



## Questioned Documents Section – 2008

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### **J25 Examining PDF Files and Associated Documents**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will: have an increased understanding of documents involving Adobe® Systems Incorporated's Portable Document File (.pdf) format digital file features, be aware of additional resources applicable to .pdf files, and understand a new method to determine the authenticity of documents recorded in .pdf files.

This presentation will impact the Forensic Document Examination community by providing a method to assist forensic document examiners in determining the genuineness of documents recorded in .pdf files.

An investigative inquiry involving a fraudulent document and the .pdf digital file source of the document, posed the question of whether the .pdf file contained information to confirm the document's manner of production. Subsequent research involved manipulation of test documents recorded in .pdf format digital files. The manipulation procedure involved application of a technique previously used to recover redacted texts on .pdf format digital files. Testing confirmed that this .pdf file manipulation technique was successful in exposing the cut-and-paste production of some documents recorded in .pdf format. Factors effecting the success and failure of the technique are also discussed.

This presentation documents research that confirms .pdf format digital files can provide information regarding how some documents were produced.

**Redacted Text Recovery, Digital Cut-and-Paste Documents, Fraudulent Digital Documents**