

# Step-by-Step Guide to IFbA for Application Developers



## Applies to:

This document is about IFbA (SAP Interactive Forms by Adobe) also known as Adobe Forms.

## Summary

There is a wealth of information about SAP Interactive Forms by Adobe (IFbA) to help developers who are creating forms for the first time.

It includes documentation, books, tool help, videos, blogs and so on.

However, these resources were created by different individuals often in different teams sometimes in different companies and so they are located in a variety of places.

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## Author Bio

I have been at SAP for eighteen years of which the last ten have been in NetWeaver. I am currently involved in its UI technology focusing on SAP Interactive Forms by Adobe and SAP NetWeaver Business Client.

## Table of Contents

Step-By-Step Guide .....	3
Get an overview of IFbA.....	3
Things to Bear in Mind when Setting up your Landscape .....	3
Best Practises: Dos and Don'ts .....	3
Make Sure You Understand the Prerequisites for IFbA.....	3
Installing Adobe LiveCycle Designer from the Service Marketplace .....	4
Learning how to design a form.....	4
Creating online and offline forms .....	4
SAP Training Courses.....	4
Resources.....	5
Blogs .....	5
Books .....	5
Notes.....	5
SAP Documentation.....	5
Tool Help.....	5
SDN.....	6
Troubleshooting .....	6
Copyright.....	7

## Step-By-Step Guide

### Get an overview of IFbA

To get a feel for IFbA take a look at the entries on SDN:

<http://www.sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/adobe> -> Getting Started

The first few chapters of this book also get you up to speed on IFbA:

SAP Interactive Forms by Adobe (second edition)

Hardcover: 790 pages

Publisher: SAP Press; 2nd New edition edition (September 30, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1592293980

ISBN-13: 978-1592293988

### Things to Bear in Mind when Setting up your Landscape

Here is some background information on landscape topics:

<http://www.sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/go/portal/prtroot/docs/library/uuid/c0ce3d21-cb09-2e10-36b0-e4c8167389f6>

There is a lot more information on installation and configuration topics here in SDN:

<http://www.sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/adobe?rid=/webcontent/uuid/90355269-4d89-2a10-0bb9-f388704f1dcd>

### Best Practises: Dos and Don'ts

Before you start creating your first form, please read the following information about Best Practices. This will save you time and money.

[http://help.sap.com/saphelp\\_nw73/helpdata/en/35/84138ddf464826b6e719b384c8e938/frameset.htm](http://help.sap.com/saphelp_nw73/helpdata/en/35/84138ddf464826b6e719b384c8e938/frameset.htm)

<http://www.sdn.sap.com/irj/scn/weblogs?blog=/pub/wlg/11789>

### Make Sure You Understand the Prerequisites for IFbA

#### Server:

- SAP NetWeaver Application Server Java 6.40 or 7.0 (for all scenarios)
- SAP NetWeaver AS ABAP 6.40 or 7.0 (if you are looking at back-end print scenarios)
- Adobe Document Services (runtime component, deployed on AS Java)
- Adobe Credentials (for creating interactive PDF forms, delivered through SAP) on ADS/Java stack

#### Front End:

- SAP NetWeaver Developer Studio with Adobe LiveCycle Designer 7.1 (for Web Dynpro for Java development)
- And/or SAP GUI 6.40 with Adobe LiveCycle Designer
- Active Control Framework (ACF, for filling interactive forms in a Web Dynpro application) – not required for print-only scenarios Note: As of SAP NetWeaver 7.0 SPS 9, Web Dynpro for Java supports ZCI of Adobe Reader. ZCI makes the use of ACF unnecessary. See SAP Notes 955795, 982023 and 984868.
- Adobe Reader 7.0.8, 7.0.9, or higher (on the front-end PC)

## Installing Adobe LiveCycle Designer from the Service Marketplace

You can download Adobe LiveCycle Designer from the Service Marketplace:

Service.sap.com -> (left near top) SAP Support Portal -> (tab at top) Software Downloads-> (left) Software Download Center -> Installations and upgrades -> Browse our Download Catalog -> (scroll down) SAP NetWeaver and complementary products -> SAP NetWeaver -> (for example) SAP EHP1 FOR SAP NETWEAVER 7.0 -> Installation and Upgrade -> Microsoft Windows -> MaxDB (SAPDB) -> (scroll down and click on the relevant link in the column Download Object) -> Open -> Double-click SapAldSetup.exe (ALD w/o SAP GUI; the other file installs both ALD and SAP GUI)

## Learning how to design a form

To find out how to design forms read the documentation in the Designer itself. In the Designer choose the menu options:

**Help -> Adobe LiveCycle Designer Help**

## Creating online and offline forms

You can find useful information on creating applications for forms in the SAP documentation:

[http://help.sap.com/saphelp\\_nw73ehp1/helpdata/en/35/84138ddf464826b6e719b384c8e938/frameset.htm](http://help.sap.com/saphelp_nw73ehp1/helpdata/en/35/84138ddf464826b6e719b384c8e938/frameset.htm) -> Enabling Form-Based Processing of Business Data -> Providing Output Forms and Interactive Offline Forms OR Providing Interactive Online Forms in Web Dynpro Applications

You can find step-by-step examples in the book **SAP Interactive Forms by Adobe** referred to above, starting in the section 4.3.

You can also find numerous examples in SDN <http://www.sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/adobe> along with a wealth of background information on IFbA.

## SAP Training Courses

Probably the most useful way of preparing yourself to create Adobe forms is to attend one or more of the SAP training courses available:

- BC480: Creating PDF-Based Print Forms
- BC481: SAP Interactive Forms by Adobe in the ABAP environment
- HR280: HCM Processes & Forms technology

For more information, see <http://www.sap.com/education/>.

## Resources

### Blogs

John Brinkman's blog: <http://blogs.adobe.com/formfeed>

### Books

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### Notes

[682619 – ADS Configuration Guide](#)

[685571 – This note contains basic info about printing PDF-based forms](#)

[736902 – Reader rights – how to request reader rights from SAP](#)

[750784 – Licenses for Adobe Forms](#)

[766410 – XDC files and XDC editor](#)

[834573 – The Adobe Reader note \(says which version they should use\)](#)

[846610 – How to active the ADS trace](#)

[886572 – ADS: Central patch note for NW 7.0](#)

[894009 – Info on configuring the ADS and the configuration guide](#)

[894389 – Release restrictions for ADS on NW 7.0](#)

[1016404 – FAQs concerning ADS](#)

[1128476 – How to activate ADS trace in NW 7.10 and higher](#)

[1386149 – Windows 7 support \(Designer/Reader\)](#)

[1522483 – Installing LCD 9.0](#)

[1557090 – Patch for LCD 9.0](#)

[1597528 – Web Dynpro Native Objects are Missing in Adobe](#)

### SAP Documentation

[http://help.sap.com/saphelp\\_nw73ehp1/helpdata/en/35/84138ddf464826b6e719b384c8e938/frameset.htm](http://help.sap.com/saphelp_nw73ehp1/helpdata/en/35/84138ddf464826b6e719b384c8e938/frameset.htm)

### Tool Help

Call up standalone Adobe LiveCycle Designer. It is generally under Program Files (x86), for example:  
C:\Program Files (x86)\Adobe\Designer 8.0 -> Double-click on FormDesigner.exe

In the Designer choose the menu options:

Help -> Adobe LiveCycle Designer Help

## SDN

General information about Adobe Forms:

<http://www.sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/adobe>

ADS Landscape document in SDN: <http://www.sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/adobe?rid=/library/uuid/c0ce3d21-cb09-2e10-36b0-e4c8167389f6>

Best Practices document in SDN: <http://www.sdn.sap.com/irj/scn/weblogs?blog=/pub/wlg/11789>

## Troubleshooting

### JavaScript

If functions associated with JavaScript are not executed make sure that JavaScript is activated as follows:

Call up the desktop version of Adobe Reader. Open a PDF file in it.

Choose **Edit -> Preferences -> JavaScript** and activate the checkbox **Enable Acrobat JavaScript**.

### Display Mode / Edit Mode

When you make changes in LiveCycle Designer make sure you are in Edit Mode. If you are in Display Mode you can still make changes but you cannot save them so you will lose all your changes.

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