

How to attach a locked PDF report to another PDF

We understand that some of our clients use ALS Scandinavia's PDF report as an attachment to the client's own reports and then run into problems as a result of ALS' digitally signed report when trying to create a single PDF.

ALS locks their PDF reports because we believe that analytical results are important information with potentially high value. Creating unprotected files would be comparable to that of writing and signing analysis reports with a pencil, which obviously is unacceptable. The credibility of a report is based on that its integrity can be protected and that its origin is undisputable.

However ALS understands the basic desire to create a cohesive final document and in this document we describe a number of possible options to achieve that goal. There are certainly other options available to achieve similar results, so the client must decide if any of these five proposals are of interest.

Scanning

Scanners, either dedicated or as an office copier, often have the capability to create PDF or TIF files in unprotected format, which can then be included in the master document. However, this means that one must first print the analysis report on paper and then be able to scan it again. An inconvenience that might be acceptable if there are only a few pages.

Virtual printer

There is software that can create a PDF file by printing the report on a specific printer driver. Examples are Adobe Acrobat Writer, available in several versions with different capabilities. We use a similar software called pdfFactory Pro. Together with its sister program, FinePrint, you can even add the appendix number or similar.

Adobe Acrobat

Anyone who has access to Adobe Acrobat can use the following method:

1. File-> Create-> Combine Files Into Single PDF

This will create a so-called PDF binder and it also works with signed PDFs.

An alternative trick to remove the signature is as follows:

1. Open the signed file in Acrobat
2. Select File-> Save As-> PostScript (.ps)
3. Open the created PostScript file and save as PDF
4. You now have a file to be able to put together with other PDF

Create screen shots

MWSnap is a small yet powerful Windows program for capturing images from selected parts of the screen. The program is able to capture the entire desktop, a highlighted window, an active menu, a control, or a fixed or dynamic rectangular part of the screen.

You can use the program to create images from PDF report that can then be included in the master document. The program is free and can currently be downloaded from <http://www.mirekw.com/winfreeware/mwsnap.html>. Other alternatives exist.

Report copy in Word format

Since mid-October 2011, it is possible to simultaneously obtain both a digitally signed report in PDF format and a corresponding report in Word format. The Word file will be locked and unsigned, but it is quite possible to include in a PDF document together with documents from other sources.

This function is not a default setting in the ALS system, but must be activated on a per customer basis. Note that it is only after activation that also reports in Word format are created alongside the original digitally signed report. It can not be created for historical data. If this option is for you, please contact the client service at ALS and they will help to enable this function.