

## Free Software PDF Readers

What would you think about a sign on the highway saying “You need a Volkswagen to drive on this road. Contact your Volkswagen dealer for a gratis test drive – Your Government”? When it comes to software that opens PDF files, many public sector organisations do this every day. With the [pdfreaders.org](http://pdfreaders.org) campaign we have turned the spotlight on government organisations who behave in this way, exposing how frequent such advertisements for non-free software are. With the help of activists across Europe, we are contacting these organisations and explain to them how to improve their websites so that they respect our freedom.

### What was already achieved

Every day, public institutions advertise non-free software on their websites. With the help of our Fellows and of hundreds other Free Software activists, we have collected over one month 2286 bug reports coming from every countries in Europe.

Our *Petition For The Removal Of Proprietary Software Advertising On Public Institution Websites* was signed by 69 organisations, 57 businesses and 2228 individuals. If you haven't signed it yet, do it now: <http://fsfe.org/campaigns/pdfreaders/petition.en.html>

### What is currently being done: Contacting the public sector

Finding public bodies that advertise proprietary PDF readers was only the first step of the campaign. FSFE has sent a letter to all the public administrations on our list asking them to either remove their advertising for proprietary software or at least run equal advertising for Free Software.

### What you can do to help

If you discover a page of a public institution of administration that advertises for non-free Software and is not yet or doesn't appear as resolved on the list, don't hesitate to contact them on your own. You can for this purpose use our model letter.

Inform us about the institutions you're contacting, and the progress you're making.

### Our argumentation

- **It's a question of neutrality:** Public institutions should not engage in advertising. By recommending a single non-free program, public institutions are promoting the proprietary software model. When public bodies act as a marketing channel for a single company's product, something has gone wrong.
- **It's a question of freedom:** Public institutions should not ask citizens to use non-free software. Free Software is software that anyone can use, study, share and improve. These four freedoms give users the full control over the software. A government that exists to protect and preserve our freedom should not be asking us to use non-free software.
- **It's a question of Open Standards:** The versions of the PDF format which are Open Standards can be implemented by all PDF readers.

For more information about the campaign, our model letter, and a more detailed argumentation visit <http://www.fsfe.org/campaigns/pdfreaders/pdfreaders.html>.