

# Create PDF Signature field in Scribus

## Target

Add a new PDF annotation field type to Scribus: PDF signature field

## Expected operation

1. Open attached PDF\_form.sla
2. Create a new "PDF signature field".
3. Export it to PDF.
4. Sign it.
5. Check the signature.

## References

- [PDF documentation](#): See section "12.7.4.5 Signature Fields" p. 446
- [eforms LaTeX documentation](#): See section "2.4. Signature Fields" p. 16

## FOSS implementations for creating empty signature field

- [eform](#) LaTeX package
- [digsig](#) LaTeX package
- [Apache PDFBox](#) (library) [Example: CreateEmptySignatureForm.java](#)

See attached examples for eform and digsig. (I'm not familiar with Java, I can't produce a PDFBox example.)

## Signing PDF

There is no real FOSS way to sign PDF document with existing signature field. [Poppler doesn't support](#) signing PDF with digital signature.

We have some FOSS Java software which we can sign pure PDFs (without existing signature field) - [PortableSigner](#) Place an invisible signature + a drawing object. - [JSignPDF](#) Place a new and real PDF signature field.

See attached examples.

On Linux there is 2 non-FOSS way to sign PDF with existing signature field: - Adobe Reader ([install] (<https://linuxconfig.org/how-to-install-adobe-acrobat-reader-on-ubuntu-18-04-bionic-beaver-linux>)) But it is deprecated, and with this old version I can't sign digsig and eform examples. - [Master PDF Editor](#)

See attached examples.

## Check PDF signatures

That is implemented in poppler with [pdfsig](#) (in poppler-utils package). Usage: \$ `pdfsig file.pdf`

Remark: pdfsig says than digsig and eform examples signed with Master PDF are unsigned. Master PDF Editor itself says that they are signed.

## Attachments

<b>Attachment</b>	<b>Description</b>
PDF_form.sla	Sample PDF form to testing new feature.
PDF_form_(Scribus).pdf	Current state without signature field.
PDF_form_(Scribus)_signed_with_JSignPdf.pdf	Signed with JSignPdf
PDF_form_(Scribus)_signed_with_PortableSigner.pdf	Signed with PortableSigner
Empty_signature_field_example_(digsig).pdf	LaTeX digsig example
Empty_signature_field_example_(digsig)_signed_with_Adobe_Reader_DC_Win.pdf	Signed with Adobe Reader DC on Windows
Empty_signature_field_example_(digsig)_signed_with_Master_PDF_Editor.pdf	Signed with Master PDF Editor on Linux
Empty_signature_field_example_(eform).pdf	LaTeX eform example
Empty_signature_field_example_(eform)_signed_with_Adobe_Reader_DC_Win.pdf	Signed with Adobe Reader DC on Windows
Empty_signature_field_example_(eform)_signed_with_Master_PDF_Editor.pdf	Signed with Master PDF Editor on Linux
Empty_signature_field_example_(Adobe_Acrobat).pdf	This old but working example is originally created with OpenOffice and signature field is added with Adobe Acrobat.
Empty_signature_field_example_(Adobe_Acrobat)_signed_with_Adobe_Reader.pdf	Signed with Adobe Acrobat on Linux.
Empty_signature_field_example_(Adobe_Acrobat)_signed_with_Adobe_Reader_DC_Win.pdf	Signed with Adobe Reader DC on Windows
Empty_signature_field_example_(Adobe_Acrobat)_signed_with_Master_PDF_Editor.pdf	Signed with Master PDF Editor on Linux