

An OPCUG Product Review

OPCUG



Users helping users
for over 40 years

PDF File Editor – Plus!

by Alan German

Recently, I had to add information to a PDF form for which no data fields could be modified with my usual PDF viewer (PDF-XChange Viewer). As an alternative, I decided to investigate the possibility of using a PDF editor. Fortuitously, that same day, I came across a positive review of Sejda PDF Editor on PC World's web site. This software package is both free and open-source, albeit with some significant restrictions on its use. My first thought was that the major limitation for the free version, in that it only allows three tasks per day to be performed, might be a problem. Nevertheless, since my requirements were both specific and very limited, I decided to give the package a try.

There are actually two free versions of the software; a web-based editor and a downloadable desktop version. I chose to download and install the desktop version in order to be able to run the program locally on files stored on my computer's hard drive.

Using the program at a very basic level is intuitive – open a file, scroll, down to a data field, click the mouse, and type over the *Type your text* legend that pops up. There are a number of options to modify the appearance of the text, e.g. font and size, to try to mimic any existing text entries. This capability may be limited by the fonts that are available, but sizing shouldn't be an issue since this can be incremented in tenths of a point. Note also that one of the options is a trash can that may be used to delete any given item.

Sejda PDF Desktop - Tangerine.pdf
File Edit Window

IA Text Links Forms Images Sign Whiteout Annotate Shapes More

Business Identification Form

10.Directors

Does your business have directors?
 No – Please proceed to the next section.
 Yes – Please continue to complete information below.

Provide the full details for all Directors – Home address can't be a P.O. box address

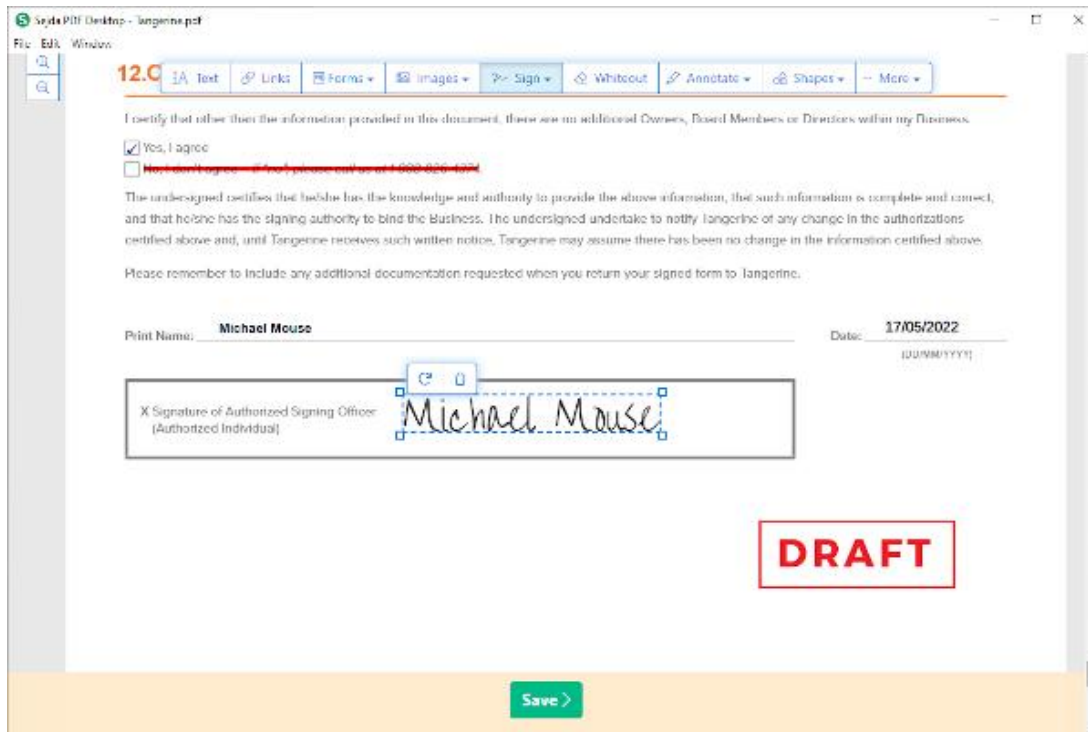
First Name: **Alan** Last Name: **German**
Home Address: **24 Sussex Dr** Suite/Unit:
City: **Ottawa** Country: **CANADA** Province/State: **ON**
Postal Code/ZIP: **K1M 1M4** Date of Birth: (DD/MM/YYYY)
Industry: **Ottawa PC Users' Group, Inc.** Occupation: **Treasurer**

First Name: **Bill** Last Name: **Gates**
Home Address: **PO Box 23350** Suite/Unit:
City: **Seattle** Country: **USA** WA
Postal Code/ZIP: **K2B 8M5** Date of Birth: (DD/MM/YYYY)
Industry: **Computing Technology** Occupation: **Type your text**

Save >

The menu bar also provides options to further modify the document with the ability to add images, hyperlinks, form elements, signatures, and shapes (ellipse or rectangle). The whiteout tab allows a rectangular box to be ascribed to an area of the page which then hides (rather than removes) the underlying content. The annotate tab provides tools to strikeout, highlight and underline text using one of several available colours, and to draw freehand directly on the page.

In the following screenshot, note that a DRAFT “stamp” has been added; a line of text has been struck out in red; and a signature, using a pre-defined image file, is being resized and located in the appropriate box.



While I didn't encounter any limitation in multiple edits on my document, I suspect that editing is counted as one task, and is one of the three tasks that are available on any given day when using the free version of the software. The other limitations of the free version are: document size must be less than 50 MB and 200 pages; files up to 100 MB may be compressed; OCR is limited to 10 pages and image size to 5 MB; up to 30 files and 50 pages may be combined; and files must be converted one by one.

In addition to the editor, the program has many more features, which are likely counted as separate tasks, including merge, split, compress, convert (e.g. PDF to Word), security settings (e.g. protect, watermark), delete pages, extract images, and Bates Numbering (who knew such a thing existed?)

For anyone needing to edit or annotate a PDF document, subject to the above-noted limitations, Sejda PDF Editor may well provide the necessary tools. In any case, the program is free, easy to use, and includes many powerful features. So, go ahead, give it a try!

Bottom Line:

Sejda PDF Desktop (Freeware)
Version 7.4.1
Sejda BV
<https://www.sejda.com>



Copyright © Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG) <https://opcug.ca/copyright-and-usage/>