

Re: [OT] IRS tax forms can finally be saved

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- *From:* Hugo Vanwoerkom <hvw59601@xxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 04 Jan 2006 13:51:25 -0600
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Roberto C. Sanchez wrote:

Chris Howie wrote:

Hugo Vanwoerkom wrote:

With the free Adobe Reader 7.0.1 and IRS' pdf forms with documentation rights one can finally fill out the forms on Linux and save them.

Goodbye pstoedit, you were good when needed.

Adobe Reader is not free software, pstoedit is. Chances are a lot of debian users won't be switching to superfluous non-free software like Adobe Reader when a free alternative exists.

My two cents.

Except that pstoedit cannot seriously be considered an alternative to acroread. Personally, I am all bout the "Free Software, Rah! Rah! Rah!" However, I also accept that some non-free components will always exist and some may even be required. When filling out PDF forms, there is no free alternative that is **comparable** to acroread. When you have to do enough of them, it's easier to just whip the form open in acroread and fill it in. Additionally, if the full version of Adobe were available for Linux, there is a chance I'd buy it, since I do fill in enough forms that are not enabled to save

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in the free reader, that it would be worth the convenience for me.

That's the way it is.

Last year I wrote an application to actually update the .ps conversions of the IRS pdf's. Interesting exercise but it cannot compare with just filling out the forms and saving them.

I don't actually know how you get the "document rights" in a pdf. The IRS forms have them. But trying a graduate school application for my son, that did not have them, and Adobe Reader 7.0.1 warns that you cannot save the document, only print it.

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