



Adding Seed Values to Signature Fields

When you digitally sign a PDF, usually you can sign using any supported certificate, from any certificate authority and state any reason for signing that you like. This is fine in most cases but for tighter security or to control the document approval workflow, the author of a document might want to limit the choices a user can make when signing a document. This can be done by applying “seed values” to a signature field. Seed values are properties that are used when applying your signature to a signature field. The properties are stored in the signature field and are not altered when the field is signed, the signature is cleared, or when the form is reset.

“Certificate” seed values can be used to provide a higher level of security by restricting signing to only by particular certificates, or certificates issued by particular certificate authorities. “Reason” seed values can be used to limit the reasons that a person is provided to select from when signing the file. If you don’t need a reason for signing, you can set the seed value to “.” (a period) and the reason part of the user interface will not appear.

Adobe LiveCycle Designer has a rich user interface to set the seed values of signature fields on forms. However, many documents where seed values might be useful, like contracts or engineering documents, probably were not created in LiveCycle Designer.

If you are not using LiveCycle Designer 8 but still need seed values, they can only be applied to signature fields via JavaScript. Additionally, the function `signatureSetSeedValue()` is a security-restricted method and, by default, can only be run during batch processing, application start, or execution within the console. To turn on the ability to set seed values via JavaScript, make sure the “Enable Menu Items JavaScript Execution Privileges” is checked in the JavaScript pane of the Acrobat user preferences.

The attached application level JavaScript example will allow you to set the “reason” seed values for all signature fields in the active document. The example can be easily modified to add other types of seed values.



Installation:

1. Right-click on the attachment icon to the left and save the file to your desktop.
2. Place the file in the `C:\Documents and Settings\username\Application Data\Adobe\Acrobat\8.0\JavaScripts` where username is your Windows user name.
On an Intel Mac this is at `~/Library/Acrobat User Data/8.0_x86/JavaScripts`
3. Rename the file to `.js` rather than `.js-`
4. A menu item named “Add Signature Seed Values” will appear under the “Document” menu.