

Look ma, no password

Quite some years ago some person was complaining about a corrupted pdf file. After a few days he managed to contact the publisher and asked him what the problem was with the file and why was it not opening. When queried by the publisher about the location he had downloaded the file from the man provided a site, which was not that of the owner. He found out the hard way that he had downloaded a copied version of the file, an illegal version.

He managed to convince the owner that he did not have any ill feelings in his mind and was willing to purchase a genuine copy and even went on to purchase one. Later on, during talks with the owner it transpired that the original version of the pdf file in question was not protected at all.

Why should people offering free files protect the same with passwords? Since the person in question was not an authority either of the net or of software he decided to send the pirated version to the original publisher.

Two days later when he heard about the details from the publisher he was horrified. The copied version was protected by a password and to get the password one had to visit a particular website. This website in question was full of malicious scripts that could infect the visitor's pc without his knowledge. Password protection of pdf files is old stuff.

If you thought that password protected pdf files are safe, you are not aware of password decryption programs. Just search the net for terms like pdf password protect and you will get hits of programs that are used for decoding password protected pdf files. Using these programs it will take a few minutes to open your password protected pdf file.

There are special programs available that can remove the most stubborn passwords and leave the pdf file as it was originally without the password. Can you entrust your business with such weak technologies? It is due to these inherent weaknesses that the DRM system evolved. Not only does this provide extreme security, it does the same without resorting to passwords.

The DRM method uses secret and cryptic keys to ensure whether a person can open a particular pdf file or not. This program can also control the validity of the pdf file. If the program has been used to set a particular expiry date for a particular pdf file, you can be rest assured that on that particular date, the pdf file will get corrupted and cannot be recovered back by any means.

About the Author

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