

Tips for Transferring PDF Files to a Kindle

Transferring PDF files to your Kindle is simple using a USB connection or via email thru Amazon's document conversion service. The ability of your Kindle to display PDF files varies, depending on which type of Kindle you have and files may require conversion using third-party software. Open Office Writer is a free program that is like MS Word and allows you to export a document in PDF format. The Open Office suite (similar to Microsoft Office Suite) is free to download from the internet at openoffice.org

Drive-to-Drive Transfer

Transfer PDF files from your computer to the Kindle using the computer's basic file management utility. Connect your Kindle to the computer using the USB cord provided with the Kindle. This activates a pop-up window prompting you to open a folder to view the files. Selecting this option opens a window displaying the contents of the Kindle in the pane on the right, with the navigation pane on the left. Use this to open the folder on the computer containing the PDF files you want to move to the Kindle, then copy and paste them into the "Documents" folder on the Kindle. Allow the file transfer to finish before selecting the "Safely Remove Hardware" option from the computer's toolbar.

Email Transfer

Amazon provides a document conversion service by which you can send Amazon PDF files that are converted to Kindle files. First you must enter the email addresses into your Amazon Kindle account from which you will be sending the PDF files. Enter these in the "Your Kindle Approved Email List" on the "Manage Your Kindle" page on amazon.com. Only these emails can send the PDF files to your Kindle email. Then, send an email from that email account to either your Kindle's @free.kindle.com or @kindle.com email address. With the word "Convert" in the subject line. The @free.kindle.com address converts the PDF file and sends the converted file to your Kindle free of charge. The other option uses the 3G network, as of 2011, which involves a nominal fee of 15 cents or 99 cents per megabyte (MB) depending on your location in the world.

Third-Party Software

As mentioned earlier, you can use Open Office to convert a document into PDF format and transfer to your Kindle. You can also use a program called Mobipocket Creator provided by Mobipocket and is a free download. For the version that contains the PDF conversion option, download the "Creator Publisher Edition (for advanced users)" rather than the "Creator Home Edition." If you are a Mac user, Lexcycle provides Stanza for Mac or Windows operating systems.

Compatibility

Kindle 2 and later versions can display PDF files in their original format. Changing to landscape display via the "Aa" text-size button may improve readability. The Kindle 1 does not have PDF display capabilities, so PDF files require conversion before use. PDF files with certain types of digital rights management (DRM) restrictions may not allow viewing on the Kindle or conversion to the Kindle e-book format. Mobipocket files purchased from a store cannot be opened on the Kindle, as it is only able to recognize unprotected Mobipocket files.