



ABBYY FlexiCapture 8.0 Professional

Frequently asked questions

About the document

This document is provided as a general source information about the current positioning, functionality, rules of engagements, and how to sell, order ABBYY FlexiCapture 8.0 Professional. For any further information including gaining certification, project analysis or pricing please contact your local sales manager.

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General Information

1. What is FlexiCapture 8.0 Professional?

ABBYY FlexiCapture 8.0 Professional is the next generation of ABBYY's forms processing and data capture solution. It provides efficient and accurate extraction of data from forms and documents for input into database and business systems.

An easy-to-deploy, cost-effective yet powerful desktop solution, ABBYY FlexiCapture 8.0 Professional is designed to meet organizational and departmental paper-processing needs in a variety of industries including banking, insurance, education, healthcare, accounting, legal, and many more.

ABBYY FlexiCapture 8.0 Professional is the most comprehensive single product solution for data capture because it is capable of processing various combinations of document types and multi-page documents in a single stream without manual pre-sorting:

- structured documents or traditional fixed forms (questionnaires, surveys)
- semi-structured documents (invoices, purchase orders)
- unstructured documents (letters, contracts)

2. Why was FormReader renamed to FlexiCapture 8.0 Professional?

FlexiCapture is new name of FormReader data capture product line of ABBYY. ABBYY FlexiCapture 8.0 Professional is the next version of ABBYY FormReader 6.5 Desktop Edition product with new name.

The name FlexiCapture reflects the new functionality and future of the product which is capable to process not just traditional fixed forms but is flexible enough to capture any structured, semi-structured or unstructured document in a single stream.

New version number reflects the fact that FlexiCapture is based on the latest ABBYY 8.0 recognition technologies.

3. What is the difference between FlexiCapture Studio 1.5 and FlexiCapture 8.0?

FlexiCapture Studio is a design module of FormReader 6.5 that allows to create FlexiLayouts. FlexiCapture 8.0 is full-functional data capture application that processes all kind of documents including ones described with FlexiLayouts.

New version of FlexiCapture Studio 1.5 is renamed to FlexiLayout Studio 8.0 and is a module of FlexiCapture 8.0. FlexiLayout Studio 8.0 now has new interface Elements and new features like multi page templates.

4. What about FormReader?

The name "FormReader" will be slowly phased out of the ABBYY brands. For now, we keep the name FormReader when referring to the existing FormReader 6.5 product line products, which we will continue to sell until all editions of FlexiCapture 8.0 product line are released.

For current customers of ABBYY FormReader, ABBYY will continue to provide Partners with FormReader Licenses for their ongoing projects.

5. What are FlexiCapture 8.0 Professional launch milestones?

- March 15, 2007 – announcement of European preview during CeBIT in Germany
- April 2007 – Beta 1

- April 17, 2007 – worldwide announcement during AIIM in USA
- October 2007 – Release 1 for sales (English, Russian interfaces)
- Q1/Q2 2008 – Release 2 for sales (English, Russian, German, French interfaces)

6. Is there an Enterprise Edition of FlexiCapture 8.0?

Besides ABBYY FlexiCapture 8.0 Professional edition ABBYY is going to release enterprise-level edition of ABBYY FlexiCapture 8.0. This edition will be the successor of ABBYY FormReader 6.5 Enterprise Edition as a powerful, manageable and scalable distributed solution intended for medium-to-high businesses and government projects.

The launch of ABBYY FlexiCapture 8.0 enterprise-level edition is scheduled in summer of 2008. Until the new enterprise-level edition is released ABBYY will sold FormReader 6.5 Enterprise Edition for those customers who need enterprise-level features such as distributed processing, automatic workflow and load balancing, advanced security and remote operations support.

7. Is there a Developer Edition (API) of FlexiCapture 8.0?

There will be neither Developer Edition nor API like it was available in ABBYY FormReader 6.5. Instead, ABBYY FlexiCapture 8.0 Professional provides easy yet powerful tools to cover the most common customization needs:

- interface customization options for operator view
- industry-standard scripting languages to seamlessly integrate FlexiCapture with any type of image sources, backend systems, or databases

If you want to create your own application with FlexiCapture technology, the right product for this is ABBYY FineReader Engine, which new version will contain FlexiCapture 8.0 components to simplify such development.

So you can start development of all the needed template functionality today with FlexiCapture 8.0 and get the tight integration with next FineReader Engine.

8. What are key new features of FlexiCapture 8.0 Professional?

FlexiCapture 8.0 is a completely new designed application based on the award winning, artificial intelligence technology developed by ABBYY. Key new features include:

Extended list of supported document types and capture scenarios

- advanced multi-paging for both fixed and semi-structured documents (tables on several pages, repeatable pages, flexible order of pages)
- support of unstructured documents and related scenarios, such as full-text recognition, indexing or archiving)
- separation of batches or documents by empty, bar-code or patch-code sheets

Enhanced usability of installation, deployment and usage

- radical automation and simplification of template creation
- comfortable and customizable verification and validation views for Operators
- dedicated Operator mode to simplify learning and every-day processing
- dedicated Administrator mode to simplify implementation and maintenance
- import profiles

9. What are the unique selling points of FlexiCapture 8.0 Professional?

The strength of FlexiCapture 8.0 Professional lies in the unique combination of simplicity and ease of deployment of the true desktop solution with powerful functionality and award-winning accuracy.

USPs for End-users:

- Single entry point for any kind of paper documents in one product
- Speed your business processes by automating them and eliminating manual data entry
- Rapid ROI and low total cost of ownership
- Reduce implementation, maintenance, and training costs
- Easily expandable: capture more types of documents all over the company
- Easy scalability across small workgroups

USPs for Partners:

- Single product for any number of solutions: form processing, accounts payable automation, archiving, etc.
- Easy to switch to a new vertical application with new documents types
- Easy to learn and demonstrate
- Sell and deploy solutions quickly
- Address application with very strong requirements to the quality of data
- Generate new revenue streams by providing customization and integration services

10. What are structured/semi-structured/unstructured documents?

Structured documents are documents where the information fields are always have the same location on the page. Typical examples are forms and questionnaires completed by hand. FlexiCapture 8.0 processes such documents by using fixed layouts.

Semi-structured documents contain the same information but it may be located on different positions within a document. Typical examples are invoices or purchase orders. FlexiCapture uses flexible layouts called FlexiLayouts to locate the information and extract valuable data.

Unstructured documents are all kind of documents that contain mainly unstructured text or image information. Typical examples are letters and contracts. In FlexiCapture, such documents are indexed (automatically or manually) and then saved as images or searchable PDF files for further archiving.

Technical Product Information

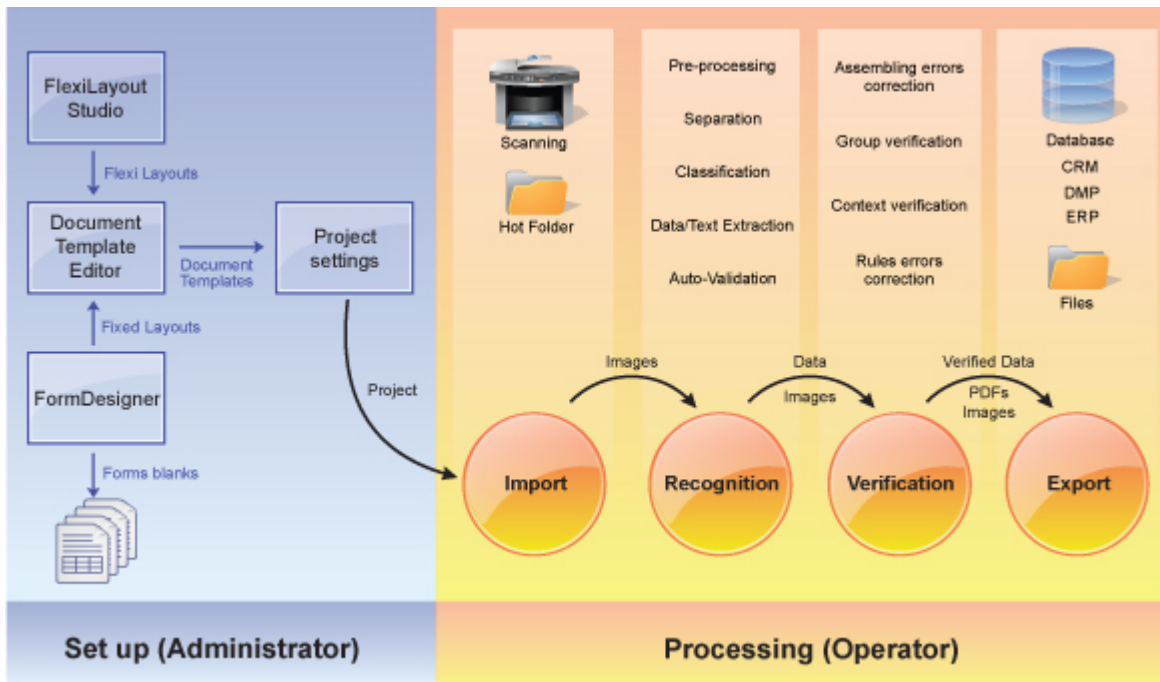
11. What is the general architecture of ABBYY FlexiCapture 8.0 Professional?

ABBYY FlexiCapture 8.0 Professional is the single desktop application that delivers execution of a full range of data capture capabilities from a single workstation.

All operations performed by the product can be divided into two main stages:

- **Setup** stage that allows to prepare the system to perform every-day processing operations
- **Processing** stage that allows to accomplish every-day processing operations.

The various functions can be understood through the following diagram:



12. What is FormDesigner?

ABBYY FormDesigner is a standalone design tool that allows to create blanks on machine-readable forms to be printed, completed manually and then processed in ABBYY FlexiCapture. The forms created in FormDesigner are tightly integrated into FlexiCapture so that they automatically generate appropriate fixed layouts in Document Templates.

13. What is FlexiLayout Studio?

ABBYY FlexiLayout Studio is the new name of ABBYY FlexiCapture Studio add-on of FormReader 6.5. This is the standalone design tool that allows to create FlexiLayouts that enable dynamic location of data fields on semi-structured documents with various layouts. FlexiLayouts are automatically imported in Document Templates to define flexible layouts.

14. What is Document Template Editor for?

Document Template Editor is the integrated design tool that allows to create Document Templates for various types of multi-page documents – structured, semi-structured, unstructured, and their mix. Document Template is a set of layouts (fixed or flexible), fields settings, validation rules and other options that define the way appropriate document type is identified and processed by FlexiCapture.

15. What is the new “Document-Level” approach and why is it important?

FlexiCapture 8.0 now works on a Document-level. This means that Document (instead of Page) becomes the main entity to work with. Documents can be one- or multi-paged, all processing options are applied to the whole document. Each document type is identified by Document Template. FlexiCapture will know what type of form or document it is and when a new document starts, or if there is an attached supporting document, for example.

That means the Document Level approach is the main reason we can process multiple page documents and perform automatic document classification without pre-sorting.

16. What is a Batch?

Batch is a logical (defined by user) collection of images and the results of their processing.

17. What is Project?

Project is a collection of Documents Templates, Batches and general processing settings. The set of Document Templates is common for all batches in the Project. A Project is required to start the FlexiCapture 8.0.

Projects can be transferred as single entities between several copies of the program. Projects can also be shared between several copies of the program to perform network operations with the same project settings.

18. What are Data Types?

Data Type is a set of symbols, alphabets, dictionaries or formats that specify the nature of data in a field. Predefined set of Data Types includes more than 180 natural languages, numbers, names and other including regional settings. The more precise are Data Type settings for a field the more accurate recognition results will be received.

19. Is it possible to extract a signature from a document and save it as a separate image?

Using FlexiCapture technology you can exactly locate the position where the information that you are looking for is located. Therefore you can use textual information, graphical elements (lines or logos), tables, or even space between paragraphs. Once you have found the location in the document – normally a rectangle - OCR can be performed. But it is also possible to export the part of the original image because you would like to store the signature(s) on the document in your ECM System.

20. How does FlexiCapture 8.0 deal with color images?

FlexiCapture 8.0 can import and export color images but converts them to bi-tonal images before recognition.

21. How scalable is FlexiCapture 8.0?

Customers can use multiple copies of FlexiCapture 8.0 to work together on a work group level on the same files. So they can increase the volume and speed of processing if needed.

Accuracy and Performance

22. How fast is FlexiCapture 8.0?

The speed of FlexiCapture 8.0 depends on the quality and complexity of the scanned documents, image pre-processing options, fixed or flexible layout complexity, computer characteristics as well as other factors.

23. How accurate is FlexiCapture 8.0?

FlexiCapture is based on the latest ABBYY OCR, ICR, OBR, OMR recognition technologies. ABBYY has received hundreds of awards for its recognition quality.

Predefined data types (text, number, name, and address), language definitions, predefined and custom dictionaries, format settings, writing styles are applied to the fields to get the best highest recognition quality.

Uncertainly recognized characters can be displayed for three-stage manual verification by an operator that excludes error probability.

In addition, validation rules can be applied to data to check logical integrity of the data.

Result: FlexiCapture 8.0 offers a set of effective tools to provide you with a very high accuracy. If you need accuracy up to 99,99 % then you can set up FlexiCapture 8.0 in a way that you will get it.

Compatibility issues

24. How easy is to migrate from FormReader 6.5 Desktop Edition to FlexiCapture 8.0 Professional?

Templates created in FormReader 6.5 can be automatically imported to FlexiCapture 8.0. Both fixed and flexible layouts with fields and their names are imported completely. Rules and data types settings can be partly missed during importing. The importing status report will be available to track the import results.

25. How easy is to migrate from FlexiCapture 8.0 Professional and future enterprise-level edition of FlexiCapture?

Projects created in FlexiCapture 8.0 Professional will be fully compatible with enterprise-level edition.

26. Do FlexiLayouts created in FlexiCapture Studio 1.5 are compatible with FlexiCapture 8.0?

FlexiLayouts created in FlexiCapture Studio 1.5 are fully compatible with both FlexiCapture 8.0 and FlexiLayout Studio 8.0.

27. Is FlexiCapture 8.0 Vista compatible?

FlexiCapture 8.0 Professional supports VISTA and is optimized to run under this OS.

Positioning within the ABBYY product family

28. When enterprise-level edition of ABBYY data capture product should be recommended?

FlexiCapture 8.0 Professional is a very powerful desktop application for data capture and document conversion. It is scalable because multiple copies can work on the same project. In some big projects this scalability is not enough, because the customer needs several dedicated workstations for verification with different access rights to the processed documents and data. For this kind of installation you should use ABBYY FormReader 6.5 Enterprise Edition or future FlexiCapture 8.0 enterprise-level edition.

29. What is difference between ABBYY FlexiCapture 8.0 and ABBYY FineReader ?

ABBYY FineReader is a well known desktop OCR Application intended for individual conversion of image- or paper-based text documents (articles, contracts) to editable formats like DOC, XLS or searchable PDF. FlexiCapture 8.0 is designed for high-volume corporate data and document capture needs. It is able to process streams of multiple types of documents such as forms, semi-structured and unstructured documents and extract from them valuable data and information for use in corporate databases and information systems. FlexiCapture 8.0 is also able to convert a scanned document into a searchable PDF, but the documents are usually automatically classified and indexed or come as attachments such as a CV attached to an employment application, or an addendum to an invoice.

30. What is difference between ABBYY FlexiCapture 8.0 and ABBYY Recognition Server?

ABBYY Recognition Server is a robust server-based solution for automating the OCR and PDF conversion process in enterprise environments. It is capable of performing multiple tasks simultaneously across an enterprise and monitoring them from a single central administration point. In comparison with the Recognition Server, FlexiCapture 8.0 provides more powerful data capture, form processing and automated classification capabilities by using unique FlexiCapture technology and powerful interfaces for data verification.

31. Is it possible to use FlexiCapture 8.0 technology with ABBYY FineReader Engine?

Support for FlexiCapture 8.0 templates in ABBYY FineReader Engine will be available after FlexiCapture 8.0 is shipped. Once you have a template which works perfectly on FCS 8.0 than FRE will manage to work with it as well.

Evaluations

32. Is there a trial version of FlexiCapture 8.0?

Yes, FlexiCapture 8.0 has Trial License that has time and productivity limitations. It is possible to get a Trial Licence of FlexiCapture 8.0 after signing a Trial Licence Agreement. Please contact ABBYY or a certified FlexiCapture 8.0 Reseller.

33. Are there demo-samples to try FlexiCapture?

Yes, FlexiCapture 8.0 includes a set of pre-defined Projects with common forms and documents that can be used to try and understand the product capabilities.

34. How do I upgrade from a Trial License?

Once you purchased a full FlexiCapture 8.0 licence you will get new License key. Once the key is activated on the machine you can continue your work with the installed version of FlexiCapture 8.0.

Demos

35. Is a non-interactive self-running demonstration is available?

Yes, such demos are provided on the download Page. A for quick reference guide is installed with the product.

Training and Certification

36. How can I become a certified ABBYY FlexiCapture 8.0 Partner?

ABBYY offers certification Training on a regular base.

<http://www.abbyeu.com/training/>

Please contact ABBYY or your certified FlexiCapture 8.0 Reseller for details.

37. Is certification required to sell FlexiCapture 8.0?

Yes, to be a reseller of FlexiCapture 8.0 you have to pass a certification training. FlexiCapture is very powerful and offer a lot of features that help you building a great solution for the customers need. So ABBYY relies on certified Partners to implement a FlexiCapture installation.

38. Is certification discounted when we a company certifies more than employee for FlexiCapture 8.0?

Yes, if you plan to certify several employees of you company then you will get a discount. Please contact ABBYY or your certified FlexiCapture 8.0 Reseller for details.

Support and Upgrades

39. Is there any support form ABBYY if I have problems?

ABBYY will provide technical support for all certified resellers. If a certified reseller sold a FlexiCapture 8.0 Licence to an end customer then the reseller has to provide the first level support to the customer.

40. Is there Upgrade assurance?

Yes, FlexiCapture 8.0 customer can order the service from ABBYY.

41. What is SMUA?

SMUA is Support Maintenance and Upgrade Assurance. ABBYY provide the service to FlexiCapture 8.0 customers after signing agreement.

Licensing and Pricing

42. How is FlexiCapture 8.0 licensed?

FlexiCapture is licensed per workstation. Each license can have page, time or functionality limitations depending on the ABBYY license policy in a region.

43. How is FlexiCapture 8.0 priced?

Please contact ABBYY or your certified FlexiCapture 8.0 Reseller for details.

44. How is upgrade assurance priced?

Please contact ABBYY or your certified FlexiCapture 8.0 Reseller for details.