one of the men. "How do you explain all these people?" Replied the other, "Well, as he always said, give the people what they want, and they'll show up."



Copresco

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