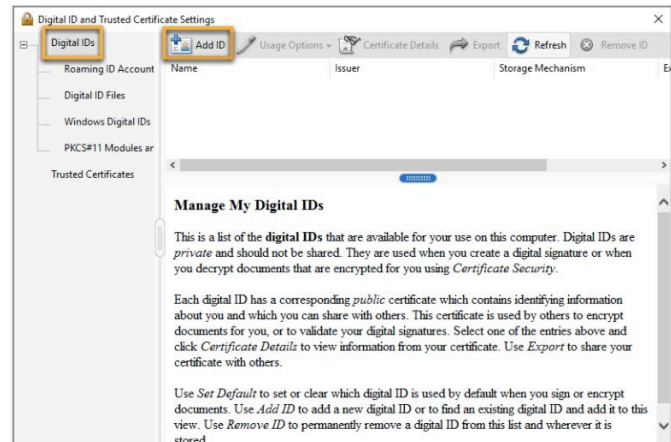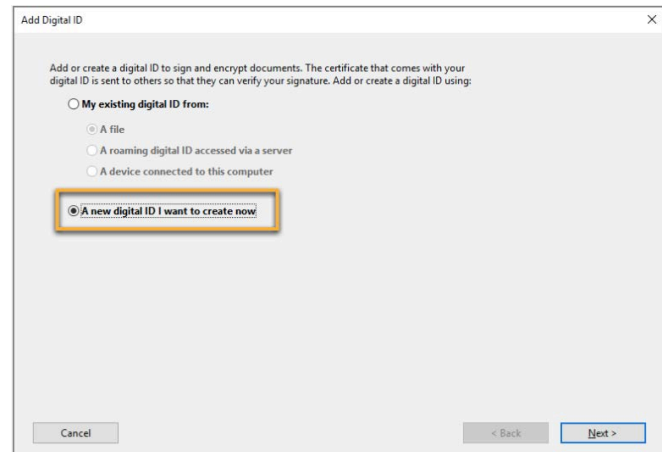# How to Create a Certificate-based Signature in Adobe Acrobat Pro DC

Open Adobe Acrobat

1. In Acrobat, click the Edit menu and choose Preferences > Signatures.

2. On the right, click "**More**" for Identities & Trusted Certificates.

3. Select Digital IDs on the left, and then click the Add ID button.

4. Select the option "**A New Digital ID I Want To Create Now**", and click Next.

5. Specify where to store the digital ID, and click "**Next**".

-New PKCS#12 Digital ID File: Stores the digital ID information in a file, which has the extension .pfx in Windows and .p12 in Mac OS. You can use the files interchangeably between operating systems. If you move a file from one operating system to another, Acrobat still recognizes it.

-Windows Certificate Store (Windows only): Stores the digital ID to a common location from where other Windows applications can also retrieve it.
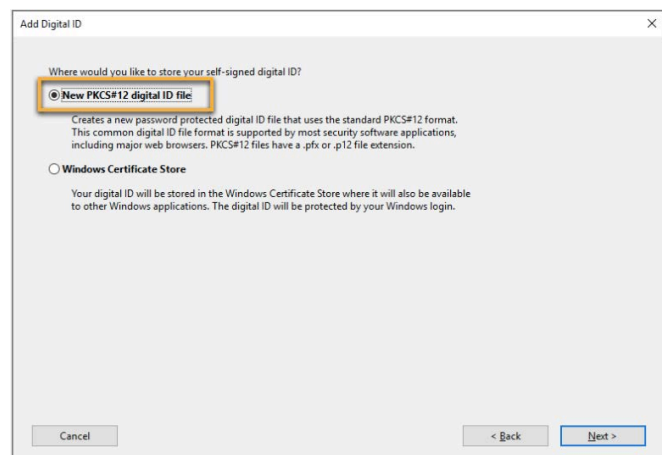
6. Do the following:

a. Type a name, email address, and other personal information for your digital ID. When you certify or sign a document, the name appears in the Signatures panel and in the Signature field.

b. Choose an option from the "**Key Algorithm**" menu. The 2048-bit RSA option offers more security than 1024-bit RSA, but 1024-bit RSA is more universally compatible.

c. From the "**Use Digital ID**" For menu, choose whether you want to use the digital ID for signatures, data encryption, or both.

d. Click "**Next**".

7. Do the following:

a. Type a password for the digital ID file. For each keystroke, the password strength meter evaluates your password and indicates the password strength using color patterns. Reconfirm your password.

b. The digital ID file is stored at the default location as shown in the "**File Name**" field. If you want to save it somewhere else, click "**Browse**" and choose the location.

c. Click "**Finish**".

8. The ID is created. You can export and send your certificate file to contacts who can use it to validate your signature.

9. Click the "**Usage Options**" button and choose a task for which you want the digital ID as the default. To specify the digital ID as the default for two tasks, click the "**Usage Options**" button again and select a second option.

Note: A check mark appears before selected options. If you select only the signing option, the Sign icon appears next to the digital ID. If you select only the encryption option, the Lock icon appears. If you select only the certifying option, or if you select the signing and certifying options, the Blue Ribbon icon appears.

Congratulations! You're done!
You have just successfully completed How to Create a Digital Signature in Adobe Acrobat. If you need further assistance, call the Instructional Innovation Center at 210-486-0712 or email sac-iic@alamo.edu