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I think the main problem is that Adobe refuses to optimize their print process for large format engineering size drawings since the vast majority of PDF files are 8.5x11 Letter size documents. Here's a few solutions to this problem. 1.) In AcroPlot you can uncheck the Lines Merge option on the AutoCAD Options tab. This usually is not acceptable since most users want or need to create PDF files so they do not have to worry about the draw order of objects in AutoCAD. 2.) In Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Reader you can select your printer and then hit the Advanced button in the lower left of the Adobe Printer Dialog. Then check the Print As Image option and if it also has an option for the dpi try 300 or 400 dpi. This way Adobe will convert the PDF to an image prior to sending it to the printer and it's the solution Adobe recommends for any printing problems from Acrobat or Reader. 3.) Try using our AcroPlot Matrix to send your PDF files to your plotter. 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This is also known as embedding fonts. When the PDF is opened on any computer, all the fonts will be there the way you intended. So, before you rush to submit your file, it’s crucial to flatten PDF documents to preserve the layout and quality. In other file formats, the fonts are not embedded, meaning that if another computer does not have the fonts you used, it will not be able to find the fonts and will replace them with one they have. Other formats, such as DOC or DOCX, will apply styles and formatting based on the source and version of Word used to view the file. With a PDF, what you see is what you will get in your final printed product. Once you have saved your final design file as a PDF, you want to make sure you apply PDF flattening before you submit it to your printer. You can easily flatten your PDF for print using Adobe Acrobat Pro by following these steps from 2 different options. Creating a backup of your PDF file will ensure you can make edits if needed. Once you flatten your PDF, you cannot make any further edits. The raster/vector setting determines how hard the flattener works to keep objects in their vector form in the flattened output. This setting can affect flattening performance, especially for complex documents. When it comes to complex documents, flattening in vector form requires more robust data, time, and memory than rasterization. You can adjust the raster/vector settings from 0-100. When choosing setting 0, the flattener rasterizes all of the objects on any page that includes at least one transparent object. All of the objects on the page will be rasterized whether or not they contain or interact with transparency themselves. This is an essential detail to remember when you flatten PDF files because it influences the precision and clarity of the printed graphics. Settings 1-99 will affect the degree to which the flattener rasterizes, or doesn’t, areas of transparency determined by the number of paths, objects, the amount of object overlap, and the type of objects. At setting 100, the flattener tries to keep all of the objects in their original vector form. At this setting, the flattener will almost always produce the best-looking output. Due to the complexity of keeping designs in vector form, this is the slowest setting. Use the flattener preview to best determine what the flattener will do to your design. This setting controls how text is processed and will cause the flattener to convert all text to outlines. With this setting enabled, all text will print with the same weight. *This step will only be applicable if you chose values 1-99 for step 3. This setting controls the flattener’s analysis of complexity regions. When selected, this option creates clipping paths around these portions of a transparent design. Once you have completed the steps above, your file will be one single element and ready to send to the printer. Keep in mind that you cannot edit a PDF file after it has been flattened. It is important to create a backup file in case more edits are needed. This second option is a quick save option for when you’re in a rush. If high quality is not necessary, then feel free to use option 2 but know that it will save at a lower quality. Flatten your file in 3 easy steps that will take less than a minute to complete. Once you open the file that needs flattening, press CLT + P to open the printer pop-up. In the Page Sizing & Handling portion of the pop-up, choose Custom Scale and enable Auto in the orientation. If you need to further compress your file, click ‘Advanced” at the bottom of the pop-up. A new window appears where you can lower the resolution in the “Transparency Flattener Preset” drop-down. To save the new flattened PDF, make sure that the “Printer” is set as ‘Adobe PDF’ in the drop-down. Click “Print,” then a window will appear for you to “Save PDF File As”. Rename the file and press okay to complete. Flattening any layers in your file is an essential step toward achieving a print-ready file, as Printivity, and any printer, will need to flatten your file before we can finish printing. Flattening your file before submitting it will help ensure a smooth printing process. Please note that if you use a special font that our system can not recognize, the document will replace your font with another font in our system. We recommend that you save your final file as a flattened PDF to avoid this issue. We also accept file formats of DOC, JPEG, JPG, PNG, TIFF, AL, PSD, PUB, and PPT.Download product specific templates directly from Printivity.com before you start designing. Once you’re ready to order, or have questions during the ordering process, contact our expert customer service department at 1-877-649-5463. If you’re looking to flatten PDF files, here are some common questions regarding the process. A flattened PDF is one where the layers have been merged into one. This is typically done to preserve the document’s appearance when it’s viewed on different devices or printed. Flattening a PDF does not inherently reduce the quality of the content. However, it’s crucial to note that the process consolidates all layers, eliminating the transparency effects. This means that the visual elements become one base layer, maintaining the resolution of the images, fonts, and other design components. Ensure that your document’s original quality is high to keep fidelity post-flattening. Once a PDF is flattened, it becomes a single-layer, non-editable document. For those using a reader software, the flattened state means you cannot select individual elements or change them. This is why saving an unflattened copy of your document is vital. Should you need to make changes or edits in the future, you’d use the unflattened version and then re-flatten it for your final submission. No, compressing and flattening a PDF serve two different purposes. Compression reduces the file size by eliminating data, potentially affecting the quality depending on the compression level. Flattening, conversely, will merge all visual elements into a single layer but does not necessarily reduce the file size. It’s more about ensuring the document’s appearance consistency, especially when transferred between systems or sent for printing. When flattening a PDF, the user should select the appropriate settings to maintain the highest quality. Shop Saddle Stitch Booklets at Printivity Shop Folders at Printivity Shop Postcards at Printivity Before I print a PDF file, a dialog box pops up that says "Flattening...", and it goes through each page repeating that step. I recently printed a large file (600+ pages) with a similar high-quality image on every page, and it took the dialog box forever (around 45 minutes) to go through each page. The printer was printing each page as it came through the network after flattening, so every few seconds another page would come out. If I create a word document and put tons of text on each page without images, Adobe will still show a flattening dialog box, but just for a few seconds. My questions are: Would the result (result meaning: the data being sent to the printer) of a printer-flattened document with text and a document with an image (let's say a high-quality image of the text) be similar in size? I would assume yes, because the printer prints an image of the text, with the same 300 dpi or so. If my assumption is correct, how do I go about flattening my large file down to what the printer would have done? I have tried using the flattener preview on the print production tool in Adobe Acrobat Pro, without any luck (it crashed my computer (32gb RAM/i7 10gen CPU) when trying to flatten 600 pages), and would crash Acrobat when even trying 1 page. Not sure why. I think that's the correct way, but I'm not sure. Why do I see a Flattening File dialog when I print PDF files from Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Reader? If you are printing a PDF file from Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Reader and you see a dialog that says it's Flattening the PDF and it takes forever to do it, then you are likely printing a PDF file with transparency (lines merge). It has nothing to do with our PDF files and the problem is caused by any PDF file that uses transparency. 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For more information please watch our short 3 minute video below. The problem is caused by transparent objects. The file must be flattened to print properly. Reader has no option for flattening and no ability to save the file to an image format that will ignore transparent areas, but it can print the file as an image. Why does my printer take so long to print PDF files? Similar to the graphics issue, a PDF file’s quality can lead to a slowdown in printing. A higher quality will always mean a larger file size, increasing the chances that the printer’s memory buffer, where the printer stores incoming files for printing, could become full, slowing down the printing speed. How do I flatten a PDF for printing? How to Flatten A Document Open the PDF file on your computer with Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Reader. Click on “File” > “Print” (you will not be printing any documents; this is just the location to save it as a flattened PDF). 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Find the document you just saved and use the left mouse button to open the file by double clicking it. Step 2: Go to the top of the page. Step 3: Select the printer. Step 4: click the ADVANCED box. Step 5: Print as Image. Does flattening a PDF reduce file size? Discard Hidden Layer Content And Flatten Visible Layers Decreases file size. The optimized document looks like the original PDF but doesn’t contain any layer information. What causes a PDF file to flatten during printing? Some things that can cause flattening (and/or slow processing times) in pdfs: If you use “Lines Merge” (which most of our company does) you’ll always have flattening occur during printing. I am, however, curious as to what John’s comment about “using the newer pdf pc3 file in Autocad” is referring to. Why is Adobe PDF so slow to print? Whenever he tries to print a pdf, the computer hangs while spooling. The Force Quit menu says Adobe stops responding, but it will eventually print after a very long time. When it does start to print, it only prints about one page per minute. This is happening on two networked HP printers, a LaserJet 4250 and 4350. How to make a PDF file print faster? 1. Open the pdf file in Adobe Acrobat Reader. 2. In Adobe Acrobat Reader window, click on “ File ” on the menu-bar and then click on “ Print “. 3. In the Print settings window, click on “ Advanced “. 4. When the Advanced Print Setup window opens up, check the option “ Let printer determine colors “. Why does Adobe Reader take so long to print? If you are printing a PDF file from Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Reader and you see a dialog that says it’s Flattening the PDF and it takes forever to do it then you are likely printing a PDF file with transparency (lines merge). Before I print a PDF file, a dialog box pops up that says "Flattening...", and it goes through each page repeating that step. I recently printed a large file (600+ pages) with a similar high-quality image on every page, and it took the dialog box forever (around 45 minutes) to go through each page. The printer was printing each page as it came through the network after flattening, so every few seconds another page would come out. If I create a word document and put tons of text on each page without images, Adobe will still show a flattening dialog box, but just for a few seconds. My questions are: Would the result (result meaning: the data being sent to the printer) of a printer-flattened document with text and a document with an image (let's say a high-quality image of the text) be similar in size? I would assume yes, because the printer prints an image of the text, with the same 300 dpi or so. If my assumption is correct, how do I go about flattening my large file down to what the printer would have done? I have tried using the flattener preview on the print production tool in Adobe Acrobat Pro, without any luck (it crashed my computer (32gb RAM/i7 10gen CPU) when trying to flatten 600 pages), and would crash Acrobat when even trying 1 page. Not sure why. I think that's the correct way, but I'm not sure. Mike_Settle • New Here , May 05, 2016 May 05, 2016 The problem is caused by transparent objects. The file must be flattened to print properly. Reader has no option for flattening and no ability to save the file to an image format that will ignore transparent areas, but it can print the file as an image. In the print dialog box click the advanced button and then select "print as image". File will process without any additional lag time and will print as it appears on your screen. Jump to answer Yiu are trying to do a third kind of "flattening". Be kind and respectful, give credit to the original source of content, and search for duplicates before posting. Learn more