"This is a placeholder for a quote."
—*Name Lastname, tk*

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Ted Padova

Multimedia and PDFs

Acrobat offers you a wide range of possibilities with animation, motion, and sound. You can import sound files in PDFs, import movie files, convert Web pages with Flash animation, convert PowerPoint files with motion objects, and create animation by writing JavaScript routines. With the exception of writing JavaScripts, animation and sound are created in other applications and imported in PDF documents.

In this chapter you learn how to create animation and sound, import multimedia files into PDF documents, and create some motion effects by writing JavaScripts.

Setting Up the Multimedia Environment

You import sound and video files with the Movie and/or Sound tools available from the Advanced Editing toolbar. To open the toolbar, click on the Advanced Editing task button. When the toolbar opens, right-click to open a context menu from the Toolbar Well and select Dock All Toolbars.

The Movie tool is shown in the Advanced Editing toolbar by default. When working with sounds and movie clips, you'll want to use the Sound tool as well as the Movie tool. From the pull-down menu adjacent to the Movie tool, select Expand This Button. The Sound tool and the Movie tool both become visible.

If you write JavaScripts for creating animation effects, you'll most likely need to create form fields. Rather than open the Forms toolbar and the Properties Bar and dock them in the Toolbar Well, I'll open forms tools as needed from the pull-down menu in the Advanced Editing toolbar (see the section "Creating Animation Effects" later in this chapter). For now, limit the toolbars to the addition of the Advanced Editing toolbar to minimize the space occupied by the Toolbar Well.

Working with Sound Files

You import sounds in Acrobat in one of two ways. You can use the Attach Sound tool and record or import a message in the form of a comment. Once recorded, the sound is embedded in Acrobat and not accessible for importing via an Action. The other method of handling sound in PDF documents is to import sounds from files saved on your hard drive. By importing sounds you can invoke a sound with various action types; for example, using a Page Action to play a sound when the user opens or closes a page or clicks a button or link field.

Cross-Reference

For information on using the Sound Attach tool, see Chapter 14. For more information on Action types, see Chapter 3.

You import sound files with the Sound tool found on the Advanced Editing toolbar. Be certain to understand the difference between creating an audio comment and importing a sound with the Sound tool. Using the Attach Sound tool enables you to record a sound or import a sound file from your hard drive. Using the Sound tool enables you to import a sound from a file saved in a format compatible for importing sounds, but does not offer you an option for recording a sound. Before you can use the Sound tool, you need to either acquire or edit sounds and save them to a file format recognized by Acrobat.
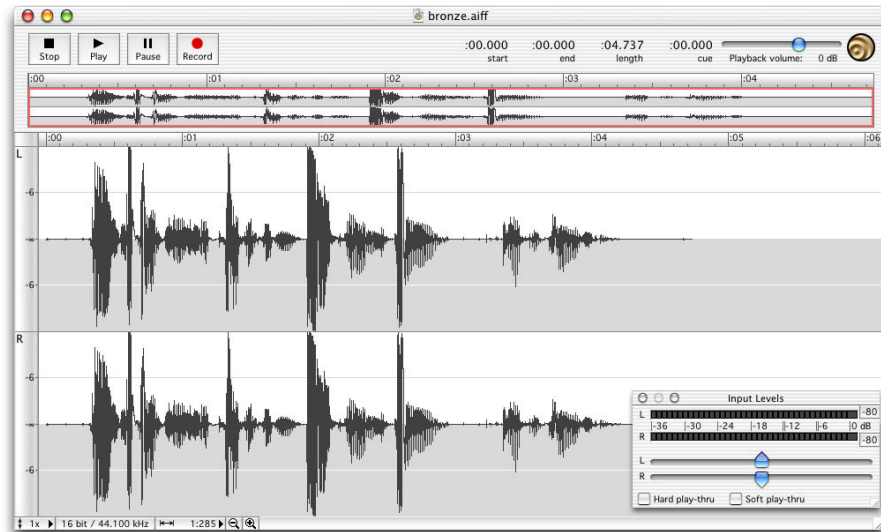
Creating sound files

If you are so inclined you can purchase a commercial application for editing sound and saving recordings that Acrobat can recognize. If recording sounds is an infrequent task and does not warrant purchase of expensive commercial software, you can find sound recording applications as shareware and in the public domain that can satisfy almost any need you have for using sounds on forms.

Web sites change frequently so you may need to do a search for public domain and shareware applications for your computer platform. As of this writing you can find sound editing programs at www.freewarefiles.com (Windows) or www.macupdate.com (Macintosh). You can find applications that enable you to record sounds and save them in formats acceptable to the platform you use that can then be recognized by Acrobat. The most common of the file types recognized by Acrobat is .wav for Windows and .aiff for Macintosh.

Note

You can import video and sound files that are compatible with Apple QuickTime, Flash Player, Windows Built-In Player, RealOne, and Windows Media Player.

Be certain you have a microphone properly connected to your computer according to your computer's user manual. Launch the sound editing application you downloaded from a Web site or use a commercial application if you have one available. Most programs offer you a record button similar in appearance to a tape recorder or VCR. Click the Record button and speak into the microphone. When finished recording, click the Stop button. Depending on the application, you may be prompted in a dialog box to save the file or you may see a window where you can further edit the sound as shown in Figure 16-1.

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Figure 16-1: To record sounds and save the sound to a file available for importing in Acrobat, use a sound-editing program.

If a dialog box does not prompt you to save the recording, select Save or Save As from a menu option. Typically the commands are under the File menu, but these may vary depending on the program you use. When you save the file, be certain to save in a format acceptable to Acrobat. A .wav (Windows) or .aiff (Macintosh) file format can be imported in Acrobat, but be careful of any file compression applied to the file when saved. You may need to test various compression options in order to find a format that Acrobat can recognize. After choosing the format, supply a name for the file with the proper extension as shown in Figure 16-2.
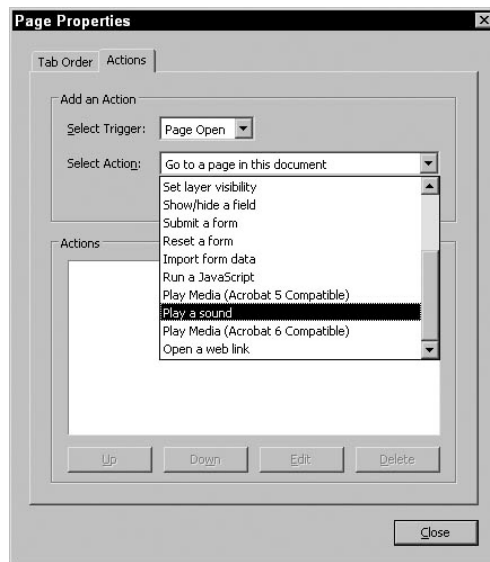

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Figure 16-2: After editing a sound, save the file in either AIFF (Macintosh) or WAV (Windows).

Adding sounds to Page Actions

A sound might be added to a Page Open or a Page Close action to provide informational instructions to complete a form, play a music score, or other similar function. In order to add a sound to a Page Action, you must have the sound file saved to disk as described in the preceding section. To add a sound to a Page Action, follow these steps:

STEPS: Adding Sounds to Page Actions

1. **Open the Page Properties.** Be certain your sound file is available in a directory on your hard drive and click on the Pages tab in the Navigation Pane. From a context menu opened on the page where you want the sound to play, select Properties. The Page Properties dialog box opens.

2. **Set the Action trigger.** Click on the Actions tab and select either Page Open or Page Close from the Select Trigger pull-down menu.

3. **Set the Action type.** Open the pull-down menu for Select Action and select Play a sound from the menu options as shown in Figure 16-3.

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Figure 16-3: Select Play a sound from the Select Action pull-down menu.

Note

By default, the Select a sound menu item in the Select Action pull-down menu may not be in view. Scroll the menu down to show the command.

4. **Add the Action to the page trigger.** Click on the Add button in the Page Properties dialog box to add the sound to the lower window.

5. **Select the sound file.** The Select Sound File dialog box opens. Navigate your hard drive to find the sound to import, select it, and click on the Select button. After importing the sound, click Close in the Page Properties dialog box.

Note

Acrobat may pause momentarily. The sound file imported in Acrobat is converted during the import. When a sound is imported in a PDF file, the sound can then be played across platforms. Therefore a .wav file can be played on a Macintosh computer and an .aiff file can be played on a Windows computer.

6. **Save the file.** Click OK in the Page Actions dialog box. Choose File@@-->Save As and rewrite the file to disk. Close the file and reopen it to test the Page Action.
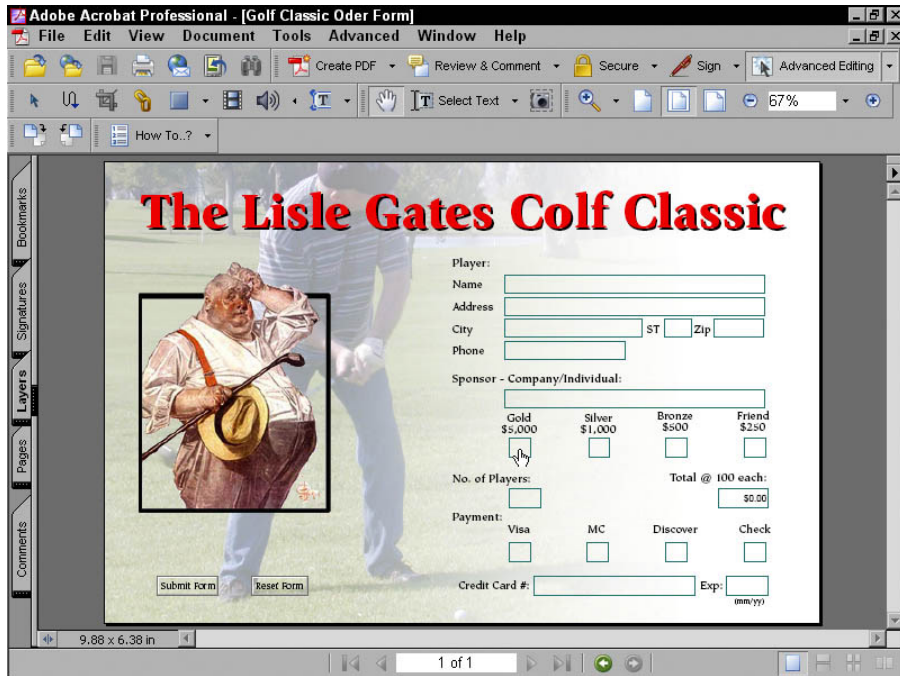
After you save the PDF file and reopen it, the sound is played. You can also test the sound by scrolling a page in the PDF file and returning to the page where the sound was imported. The action is dynamic and the sound plays before you save the PDF file.

Adding sounds to form field actions

Of the mouse behavior types, you may find that Mouse Enter, On Focus, or On Blur behaviors work equally as well as using a Mouse Up or Mouse Down trigger. As an example, you might have a descriptive message display when the user places the cursor over a button field and before s/he clicks the mouse. Or you may want to invoke a sound when the user tabs out of a field as a reminder to verify data entry in a PDF form. In these situations and similar uses, the sound is played from a mouse behavior related to a data field. To understand how to use sound actions with data fields, follow these steps:

STEPS: Adding Sounds to Form Fields

1. **Open a PDF document with form fields.** In Figure 16-4 I use a form with several check boxes. I want to create a sound when the user places the cursor over one of the check boxes or tabs to the field.
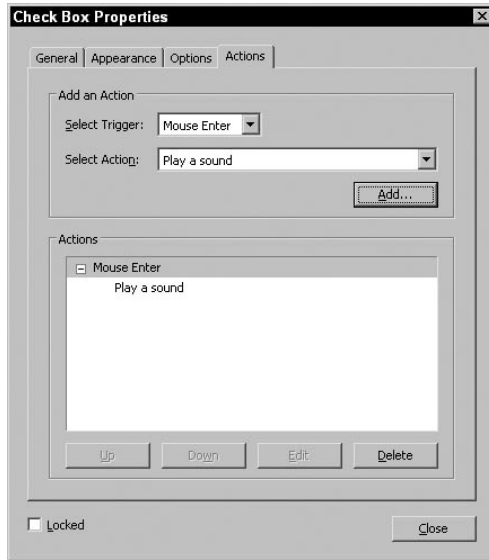
Figure 16-4: Four check boxes are to be configured to play a sound on a Mouse Enter trigger.

2. **Open the field properties.** Select the Select Object tool in the Advanced Editing toolbar and double-click on the field you want to edit. If no fields exist in your document, create a check box field.

Cross-Reference

For more information on creating form fields, see Chapters 25 and 26.

3. **Select the mouse trigger.** Select Mouse Enter in the field properties dialog box.

4. **Add a sound to the field.** Open the Select Action pull-down menu and select Play a sound.

5. **Select the Sound file.** Click on the Add button to open the Select Sound File dialog box. Select the file to import and click on the Select button.

6. **Close the Check Box Properties dialog box.** Check to be certain the mouse trigger is set to Mouse Enter as shown in Figure 16-5. Click Close in the Check Box Properties dialog box.

Figure 16-5: Check to be certain the mouse trigger and the action type are configured properly. Click on the Close button when you're finished editing the properties.

7. **Test the sound.** Place the mouse cursor over the check box where the sound was added. (Note: To play the sound by tabbing to the field, use the On Focus mouse trigger.)

When the mouse enters one of the check boxes, the respective sound plays. The sound plays completely even if the cursor leaves the field. Sounds added to forms either for Page Actions or Field Actions can be played from any Acrobat viewer.

Tip

A sound continues to play to completion. If you want to stop the sound while editing a document, click on the Select Object tool or press the R key on your keyboard. (Note: You need to enable Use single-key accelerators to access tools in the General Preferences to use key modifiers to select tools.)

Using the Sound tool

Insert 540475 ma085 Importing sounds with a Page Actions, form fields, links, Bookmarks, and so on limits your import options to fewer file formats and limits the attributes you can assign to the imported file. In essence, you import the file and play the sound. Not much else is available when you use the Select Action command. Another method for importing sound files in PDF documents is using the Sound tool. When you use the Sound tool to import sounds, your options are much greater for the kinds of files you can import and attributes you can assign to the imported sounds.
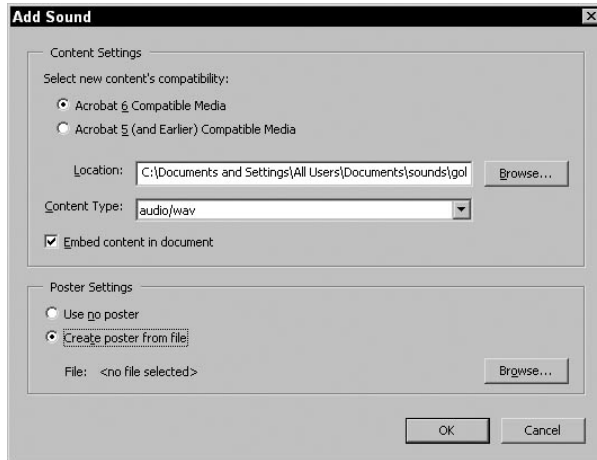
To import a sound with the Sound tool, select the tool from the Advanced Editing toolbar and drag open a rectangle on a document page. The area contained within the rectangle becomes a trigger to

play the sound. When you release the mouse button, the Add Sound dialog box opens as shown in Figure 16-6.

> ### Tip
> You can manage sound and movie links similarly to links and form fields where context menu options enable you to size, align, copy, paste, and distribute fields. You can access these menu commands when you select sound and movie links in a group together with links and form fields.

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Figure 16-6: When you use the Sound tool, the Add Sound properties offer you many different file format import options and attribute choices for displaying and playing sounds.

You set the attributes for sound imports when you initially use the Sound tool. After specifying choices in the Add Sound dialog box you can access the Multimedia Properties dialog box by opening a context menu. Your first stop is the Add Sound dialog box where the options include

* **Compatibility:** From the radio button choices you decide whether the sound import is Acrobat 6 or Acrobat 5 compatible. If you select Acrobat 5 compatible, the format options are limited to .WAV and .AIFF formats. If you use Acrobat 6 Compatible Media, the sound may not play with earlier Acrobat viewers depending on the file types you import and attributes assigned to the sound.

* **Browse:** Click on the Browse button to locate the sound you want to import.

* **Content Type:** By default the type of the file you import is listed automatically in the field box. By clicking on the down arrow you can open a pull-down menu where all compatible file formats are listed. A total of 27 different file formats are supported including newer MPEG4 and several midi formats. When you import files, let Acrobat interpret the file format and leave the format unchanged. If you click on a sound where Acrobat does not know the Content Type, Acrobat prompts you to click in a dialog box to select a content type.

* **Embed content in document:** Using Acrobat 5 compatibility automatically embeds sound files. If you use Acrobat 6 compatibility you can choose to link the sound file to the PDF or embed the sound in the PDF document. If you disable the check box for not embedding the file, you need to send the sound file to a user as well as the PDF in order for other users to play the sound.

* **Poster Settings:** The rectangle you create appears similar to a button field. If you leave the default at Use no poster, then the rectangle is invisible when the Hand tool is selected. A user can click anywhere within the rectangle boundary to play the sound. If you select Create poster from file, you can fit a graphic to the rectangle; for example, using button faces for form field buttons. You click on the Browse button to select the file you want to use for the poster. You can choose any file type that is compatible when using the Create PDF From File command. If the file type is other than PDF, Acrobat converts the file to PDF as it imports the image. If you're using a multi-page PDF document for the poster, the first page in the PDF document is used for the poster.

Cross-Reference

For information on creating button faces, see Chapter 25.

Click OK after selecting options in the Add Sound dialog box. When you return to the document page, the rectangle is visible. You assign additional properties when you open the sound properties from a context menu. Depending on what compatibility you chose when you added the sound file, the properties dialog boxes offer different options. When an Acrobat 5-compatible file is used, you open the Movie Properties by selecting Properties from a context menu. When you add an Acrobat 6-compatible sound to a document you open the Multimedia Properties dialog box by selecting Properties from a context menu. In either case, you open context menus by using the Sound tool, the Movie tool, or the Select Object tool.

Acrobat 5-compatible Movie (Sound) Properties

If you're using an Acrobat 5-compatible sound import, the Movie Properties dialog box opens when you select Properties from a context menu opened from the sound rectangle. As shown in Figure 16-7 the dialog box contains three tabs used for selecting further options than were available in the Add Sound dialog box.

Tip

When you use either the Sound tool or the Movie tool and create a sound or movie field, the first dialog box that opens is the Add Sound or Add Movie dialog box. While selecting options in the dialog box you have no opportunity to select objects on the document page or menu commands. However, after you create a sound or movie field and open the Properties dialog box, the Properties window functions similarly to the Link Properties and Form Field Properties windows where you can access objects on the page and menu commands. When editing properties for sound and movie files, you don't need to close the Properties window to select and edit additional fields.