

Java



Import and export



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# Import and export annotations from XFDF files in Java



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XFDF is an XML-like standard from Adobe XFDF (ISO 19444-1:2016) for encoding annotations and forms. It's compatible with Adobe Acrobat and several other third-party frameworks.



**Note:** XFDF has various limitations. In most cases, using Nutrient Instant JSON will result in a smaller file and better synchronization.

Nutrient Java SDK supports both reading and writing XFDF files. The `PdfDocument` class contains `importXfdf` and `exportXfdf` methods you can use to perform these operations.

## Importing XFDF

Below is an example showing how to import XFDF from a file. However, the `DataProvider` can be inherited from to implement custom readers for encryption:



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```
document.importXfdf(new FileDataProvider("Assets/importXfdf.xfdf"));
```

## Exporting XFDF

You can export annotations and form field values from a document to an XFDF file like so:

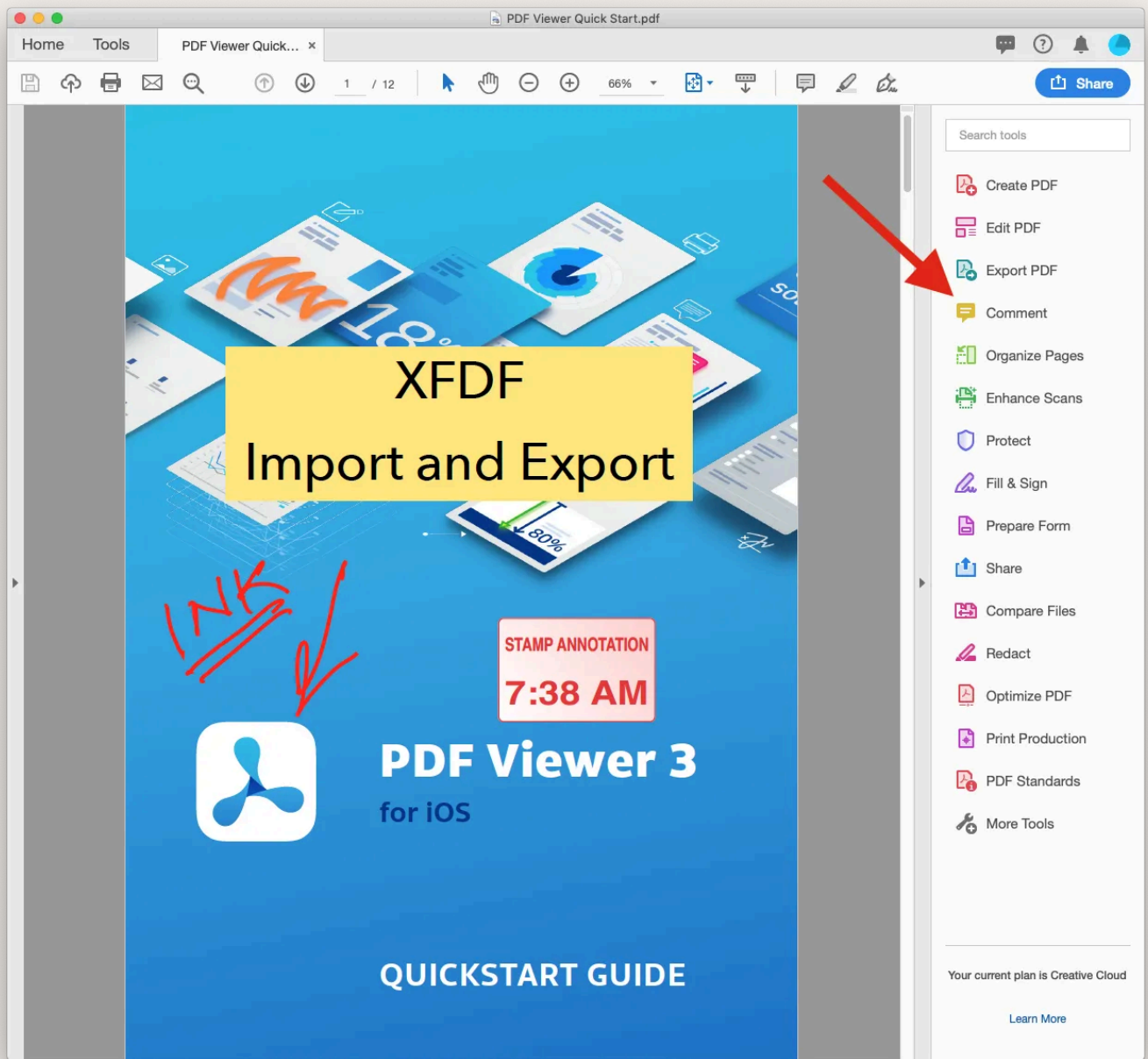
```
File file = new File("xfdfOutput.xfdf");  
document.exportXfdf(new FileDataProvider(file), new HashSet<>(), new HashSet<>())
```

The second two parameters take in `HashSet` s. The first states which annotations to export, and the second states which form field to export. By passing an empty `HashSet` , Nutrient assumes all annotations or form fields should be exported.

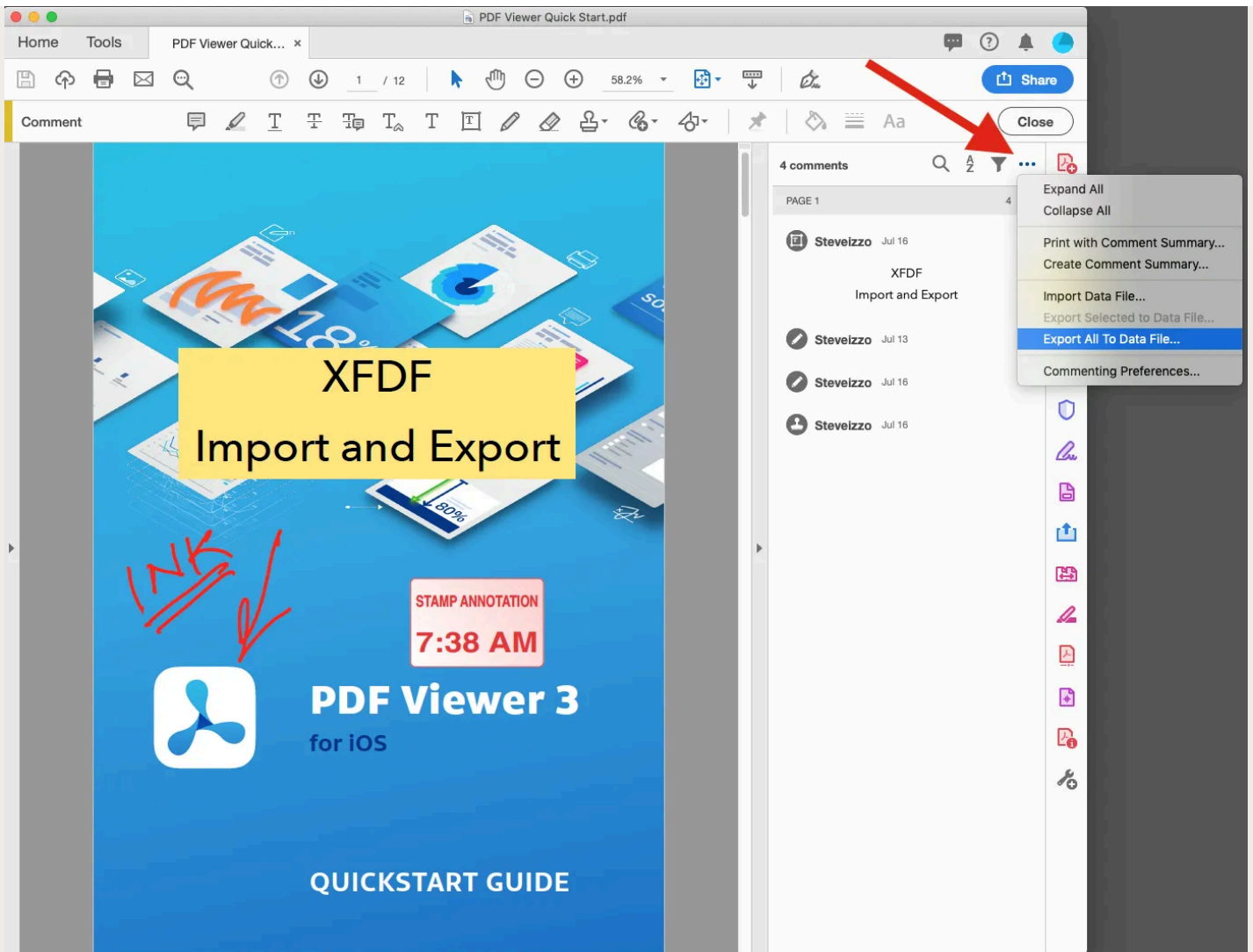
Much like the import XFDF, with the export XFDF, it's also possible to inherit from `WritableDataProvider` to implement custom writers for encryption.

## Exporting annotations to XFDF via Adobe Acrobat

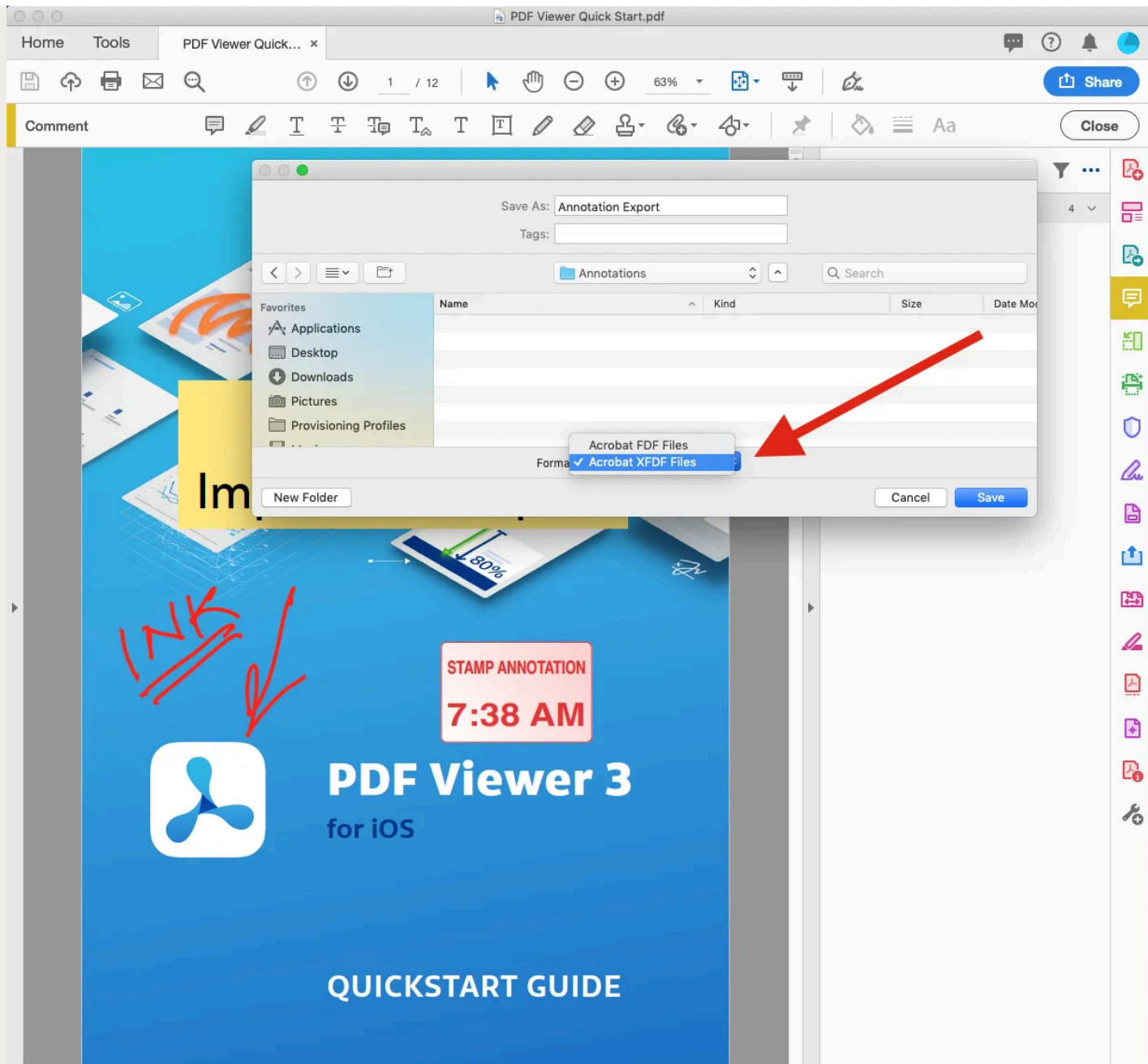
Adobe Acrobat can export annotations into XFDF. The export menu is part of the **Comments** tool and is accessed by opening the tool in the sidebar.



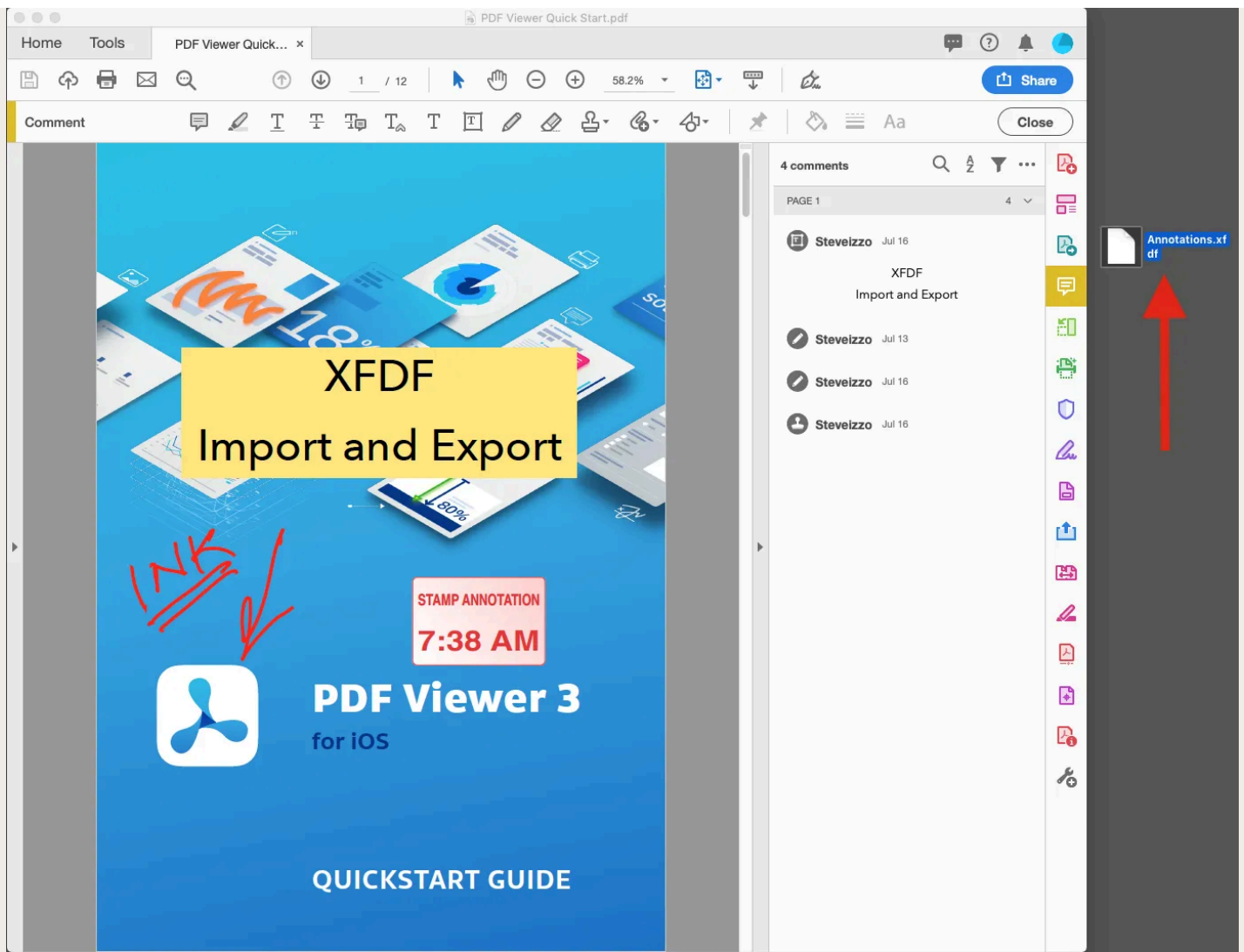
Access the export function by clicking the three dots and then choosing **Export All To Data File**.



- 1 At the bottom of the page, choose **Acrobat XFDF Files**.
- 2 Select the directory you wish to save the XFDF file to and name the file.
- 3 Click save.



A successful export will result in a file with an `.xpdf` extension.



## Importing annotations to XFDF via Adobe Acrobat

The export function is part of the **Comments** tool and is accessed by clicking its icon.

Click the three dots to open the import menu, and then click **Import Data File**.

Highlight the `.xdf` file you wish to import and click **Select**.



The import function completes with the annotations being placed on the document.

# Adobe Acrobat error conditions

ERROR DESCRIPTION	SCREENSHOT
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Damaged/missing document body

Damaged/missing description tag

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Missing document flag

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Was this helpful?

☒ YES

☐ NO

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