

# The `attachfile` package\*

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## Abstract

This package defines an `\attachfile` command that lets you attach arbitrary files to a PDF document. These files are embedded right in the PDF file, so they get transmitted along with it. The package also gives you control over the corresponding icon's properties and various other associated metadata.

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# 1 Introduction

PDF, Adobe’s Portable Document Format, is a common way to distribute documents that look the same on all platforms and output devices. Beginning with PDF version 1.3, PDF supports “file attachment annotations”. These are arbitrary auxiliary files that get embedded directly into the PDF document, just like attachments in an e-mail message.

The `attachfile` package gives pdf $\LaTeX$  users the ability to add these attachments to their documents automatically. And because  $\LaTeX$  is a markup language, not a WYSIWYG tool, the user has precise control over the location of the file attachment icons. If an icon representing an attached spreadsheet file is placed next to a figure, the icon will move along with the figure whenever the document is modified. Furthermore, it is possible to define global properties for all the file attachments in a document. With one command, a user can change the properties of all the icons in the entire document.

Finally, one nifty feature that `attachfile` supports is the ability to use your own icons, which can be text, graphics, tables, mathematics—you name it! With this feature, a PDF file can, for example, instruct the reader to click on a formula to extract the Mathematica notebook that derived it. Or to click on a graph to extract the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that contains all the data that was plotted. The possibilities are endless.

Okay, let’s get down to business. Here are some sample file attachments, so you can see if your PDF viewer is able to handle them:

Icon:		(Should look like this:  )
$\LaTeX$ text:	<code>attachfile.bib</code>	(Should look like this: <code>attachfile.bib</code> )

Each of the above points to the `BIB $\TeX$`  bibliography (a plain text file) for the document you’re reading now. Try extracting the attachment. In Adobe Acrobat, this is achieved by right-clicking on the icon and choosing “Extract File...”. You can also double-click to open the file immediately. If you’re unable to access the attached file, or you observe miscellaneous strange behavior, your PDF viewer might not be capable of handling file attachments properly. See Section 3 for some PDF viewer problems I encountered while testing `attachfile`.

# 2 User interface

`\usepackage{attachfile}` implicitly does a `\usepackage{hyperref}`. Any options that get passed to `attachfile` will be forwarded to `hyperref`. `attachfile` v1.00 does not process any options itself. Hence, a typical way to load `attachfile` is by putting a `\usepackage[pdftex]{attachfile}` in your document’s prologue.

## 2.1 Commands

The following are the commands that `attachfile` makes available for attaching files, customizing the icon appearance, and changing various file attachment metadata.

`\attachfile` [*options*] {*filename*}

The `\attachfile` macro, has only one required argument: the name of the file to attach. `\attachfile` will insert an icon at the current point in the document to represent the attachment. *options* is a list of optional parameters for describing the icon and other assorted metadata. It is described in Section 2.2.

`\noattachfile` [*options*]

When writing instructions, it is sometimes convenient to describe what a file attachment icon looks like without actually attaching a file. That's what `\noattachfile` is for. All it does is insert the image of a file attachment icon into the document. *options* is a list of optional parameters for describing the icon and other assorted metadata. It is described in Section 2.2.

`\textattachfile` [*options*] {*filename*} {*text*}

`\textattachfile` is just like `\attachfile`, except that instead of using one of the predefined PDF icons, it lets you use an arbitrary piece of text to represent the attachment. The *text* parameter is not limited to text; it can contain any arbitrary horizontal material. The following are all legal uses of `\textattachfile`:

- You can `\textattachfile{myfile.cc}{extract my source code}` if your PDF viewer supports file annotations.
- It is intuitively obvious to even the most casual observer that

```
\textattachfile{derivation.m}{ $\frac{\partial E_p}{\partial w_{ji}^h} =
-\sum_k (y_{pk} - o_{pk}) f_k^{(o)} (\mbox{net}_{pk}^o)
w_{kj}^o f_j^h (\mbox{net}_{pj}^h) x_{pi}}$ 
```

- `\textattachfile{earningsdata.csv}{\includegraphics{earnings}}`

`\attachfilesetup` {*options*}

If you find yourself passing the same set of options to multiple `\attachfile` calls in your document, you can use `\attachfilesetup` to specify default option values. `\attachfilesetup`'s *options* parameter is the same as that used by `\attachfile` and is described in Section 2.2. Some noteworthy points are:

1. `\attachfilesetup` can be called as many times as desired. Any options specified replace the previous value of those options. All unspecified options are left alone.
2. Options passed to `\attachfile` take precedence over those specified by `\attachfilesetup`. This lets you define default values for all file attachments and selectively override them on a per-attachment basis.
3. Options set by `\attachfilesetup` are local to the current scope. This lets you assign defaults to a group of file attachments without affecting the global defaults. To define options that apply to the entire document, `\attachfilesetup` should be called at the top-level scope (which includes the document's prologue).

## 2.2 Options

`attachfile` gives the user a great deal of control over the way files are attached to a document. All the commands in Section 2.1 accept the same set of options, which are entered as comma-separated,  $\langle key \rangle = \langle value \rangle$  pairs. Options can be specified in any order. Case is significant. And only the options you want to change need to be specified; the others will retain their previous value (or the default, if no previous value was specified).

The following are the options `attachfile` accepts, in alphabetical order.

<code>appearance=<math>\langle boolean \rangle</math></code>
--

The `attachfile` package normally embeds the file attachment's icon explicitly with each file attachment annotation. (In PDF-speak, it includes an appearance dictionary in the `FileAttachment` object.) The advantages to doing this are to ensure that:

- The file attachment icons look the same in all PDF viewers.
- $\TeX$  knows exactly how much space to allocate, instead of just guessing based on the size of the Adobe Acrobat icons.
- Pre-1.3 PDF viewers don't regress to showing an "unknown annotation type" graphic.

However, the problems with embedding the icon graphic are:

- It adds a bit of extra bulk to the PDF file.
- It takes flexibility away from the PDF viewer, which can no longer choose for itself how best to render a file attachment icon.

The `appearance` option gives the author the ability to prevent the icon’s appearance from being specified explicitly in the PDF file. By setting `appearance=false`, it will be left up to the PDF viewer to decide how to display the icon.

`author=<text>`

The metadata associated with a file attachment annotation includes the name of the person who attached the file. In Adobe Acrobat, this information is shown when one right-clicks on the file attachment icon and selects *Properties*. By default, no author is listed, but specifying `author=<name>` sets the author field to *<name>*. As a special case, specifying the `author` option with no name assignment makes the author the same as the author(s) named with the `\author` command. `author`

`color=<red> <green> <blue>`

The icons inserted by `\attachfile` and the text inserted by `\textattachfile` can be any color. The `color` option sets this color. Each of *<red>*, *<green>*, and *<blue>* must be a decimal number between 0 (darkest) and 1 (brightest). The default is `color=1 0.9255 0.7765`, which is a beige.

`date=<text>`

Every annotation in a PDF can have a timestamp indicating when the annotation was last modified. `attachfile` automatically adds a timestamp to file attachment annotations. It uses the time and date at which L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X started processing your job and converts it to the form “D:YYYYMMDDHHmmSS”, which is the format recommended by the PDF reference manual [1, p. 89], minus the Universal Time information.<sup>1</sup>

The `date` option lets you specify the modification date and time explicitly. Note, however, that although the PDF reference manual clearly states that “viewer applications should be prepared to accept and display a string in any format” [1, p. 400], Adobe Acrobat will ignore any timestamp that is not in the recommended format and will instead show the current date and time.

`description=<text>`

The metadata associated with a file attachment annotation can include a brief description of the file. In Adobe Acrobat, this information is shown when one right-clicks on the file attachment icon and selects *Properties*. By default, no description is included, but specifying `description=<text>` sets the description field to *<text>*.

---

<sup>1</sup>In addition, seconds are hardwired to zero, because T<sub>E</sub>X’s `\time` command has only minute precision.





Graph	
Paperclip	
PushPin	
Tag	

Table 1: Valid file attachment icons

`icon=<name>`

PDF 1.3 defines four icons that can be used for file attachments: `Graph`, `Paperclip`, `PushPin`, and `Tag`. These are shown in Table 1. If no icon name is specified, `PushPin` is assumed. While the PDF specifications say that, normally, a PDF viewer chooses how to display each of those, the `attachfile` package specifies the appearance explicitly. This is what Adobe Acrobat does, presumably because doing so ensures that viewers which don't support file attachment annotations can still display something reasonable. The tradeoff is that it slightly increases the size of the PDF file.

`mimetype=<type>`

It is considered good practice to specify the MIME type [2] of each attached file. That way, a PDF viewer can automatically launch an appropriate application to process the file. `<type>` should be the form “`<type>/<subtype>`”. For instance, a plain text file would be specified with “`mimetype=text/plain`”. An MPEG movie would be specified with “`mimetype=video/mpeg`”. The [Internet Assigned Numbers Authority](#) maintains a list of registered media types [3], so look there first to see what type to use for a given file.

`print=<boolean>`

By default, file annotation icons print along with the rest of the document. By setting `print=false`, the icons will not print. Note that in Adobe Acrobat, annotations will *never* print unless the Annotations box is checked in the Print dialog.

`timezone=<offset>`

Because  $\text{\TeX}$  doesn't make the current timezone available, `attachfile` is unable to include timezone information when it timestamps a file attachment. The `timezone` option lets you manually specify the timezone. `<offset>` is the offset from Universal Time (a.k.a. GMT) and should be in the format specified in the

PDF reference manual [1], namely:

`+<HH>'<mm>'`  $\langle HH \rangle$  hours,  $\langle mm \rangle$  minutes later than Universal Time (i.e., east of Greenwich, England)

`-<HH>'<mm>'`  $\langle HH \rangle$  hours,  $\langle mm \rangle$  minutes earlier than Universal Time (i.e., west of Greenwich, England)

`Z` Universal Time (i.e., at the same longitude as Greenwich, England)

For example, U.S. Central Time would be specified with `timezone=-06'00'`.

`zoom=<boolean>`

Normally, when a reader magnifies or reduces the view of the PDF document, the file annotation icons change size proportionally with the text. By setting `zoom=false`, the icon size does not scale.

The defaults for all of the options described above are summarized in Table 2.

Option	Default setting
<code>appearance</code>	<code>true</code>
<code>author</code>	<code>none</code>
<code>color</code>	<code>1 0.9255 0.7765</code>
<code>date</code>	<code>automatic</code>
<code>description</code>	<code>none</code>
<code>icon</code>	<code>PushPin</code>
<code>mimetype</code>	<code>none</code>
<code>print</code>	<code>true</code>
<code>timezone</code>	<code>none</code>
<code>zoom</code>	<code>true</code>

Table 2: Default values for all options

### 3 Caveats

Note that there are a few caveats you should be aware of:

1. File attachments are a PDF 1.3 feature. They will not be visible in PDF viewers that do support PDF 1.3. (Version 4.0 of Adobe Acrobat is the first version of that program which does.)
2. Even some viewers that purportedly support PDF 1.3 don't support file attachments. As far as I can tell, Adobe Acrobat Reader (the free, view-only version of Adobe Acrobat) doesn't seem to support *any* annotations except text annotations.

3. Even some viewers that do support PDF 1.3 and file attachments don't support them under all circumstances. For instance, the Windows version of Adobe Acrobat, when functioning as a Web-browser plug-in, gives an error message<sup>2</sup> when a file attachment icon is activated.
4. Even in circumstances where file attachments are supported, the support may be flawed. For example, the Windows version of Adobe Acrobat changes a custom icon to the default icon when it's selected.

In addition, `attachfile` requires pdfL<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X version 14 or later. While there are many other ways to produce PDF files from L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X source, `attachfile` v1.00 supports only pdfL<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, and only versions 14+.

Still, file attachments can be a useful way to pass additional information along with a PDF file. The `attachfile` package makes file annotations automatic and easy.

## 4 Implementation

This section contains the complete source code for `attachfile`. Most users will not get much out of it, but it should be of use to those who need more precise documentation and those who want to extend the `attachfile` package.

```
1 <*package>
```

### 4.1 Sanity checking

`attachfile` v1.00 requires pdfL<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X and at least version 14. (Future versions of `attachfile` may support dvipdfm, dvips with pdfmarks, V<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub>, etc.) Also, pdfL<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X must be in PDF-generating mode, not DVI-generating mode. So, to save the user some aggravation, we check for the correct backend right up front and give a nice error message if we don't have it.

```
2 \ifx\pdfoutput\undefined
3   \PackageError{attachfile}{%
4     You're not using pdfLaTeX.\MessageBreak
5     This version of attachfile works _only_ with\MessageBreak
6     pdfLaTeX%
7   }{%
8     The mechanisms attachfile uses to attach a file are
9     pdfLaTeX\MessageBreak
10    specific and will not work with any other form of
11    LaTeX.\space\space\MessageBreak
12    Future versions might, but that's assuming somebody\MessageBreak
13    volunteers to work on it.\space\space (Any takers? :-) }%
14 }
15 \fi
16
```

---

<sup>2</sup>“Launching embedded files from within a browser environment is not allowed”.



```

17 \ifnum\pdfoutput<1
18   \PackageError{attachfile}{%
19     PDF output is not enabled%
20   }{%
21     pdfLaTeX can generate either PDF or DVI files.\space\space
22     However,\MessageBreak
23     attachfile works only when pdfLaTeX is in
24     PDF-generating\MessageBreak
25     mode.\space\space To make pdfLaTeX generate PDF, you should
26     either\MessageBreak
27     specify PDF as the default type in your pdfLaTeX\MessageBreak
28     configuration file, or set \protect\pdfoutput=1\space
29     in your document\MessageBreak
30     (somewhere before the \protect\usepackage{attachfile}).%
31   }
32 \fi
33
34 \ifnum\pdftexversion<14
35   \PackageError{attachfile}{%
36     Outdated version of pdfTeX.\MessageBreak
37     Please upgrade to version 14 or later%
38   }{%
39     attachfile makes use of some pdfTeX features that were\MessageBreak
40     introduced in pdfTeX version 14.\space\space
41     You will need to install\MessageBreak
42     a more recent version of pdfTeX+pdfLaTeX in order for\MessageBreak
43     attachfile to work properly.
44   }
45 \fi

```

## 4.2 Preliminaries

We need to load `hyperref` to get our hands on that great `\pdfstringdef` macro. For now, we blindly pass all our package options directly to `hyperref`. In the future, it would be nice to do a `\setkeys{AtFi}` on our options.

```

46 \RequirePackageWithOptions{hyperref}
47 \RequirePackage[pdfTeX]{color}

```

`\atfi@bogus@author` Store the name of the document’s authors as they appear at the `\begin{document}`, because—for some unknown reason—`\maketitle` clears the `\@author` macro. We initialize `\atfi@authorstring` to `\atfi@bogus@author` so we can give a user-friendly error message if the user tries to read the author’s name before defining one.

```

48 \def\atfi@bogus@author{@@@}
49 \edef\atfi@authorstring{\atfi@bogus@author}
50 \AtBeginDocument{%
51   \begingroup
52   \def\and{/ }%

```

```

53 \xdef\atfi@authorstring{\@author}%
54 \endgroup%
55 }

```

### 4.3 Adobe Acrobat icons

The following macros draw a representation of the various icons that Adobe Acrobat<sup>3</sup> inserts to represent what the PDF 1.3 specifications refer to as “Graph,” “Paperclip,” “PushPin,” and “Tag”. The `\parbox` dimensions are taken directly from the original graphics’ bounding box. However, I just eyeballed the `\raisebox` heights (intended to put shadows below the baseline).

`\atfi@acroGraph@data` Recreate Adobe Acrobat’s Graph icon.

```

56 \newcommand{\atfi@acroGraph@data}{%
57 q 0.5 g 1.1133 0 20.7202 18.2754 re f 1 g 0 G 0 i 0.5 w 4 M
58 0.25 1.6453 20.145 17.7715 re B 0 g 2.7319 4.1367 3.9571
59 13.8867 re f 8.7031 4.1367 3.9571 9.8867 re f 14.7471 4.1367
60 3.9571 11.8867 re f \atfi@color@rgb\space rg 1.689 3.0938
61 3.9571 13.8867 re f 7.6602 3.0938 3.9571 9.8867 re f 13.7041
62 3.0938 3.9571 11.8867 re f Q
63 }

```

`\atfi@acroGraph` Draw `\atfi@acroGraph@data` in a box of the appropriate size.

```

64 \DeclareRobustCommand{\atfi@acroGraph}{%
65 \raisebox{-1.5bp}{\parbox[b][20bp][22bp]{%
66 \rule{0pt}{0pt}\pdfliteral{\atfi@acroGraph@data}}}%
67 }%
68 }

```

`\atfi@acroPaperclip@data` Recreate Adobe Acrobat’s Paperclip icon.

```

69 \newcommand{\atfi@acroPaperclip@data}{%
70 q 0.75 G 0 i 2.5 w 1 J 4 M 1.9619 11.7559 m 1.9619 3.3037
71 1.9619 2.5059 v 1.9619 1.707 4.0947 1.25 y 7.4141 1.25 l 9.4292
72 1.8223 9.4292 3.3066 v 9.4292 4.79 9.4292 16.8945 y 9.7852
73 18.1514 8.481 18.1514 v 7.1768 18.1514 5.1616 18.1514 y 3.8574
74 17.9209 3.8574 16.8945 v 3.8574 15.8652 3.8574 6.6172 y 4.3325
75 5.418 5.1025 5.418 v 5.8726 5.418 6.5845 5.418 y 7.6812 5.6455
76 7.6812 6.4736 v 7.6812 7.3027 7.6812 11.5264 y S 0 G 1.2495
77 12.4404 m 1.2495 3.9883 1.2495 3.1895 v 1.2495 2.3906 3.3833
78 1.9326 y 6.7026 1.9326 l 8.7178 2.5068 8.7178 3.9902 v 8.7178
79 5.4736 8.7178 17.5781 y 9.0732 18.834 7.769 18.834 v 6.4653
80 18.834 4.4497 18.834 y 3.146 18.6055 3.146 17.5781 v 3.146
81 16.5498 3.146 7.3018 y 3.6201 6.1016 4.3911 6.1016 v 5.1611
82 6.1016 5.873 6.1016 y 6.9692 6.3301 6.9692 7.1572 v 6.9692
83 7.9863 6.9692 12.21 y S \atfi@color@rgb\space RG 1 w
84 1.2495 12.4404 m 1.2495 3.9883 1.2495 3.1895 v 1.2495 2.3906
85 3.3833 1.9326 y 6.7026 1.9326 l 8.7178 2.5068 8.7178 3.9902 v

```

<sup>3</sup>I got these graphics specifically from the Windows version of Adobe Acrobat 4.0.

```

86 8.7178 5.4736 8.7178 17.5781 y 9.0732 18.834 7.769 18.834 v
87 6.4653 18.834 4.4497 18.834 y 3.146 18.6055 3.146 17.5781 v
88 3.146 16.5498 3.146 7.3018 y 3.6201 6.1016 4.3911 6.1016 v
89 5.1611 6.1016 5.873 6.1016 y 6.9692 6.3301 6.9692 7.1572 v
90 6.9692 7.9863 6.9692 12.21 y S Q
91 }

```

```

\atfi@acroPaperclip Draw \atfi@acroPaperclip@data in a box of the appropriate size.
92 \DeclareRobustCommand{\atfi@acroPaperclip}{%
93 \raisebox{-1.25bp}{\parbox[b][21bp]{12bp}{%
94 \rule{0pt}{0pt}\pdfliteral{\atfi@acroPaperclip@data}}%
95 }%
96 }

```

```

\atfi@acroPushPin@data Recreate Adobe Acrobat's PushPin icon.
97 \newcommand{\atfi@acroPushPin@data}{%
98 q \atfi@color@rgb\space rg 0 G 1 w 1 6 m 11 6 l 11 13 l 12
99 13 l 14 11 l 21 11 l 22 12 l 23 12 l 23 2 l 22 2 l 21 3 l 14 3
100 1 12 1 l 11 1 l 11 6 l B 0.5 G 0 7 m 10 7 l 10 8 l 1 8 l S 1 G
101 12 12 m 14 10 l 22 10 l 22 11 l S Q
102 }

```

```

\atfi@acroPushPin Draw \atfi@acroPushPin@data in a box of the appropriate size.
103 \DeclareRobustCommand{\atfi@acroPushPin}{%
104 \raisebox{-1.25bp}{\parbox[b][14bp]{24bp}{%
105 \rule{0pt}{0pt}\pdfliteral{\atfi@acroPushPin@data}}%
106 }%
107 }

```

```

\atfi@acroTag@data Recreate Adobe Acrobat's Tag icon.
108 \newcommand{\atfi@acroTag@data}{%
109 q 0.5 g 10.0542 14.9873 m 24.27 14.9873 l 25.252 14.0059 l
110 25.252 1.1455 l 24.1064 0 l 9.9609 0 l 6.0327 6.0088 l 6.0327
111 9.002 l 10.0542 14.9873 l 9.3994 9.376 m 8.5215 9.376 7.8096
112 8.5596 7.8096 7.5527 c 7.8096 6.5449 8.5215 5.7285 9.3994
113 5.7285 c 10.2778 5.7285 10.9897 6.5449 10.9897 7.5527 c 10.9897
114 8.5596 10.2778 9.376 9.3994 9.376 c h f
115 \atfi@color@rgb\space rg 0 G 0 i 0.5 w 4 M 1 j 8.5107
116 16.5313 m 22.7266 16.5313 l 23.7085 15.5488 l 23.7085 2.6895 l
117 22.563 1.543 l 8.4175 1.543 l 4.4893 7.5527 l 4.4893 10.5449 l
118 8.5107 16.5313 l 7.856 10.9199 m 6.978 10.9199 6.2661 10.1035
119 6.2661 9.0957 c 6.2661 8.0879 6.978 7.2715 7.856 7.2715 c
120 8.7344 7.2715 9.4463 8.0879 9.4463 9.0957 c 9.4463 10.1035
121 8.7344 10.9199 7.856 10.9199 c h B 1 w 12.3291 12.2656 m
122 21.1206 12.2656 l S 12.3291 9.1797 m 21.1206 9.1797 l S 12.3291
123 6.1875 m 21.1206 6.1875 l S 0 G 0.5 w 0 9.0488 m 6.2661 9.0957
124 1 S 1.4028 5.2148 m 1.4028 9.6094 l 1.6831 10.6387 2.4316
125 10.6387 v 3.6475 10.6387 3.5542 9.0488 y S Q
126 }

```

`\atfi@acroTag` Draw `\atfi@acroTag@data` in a box of the appropriate size.

```
127 \DeclareRobustCommand{\atfi@acroTag}{%
128   \raisebox{-1.6bp}{\parbox[b][17bp]{25bp}{%
129     \rule{0pt}{0pt}\pdfliteral{\atfi@acroTag@data}}}%
130   }%
131 }
```

## 4.4 Helper routines

`\atfi@temp@string` This is the same as `\pdfstringdef`, except that it *locally* defines its argument.  
`\atfi@pdfstringdef` For those of you who like analogies, `\gdef` is to `\pdfstringdef` as `\def` is to `\atfi@pdfstringdef`.

```
132 \def\atfi@temp@string{}
133 \DeclareRobustCommand{\atfi@pdfstringdef}[2]{%
134   \pdfstringdef\atfi@temp@string{#2}%
135   \edef#1{\atfi@temp@string}%
136 }
```

`\theatfi@embedfileobj` Embed a file as a PDF EmbeddedFile object and store its object number in  
`\atfi@embedfile` `atfi@embedfileobj`.

```
137 \newcounter{atfi@embedfileobj}
138 \DeclareRobustCommand{\atfi@embedfile}[1]{%
139   \immediate\pdfobj stream attr {
140     /Type /EmbeddedFile
141     \atfi@mimetype
142   } file {#1}%
143   \setcounter{atfi@embedfileobj}{\pdflastobj}%
144 }
```

`\atfi@appearancewidth` Each PDF annotation can an associated “appearance”. In the `attachfile` pack-  
`\atfi@appearanceheight` age, we store the appearance with the `\atfi@set@appearance` macro (below).  
`\atfi@appearancedepth` As a side effect, `\atfi@set@appearance` stores the dimensions of its argument in  
`\theatfi@appearanceobj` `\atfi@appearancewidth`, `\atfi@appearanceheight`, and `\atfi@appearancedepth`  
`\atfi@appearancebox` so that, later, we can allocate an appropriate amount of space for the file attach-  
ment icon to fit within. `atfi@appearanceobj` is the object number of the appear-  
ance XObject, and `\atfi@appearancebox` is a temporary storage location for the  
TeX box that will get converted to an XObject.

```
145 \newlength{\atfi@appearancewidth}
146 \newlength{\atfi@appearanceheight}
147 \newlength{\atfi@appearancedepth}
148 \newcounter{atfi@appearanceobj}
149 \newsavebox{\atfi@appearancebox}
```

`\atfi@set@appearance` Store the argument as a PDF XObject, for later referral by the file annotation’s  
appearance dictionary. This serves two purposes:

1. It enables a TeX box with arbitrary contents to serve as the file attachment icon.

2. It enables (generally, older) PDF viewers which don't recognize the icon name to still display something meaningful.

```

150 \DeclareRobustCommand{\atfi@set@appearance}[1]{%
151   \savebox{\atfi@appearancebox}{#1}%
152   \settowidth{\atfi@appearancewidth}{\usebox{\atfi@appearancebox}}%
153   \settoheight{\atfi@appearanceheight}{\usebox{\atfi@appearancebox}}%
154   \settodepth{\atfi@appearancedepth}{\usebox{\atfi@appearancebox}}%
155   \immediate\pdfxform attr {
156     /Subtype /Form
157   } \atfi@appearancebox
158   \setcounter{atfi@appearanceobj}{\pdflastxform}%
159 }

```

`\atfi@flags@to@int` Convert all our flag options from booleans into a single integer (`atfi@flags`).

```

\theatfi@flags 160 \newcounter{atfi@flags}
161 \DeclareRobustCommand{\atfi@flags@to@int}{%
162   \setcounter{atfi@flags}{0}%
163   \ifatfi@print
164     \addtocounter{atfi@flags}{4}%
165   \fi%
166   \ifatfi@zoom
167   \else
168     \addtocounter{atfi@flags}{8}%
169   \fi%
170 }

```

`\atfi@insert@file@annot` Insert a PDF FileAttachment annotation that refers to the object created by `\atfi@embedfile`.  $\TeX$  doesn't normally "see" a `\pdfannot`, so we have to explicitly allocate space for it. `\atfi@insert@file@annot` takes one argument, the name of the file to attach. This should be the same value that was passed to `\atfi@embedfile`.

```

171 \DeclareRobustCommand{\atfi@insert@file@annot}[1]{%
172   \rule{Opt}{Opt}%
173   \atfi@pdfstringdef\atfi@file{#1}%
174   \ifatfi@appearance
175     \def\atfi@appearance@dict{%
176       /AP << /N \theatfi@appearanceobj\space 0 R >>%
177     }%
178   \fi%
179   \pdfannot width \atfi@appearancewidth
180             height \atfi@appearanceheight
181             depth \atfi@appearancedepth {
182     /Subtype /FileAttachment
183     \atfi@icon\space
184     \atfi@color\space
185     \atfi@author\space
186     \atfi@date\space
187     \atfi@description\space
188     \atfi@appearance@dict\space

```

```

189 /F \theatfi@flags\space
190 /FS <<
191 /Type /Filespec
192 /F (\atfi@file)
193 /EF <<
194 /F \theatfi@embedfileobj\space 0 R
195 >>
196 >>
197 }%

```

Now, so  $\TeX$  can budget space for the annotation, we insert some zero-width rules into the document.

```

198 \rule{0pt}{\atfi@appearanceheight}%
199 \rule[-\atfi@appearancedepth]{0pt}{\atfi@appearancedepth}%
200 \rule{\atfi@appearancewidth}{0pt}%
201 }

```

## 4.5 Annotation option processing

We start by defining the various options that `\attachfile` accepts and their default values.

`\atfi@mimetype` MIME type of attached the file. For example, “text/plain” would specify that the attachment is an ordinary text file.

```

202 \def\atfi@mimetype{}
203 \define@key{AtFi}{mimetype}{%
204 \atfi@pdfstringdef\atfi@mimetype{#1}%
205 \edef\atfi@mimetype{/Subtype (\atfi@mimetype)}%
206 }

```

`\atfi@icon` Icon to represent the attachment. This should be one of Graph, Paperclip, PushPin (the default), or Tag. `\atfi@icon` is an attribute/value pair that gets inserted directly into the file attachment object. `\atfi@icon@icon` is only the icon name itself and is used to insert a static graphic that represents Adobe Acrobat’s rendition of a file attachment icon.

```

207 \define@key{AtFi}{icon}{%
208 \def\atfi@icon{/Name /#1}%
209 \def\atfi@icon@icon{#1}%
210 }
211 \setkeys{AtFi}{icon=PushPin}

```

`\atfi@color` Color of the attachment icon, specified as an RGB triplet. For example, “0 0.3 0” would be a fairly dark green. `\atfi@color` is an attribute/value pair that gets inserted directly into the file attachment object. It defaults to the empty string, which means the PDF viewer gets to choose what color the icon should be. `\atfi@color@rgb` is only the RGB triplet itself and is used to insert a static graphic that represents Adobe Acrobat’s rendition of a file attachment icon. It defaults to a beige color.

```

212 \define@key{AtFi}{color}{%
213   \def\atfi@color{/C [#1]}%
214   \def\atfi@color@rgb[#1]%
215 }
216 \setkeys{AtFi}{color=1 0.9255 0.7765}

```

`\atfi@author` The “author” of the annotation. Adobe Acrobat shows this when you right-click on the annotation and choose *Properties*. One complication is that the user might do an `\attachfilesetup` before the `\begin{document}`. If this is the case, then our `\AtBeginDocument` command that sets `\atfi@authorstring` (page 9) will not have been executed. Hence, we try to detect a pre-`\begin{document}` invocation by comparing `\atfi@named@author` to `\atfi@bogus@author`. If the two are the same, then we set `\atfi@named@author` to `\@author` right away. If the user hasn’t yet set an author with `\author`, bad things will happen, and `attachfile` will fail ungracefully. :-(  
`\atfi@named@author`

```

217 \def\atfi@author{}
218 \define@key{AtFi}{author}[\atfi@authorstring]{%
219   \edef\atfi@named@author{#1}%
220   \ifx\atfi@named@author\atfi@bogus@author
221     \begingroup
222       \def\and{/}%
223       \xdef\atfi@temp@string{\@author}%
224     \endgroup
225     \edef\atfi@named@author{\atfi@temp@string}%
226   \fi%
227   \atfi@pdfstringdef\atfi@author{\atfi@named@author}%
228   \edef\atfi@author{/T (\atfi@author)}%
229 }

```

`\atfi@pad@ii` Pad a number to exactly two digits. This is used by `\atfi@date` (below).

```

230 \def\atfi@pad@ii#1{%
231   \ifnum#1>9
232     \the#1%
233   \else
234     0\the#1%
235   \fi%
236 }

```

`\atfi@timezone` The timezone to attach to the file modification date. It would be awfully nice if `TEX` had some way to produce this automatically. (Does it?)

```

237 \def\atfi@timezone{}
238 \define@key{AtFi}{timezone}{\def\atfi@timezone{#1}}

```

`\atfi@time` The date the annotation was last modified. It’s unlikely you’d want to specify this explicitly in your `LATEX` document, but if you want to, you can. Seconds are hardwired to zero, and the time zone must be manually specified. (I don’t believe `TEX` makes either of those available.) Note that `\time` is stored in `\atfi@time`  
`\c@atfi@hours`  
`\theatfi@hours`  
`\c@atfi@minutes`  
`\atfi@date` in case the minutes roll over during the time calculations. I was too lazy to do

the same for `\day`, `\month`, and `\year`, so don't process your L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X document at midnight if you want to get a correct timestamp.

```

239 \edef\atfi@time{\time}
240 \newcounter{atfi@hours}
241 \setcounter{atfi@hours}{\atfi@time/60}
242 \newcounter{atfi@minutes}
243 \setcounter{atfi@minutes}{\atfi@time-\theatfi@hours*60}
244 \def\atfi@date{%
245   /M (D:\the\year%
246     \atfi@pad@ii\month%
247     \atfi@pad@ii\day%
248     \atfi@pad@ii\c@atfi@hours%
249     \atfi@pad@ii\c@atfi@minutes
250     00%
251     \atfi@timezone)%
252 }
253 \define@key{AtFi}{date}{%
254   \atfi@pdfstringdef\atfi@date{#1}%
255   \edef\atfi@date{/M (\atfi@date)}%
256 }

```

`\atfi@description` The annotation's description. Adobe Acrobat shows this when you right-click on the annotation and choose *Properties*. It also shows it in the Annotations tab once you "Rescan Document".

```

257 \def\atfi@description{}
258 \define@key{AtFi}{description}{%
259   \atfi@pdfstringdef\atfi@description{#1}%
260   \edef\atfi@description{/Contents (\atfi@description)}%
261 }

```

`\ifatfi@print` By default, file annotation icons print along with the rest of the document. (In Adobe Acrobat, that's the case if and only if the Annotations box is checked in the Print dialog.) By setting `print=false`, the icons will not print.

```

262 \newif\ifatfi@print
263 \atfi@printtrue
264 \define@key{AtFi}{print}[true]{\csname atfi@print#1\endcsname}

```

`\ifatfi@zoom` By default, file annotation icons zoom along with the rest of the document. By setting `zoom=false`, the icons will remain at a constant size, regardless of magnification.

```

265 \newif\ifatfi@zoom
266 \atfi@zoomtrue
267 \define@key{AtFi}{zoom}[true]{\csname atfi@zoom#1\endcsname}

```

`\ifatfi@appearance` The `attachfile` package normally embeds an icon graphic in each file attachment annotation's appearance dictionary. By setting `appearance=false`, no appearance dictionary will be added to a file attachment annotation; the PDF viewer will need to decide for itself how to display the icon.

```

\atfi@appearancetrue
\atfi@appearancefalse
\atfi@appearance@dict

```



```

268 \newif\ifatfi@appearance
269 \atfi@appearancetrue
270 \def\atfi@appearance@dict{}
271 \define@key{AtFi}{appearance}[true]{\csname atfi@appearance#1\endcsname}

```

## 4.6 Author commands

The commands described in this section are those available to the user writing a L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X document. If the macros seem too simple, it's because all the work is performed by the helper routines in Section 4.4 and the option-processing routines in Section 4.5.

- `\attachfilesetup` Set default values for all the various annotation options.
- ```

272 \DeclareRobustCommand{\attachfilesetup}[1]{\setkeys{AtFi}{#1}}

```
- `\attachfile` Given a filename and an optional set of attachment options, embed the corresponding file into the generated PDF file, and place an icon at the current location.
- ```

273 \DeclareRobustCommand{\attachfile}[2][]{%
274   \begingroup
275     \setkeys{AtFi}{#1}%
276     \atfi@embedfile{#2}%
277     \atfi@set@appearance{\csname atfi@acro\atfi@icon@icon\endcsname}%
278     \atfi@flags@to@int%
279     \atfi@insert@file@annot{#2}%
280   \endgroup
281 }

```
- `\textattachfile` Given a filename, some arbitrary text, and an optional set of attachment options, embed the corresponding file into the generated PDF file, and use the text as the icon. We recycle the icon color for the text. Note that the `\strut` is a bug workaround; I don't know whose fault this is, but the bottom point or so of the text seems to get cut off. Weird.
- ```

282 \DeclareRobustCommand{\textattachfile}[3][]{%
283   \begingroup
284     \setkeys{AtFi}{#1}%
285     \atfi@embedfile{#2}%
286     \def\atfi@textcolor{##1 ##2 ##3}##4{%
287       \textcolor[rgb]{##1,##2,##3}{##4}}%
288     \atfi@set@appearance{%
289       \expandafter\atfi@textcolor\expandafter%
290       (\atfi@color@rgb){#3\strut}}%
291     \atfi@flags@to@int%
292     \atfi@insert@file@annot{#2}%
293   \endgroup
294 }

```
- `\noattachfile` Insert the same icon into the document that we would for an `\attachfile` call. This is useful for writing documentation that instructs a user on how to deal with

file attachments. `\noattachfile` is fairly simple; is just calls `\setkeys` in order to get the latest values of `\atfi@icon@icon` and `\atfi@color@rgb`, and then it defers to one of `\atfi@acroGraph`, `\atfi@acroPaperclip`, `\atfi@acroPushPin`, or `\atfi@acroTag`, which do the actual rendering work.

```
295 \DeclareRobustCommand{\noattachfile}[1] [] {%  
296   \begingroup  
297     \setkeys{AtFi}{#1}%  
298     \csname atfi@acro\atfi@icon@icon\endcsname%  
299   \endgroup%  
300 }  
  
301 \</package>
```

## 5 Future work

The following are some avenues for future work on `attachfile`. First, `attachfile` supports only pdfL<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X for generating PDF files. It would be nice if it supported all the backends that `hyperref` supports: `dvipdfm`, `dvips` with `pdfmarks`, V<sup>T</sup>E<sub>X</sub>, and so forth. Along those same lines, a “draft” package option would be a welcome addition, for use when PDF is not the final output format.

Second, PDF supports platform-specific file attachments. That is, a file attachment icon can represent a different file when activated on Windows, Unix, or MacOS. It might be nice for `attachfile` to support that feature.

Finally, I’d like to see `attachfile` expand sometime to support *all* the various PDF annotations: Sound, Movie, Stamp, Ink, Popup, etc.

Of course, I make no promises that I’ll ever do *any* of the above. `attachfile` was just something I wrote in my spare time, and it’s unlikely I’ll be able to devote another large block of time to enhance it.

## References

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- [2] N. Freed and N. Borenstein. Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (MIME) part two: Media types. Request for Comments (RFC) 2046, Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), Network Working Group, November 1996. Available from <http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc2046.txt>.
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|                                    |          | XObject .....            | 12  |
|                                    | <b>V</b> |                          |     |
| <code>VT<sub>E</sub>X</code> ..... | 8, 17    | <b>Y</b>                 |     |
|                                    |          | <code>\year</code> ..... | 245 |
|                                    | <b>W</b> | <b>Z</b>                 |     |
| WYSIWYG .....                      | 1        | zoom (option) .....      | 6-7 |

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