

# PRONTOSign™ Product Overview

Product Brief



The banner features a background of overlapping, semi-transparent documents in shades of green and blue. The documents are slightly offset and appear to be floating in a 3D space. One document in the upper right is clearly visible, showing a 'TEST RESULTS' section with a table and some text. Another document in the center has the word 'CONTRACT' visible. The overall aesthetic is clean, modern, and professional, suggesting a focus on digital business transactions.

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### About AlphaTrust

We pioneered electronic signature solutions in 1998, and since then our solutions have processed millions of critical business transactions each year for satisfied customers in banking, insurance, financial services, and other industries. We are trusted by some of the largest enterprise and service provider companies globally.

Our solutions easily integrate with existing applications enabling high volume, digital transaction management to reduce costs and dramatically improve the overall customer experience while adhering to strict regulatory and compliance requirements.

Through continuous innovation we are delivering the most advanced and cost effective eSignature workflow orchestration solutions on the market.

To learn more, visit [www.alphatrust.com](http://www.alphatrust.com) and follow us on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook.

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# Introduction

AlphaTrust's PRONTOSign™, launched in 2011, is a second-generation electronic signature workflow orchestration platform that automates the creation of legally enforceable, permanent business records that are the commercial and legal equivalent of paper records, including support for electronic signatures that comply with a variety of laws and regulations around the world.

AlphaTrust's legacy platform, PRONTO™ ERSS, was launched in 2001 and is still in production use today.

This document is written for information technology and business process professionals (system analysts, system and application architects, developers) to provide an overview of PRONTOSign™ transaction processing and how it integrates into existing or new business applications.

# Product Overview

Creating enforceable electronic transactions is a major long-term initiative for enterprise and governmental organizations. Except for a few specialized markets, most business transactions are still documented on paper today. The credit / debit card industry has created a method for enforceable electronic transactions using electronic networks over the last 25 years. It is effective for small value purchases. Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) exists in certain vertical markets among large enterprises.

Until recently there was not a method to effectively create the electronic equivalent of a binding commercial or governmental transaction that could replace paper documentation, and in many cases, the requirement for ink signatures on that documentation. Even within organizations, there are many internal processes that require documented approval, acknowledgement, or acceptance.

This documentation, as well, must meet standards for accountability, enforceability, permanence, auditability, and document retention. Business documents and records that evidence transactions have a life cycle divided into three phases:

- Phase 1: Creation, collaboration and review: creating and putting a transaction record in final form.
- Phase 2: Approval, acknowledgement or acceptance: creating evidence of transaction execution, often through the use of signatures or initials.
- Phase 3: Distribution, storage and destruction: mailing, filing, archiving and document retention.

In today's business environment, most of Phase 1 of the transaction record life cycle has been automated. Many transaction records are generated by automated systems such as desktop software (i.e. word processing and spreadsheet software), web-based forms, and workflow as well as large-scale computer systems. Some records, mostly forms, are created on paper. The move to automated systems for phase 1 records has saved organizations considerable time and money.

Phase 2, the transaction execution phase, could not be automated in the business environment until the legal framework supporting electronic document and record enforceability was in place. The only alternative method was to use private, contractual systems to gain enforceability (as credit card and EDI systems have used). Over the past several years the legal framework for enforceable electronic records has fallen into place. Both statutory legislation and administrative regulations have been put in place in most developed countries (including the USA, Canada, Mexico, Japan, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, India, Russia and the European Union, among others) that provide for the use, acceptance, and enforceability of electronic records and electronic signatures.

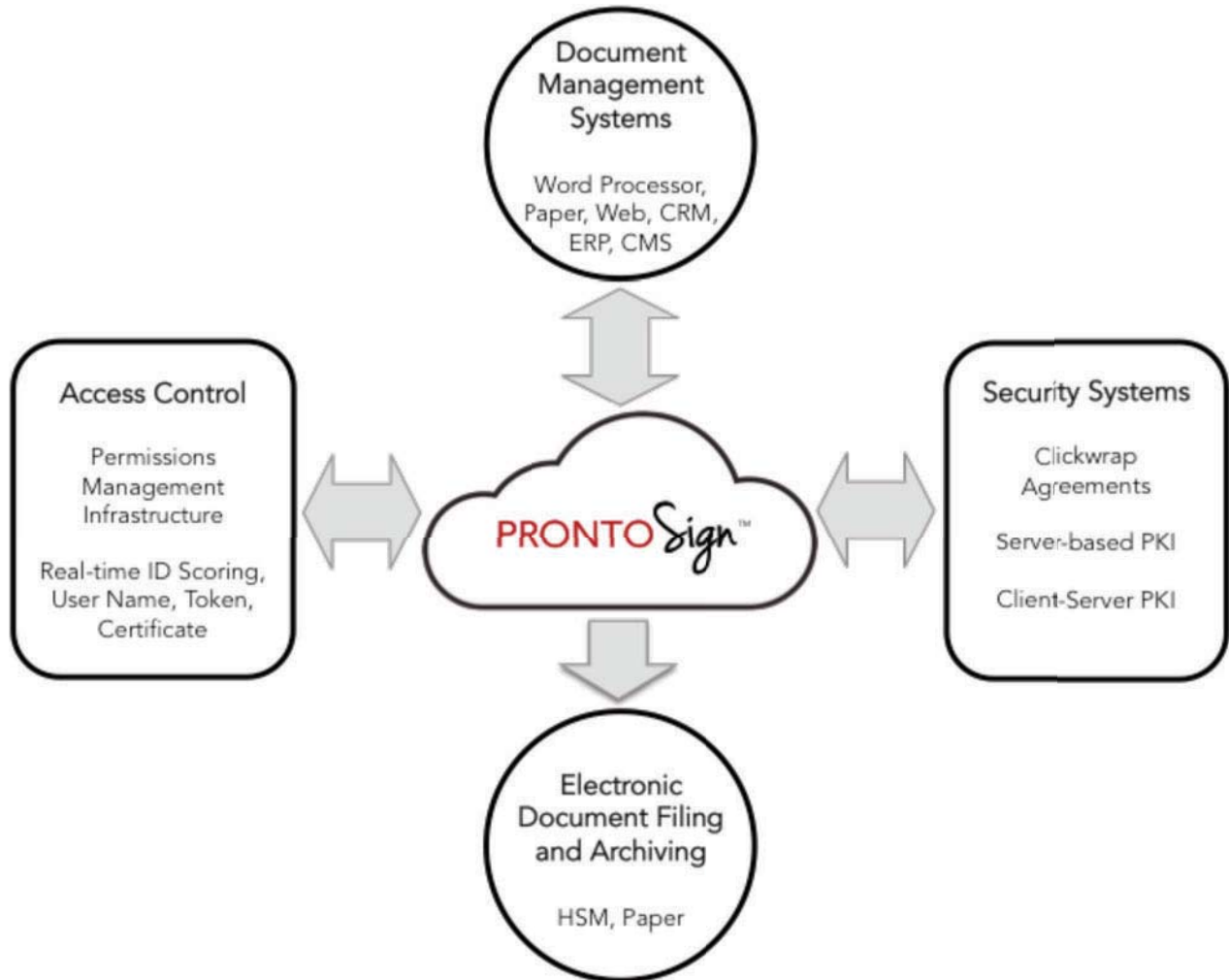
PRONTOSign™ provides organizations with enterprise wide capability for Phase 2 and certain Phase 3 functions. These functions include:

- Obtaining proper, enforceable electronic signatures on transaction documents and records.
- Authenticating signers (knowing who they are).
- Translating documents and records into human readable formats suitable for archival,

filing and document retention requirements.

- Distribution of executed documents and transaction records.
- Archival of original transaction documents and records.

PRONTOSign™ easily integrates with existing systems to enable multiple, fully automated use cases digital transaction management as highlighted in the graphic below.



PRONTOSign™ is offered to enterprises for operation in their computing environments on-premise, or as the private cloud solution, PRONTOSign™ ONLINE. PRONTOSign™ is also licensed to third party software and services companies as OEM software for inclusion in their end user software products.

# Transaction Processing

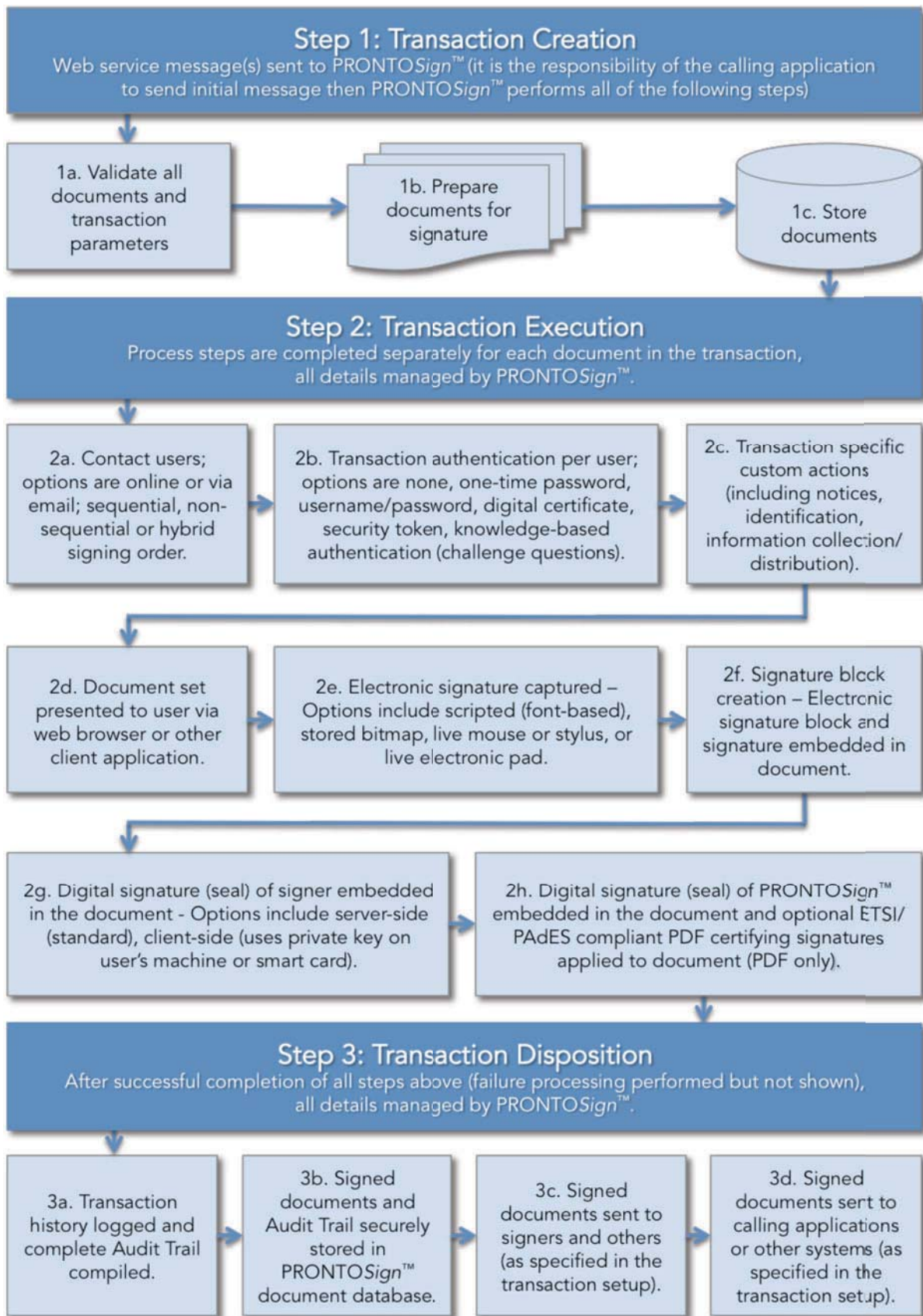
All PRONTOSign™ transaction processing centers around the unit of work called the “transaction”. Each transaction in PRONTOSign™ may have one or many documents associated with it. Each document may have one or more tasks to be performed by participants associated with that document. Participants can have one or many tasks such as entering form data, uploading a file, acknowledging a disclosure, reviewing, initialing or signing a document, among others.

Transaction processing consists of three logical “primary steps”:

- Step 1: Transaction Creation
- Step 2: Transaction Execution
- Step 3: Transaction Disposition

In addition to transaction processing, PRONTOSign™ also supports administrative functions for user management, monitoring, reporting, logging, and accounting. Each “primary step” has mandatory and optional “processing steps”.

The following diagram illustrates a typical PRONTOSign™ transaction processing. Please also review the additional per step descriptions on the following page:





# Transaction Processing Steps

1. Software applications communicate with PRONTOSign™ via the Web Services (WS-I, WS-\*, WCF) Application Programming Interface (API). The Web Service message used to create a PRONTOSign™ transaction specifies all the parameters required for transaction completion including document information, signer information and communication methods.
  - 1a. Documents processed using PRONTOSign™ are formatted as either HTML documents (HTML 3.2, HTML 4.0, HTML 4.01, XHTML 1.0, HTML 5) or Adobe Acrobat® PDF documents. HTML is used to avoid the need for client side software, to meet governmental requirements for the use of open standard data formats as well as accessibility requirements for users (imposed by law and regulation). Due to advances in HTML rendering over the last several years (CSS1 / CSS2 / CSS3) it is usually quite easy to provide precise document layout in HTML that will meet specific formatting requirements. PRONTOSign™ validates the formatting of the document by parsing the documents submitted in the transaction and making sure they conform to processing requirements (see below). Viewing signed Adobe® PDF documents requires that users have the free Adobe® Reader (version 7 or higher is required) or Adobe Acrobat®. Adobe® Reader (and any other client side technology other than a Web browser) is not required to participate in any signing or other PRONTOSign™ process.
  - 1b. Signature and / or initial placeholders are inserted into each document at the location specified by the calling application. If no locations are specified, the signatures are added at the bottom of the document.
  - 1c. Documents are stored within the PRONTOSign™ document database.
- 2a. PRONTOSign™ contacts each user (signers and reviewers) and requests that they sign or review their document. In the case of online users (i.e. users who have just completed a form or document and will sign immediately), the user will be entering the signing process immediately. In the case of other business processes, each user will be contacted by PRONTOSign™ via email or via placement of a notification at a file share location. PRONTOSign™ can be configured to retry at set intervals and / or to expire the transaction after a set time.
- 2b. PRONTOSign™ supports several methods of access control (identification and authentication of signers). PRONTOSign™ defines two types of users: registered and unregistered. Registered users have a signature profile stored on the PRONTOSign™. Registered users have more options available to them, such as additional access control options, and stored signature bitmaps. Registered users are typically organizational employees or members of a community of interest who use the server regularly. Unregistered users are typically casual Internet users. Unregistered users have the following authentication options: none, one-time password, and real-time knowledge-based authentication using challenge questions (requires the use of a third party data reporting service). Registered users have the following access control options: none, user name / password, digital certificate or integration with single sign-on systems.
- 2c. Signer Notice, Identification and Information Collection – some applications (such as consumer applications) require that users are informed and agree to participate in electronic transactions. Also, certain transactions may request that the user supply their name and identification information to be used in the transaction. More complex

transactions can include acknowledgement of disclosures or terms and conditions, collection of any type of information with a variety of options including checkbox, check box list, comment, date picker, drop down list, email address, hidden field, phone, radio button list, separator (for display only), social security number, text area, and textbox, among others. Users can also be asked to upload a document such as a copy of a driver's license. The transaction can also provide materials to the user such as an employee handbook.

- 2d. A critical part of the signing process (a legal / regulatory process requirement) is the proper presentation of the actual document to the signer along with a request for their signature.
- 2e. Electronic Signature Capture – PRONTOSign™ supports four methods of electronic signature capture (as opposed to digital signature computation) and display:
- *Scripted*: The user's name is rendered in a blue, script-based font along with their signature block information. The user's name is rendered in any font available on the server.
  - *Registered*: A bitmap image of the registered user's handwritten signature is displayed using a GIF or JPG image stored in their signature profile. This requires that an image of their handwritten signature be scanned and stored in the signature profile. Otherwise, a standard signature is used.
  - *Mouse or Stylus*: Using a live "handwritten" (mouse-written) signature. PRONTOSign™ converts the captured signature into an image that is embedded in the document for display. This type also includes "finger written" signatures, such as when using touch sensitive mobile tablet and phone devices.
  - *Signature Pad*: This method captures a live handwritten signature using an electronic signature pad. In addition to capturing a picture of the handwritten signature, biometric signature information (speed, pressure, stroke, direction) is captured as well and can be used for later verification. This option requires the use of an electronic signature pad supported by PRONTOSign™ (currently SigGem or SigLite pads from Topaz Systems ([www.topazsystems.com](http://www.topazsystems.com))).
- 2f. Once the signature is submitted by the signer, PRONTOSign™ creates the signature block and inserts it into the document. At a minimum the signature block includes the printed name and the electronic signature. Additional signature block data can be includes such as date/time signed (with a variety of formats), email address, IP address, organization, PRONTOSign™ DocumentID, PRONTOSign™ TaskID, title and even custom text of your choosing.
- 2g. A digital signature is computed for the document (the information displayed to the signer) and the signer's private key is used to digitally seal the document as they viewed it. Normally, signers do not possess a PKI-based digital signature key and digital certificate. In this case, the PRONTOSign™ uses its key and certificate to seal the document. The transaction can be configured to use the private key on the signer's computer (software-based or smart card-based). PRONTOSign™ currently supports client side digital signature operations on the Microsoft Windows platform using Microsoft CryptoAPI v2 operations. If you required integration with other PKI systems please contact AlphaTrust. A PKI digital signature keyset (digital certificate + private key) is supplied with each instance of the software. A client may elect to use a keyset issued from any PKI system if prefers. PRONTOSign™ supports standard X.509v3 digital certificates with a 1024 bit or higher RSA public key. Standard digital signing operations use the Microsoft FIPS certified

cryptographic providers on the Windows Server operating system. Cryptographic digital signing operations involve hashing the data to be signed (usually the bytes of a PDF documents) using a SHA-1 has algorithm. The hash is then encrypted by means of the RSA algorithm using the private key of the public-private keyset assigned to the software instance. This signed data blob is then stored as an artifact of the transaction so that is may later be used to verify the authenticity (data integrity) of document by means of a standard digital signature verification process using the public key contained within the digital certificate associated with the public key of the public-private keyset assigned to the software instance.

- 2h. In addition to the digital signature (seal) of each individual signer, the PRONTOSign™ also computes a digital signature (over the document and signature information) to serve as witness to the transaction and maintain document integrity over the entire transaction. PRONTOSign™, as an option, may also embed a special PDF certifying digital signature compliant with long-term validation (LTV) standards (all PKI artifacts embedded per EU ETSI / PAdES standards). This permits a PDF document to be self-validating – anyone can determine the document’s validity without reference to any other software or online system, even decades into the future. Note: this special signature type is different than a standard PDF certifying signature which requires online systems to validate and whose PKI artifacts expire. Contact AlphaTrust for further details.
- 3a. PRONTOSign™ logs all transaction information and audit trail history in its SQL database.
- 3b. All documents are stored in the PRONTOSign™ document database in serial order by transaction number.
- 3c. If the transaction has been defined to send copies to signers or other designated participants, PRONTOSign™ will send a copy of all documents in the transaction via email or Web download to the applicable parties.
- 3d. The transaction may also be configured to send the transaction (and signed documents) to another information system via a store and forward process, or via email.

# Document Format Requirements

PRONTOSign™ processes HTML and Adobe PDF documents. PRONTOSign™ can process HTML documents conformant to HTML 3.2, HTML 4.0, HTML 4.01, XHTML 1.0, and HTML 5 or PDF documents in PDF 1.3 through 1.8 formats. Documents in other formats should be converted to HTML or PDF prior to submission to PRONTOSign™. Documents may be authored according to this specification in other data formats and using other tools, such as Microsoft Word. Documents must be saved to HTML or PDF format prior to submission to PRONTOSign™, or use server side format conversion tools.

# Standards Compliance

AlphaTrust is committed to open standards, both technical and legal/regulatory.

PRONTOSign™ actively supports technical standards initiatives including:

- W3C: HTML 4.01                      Hypertext Markup Language
- W3C: XHTML 1.0                    Extensible HyperText Markup Language
- W3C: HTML5                         A vocabulary and associated APIs for HTML and XHTML
- W3C: CSS Level 1/2/3               Cascading Style Sheets
- W3C: XML 1.0                        Extensible markup Language
- W3C: XML Namespaces             Namespaces in XML
- W3C: WCAG 1.0, 2.0                Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
- W3C: WAI-ARIA                      Web Accessibility Initiative - Rich Internet Application Suite
- USA: Section 508                    Rehabilitation Act (Accessibility Requirements)
- IETF: PKIX PFC 3270                X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Certificate and CRL Profile

PRONTOSign™ actively supports legal and regulatory standards including:

- USA: E-SIGN                         Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act
- USA: UETA                            Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (State law)
- USA: FDA                              21 CFR 11 Electronic Signature Regulations
- USA: HHS-HIPAA                    HIPAA Security Standards (Proposed)
- USA: SEC / NASD                    Electronic Signature and Records Standards (Brokerage)
- USA: Federal Reserve/OCC        Electronic Records Standards
- USA: GPEA                            Government Paperwork Elimination Act
- Canada:                                Electronic Commerce Act
- EU: ESD                                EU Electronic Signatures Directive (all EU Countries)
- EU: eIDAS                             Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council
- Hong Kong                            Electronic Transactions Ordinance
- India                                    Information Technology Act
- Japan                                    Law Concerning Electronic Signatures
- Australia                              Electronic Transactions Act
- Singapore                            Electronic Transactions Act
- South Korea                          Basic Law on Electronic Commerce
- Others                                 Contact AlphaTrust to inquire

# Electronic Signatures and Digital Signatures

You have likely heard these terms used interchangeably. In reality, they are very different, and the fact that both terms use the word “signature” has caused no end of confusion.

An electronic signature is a legal concept for using an electronic symbol to represent a person’s volitional consent to be bound to the terms of a document. What you must achieve with any business process that requires an enforceable document is to obtain a legally valid electronic signature for that document using the proper processes. This is what PRONTOSign™ is designed to do.

A digital signature is a technical security concept for a data integrity process using cryptographic data hashing and encryption. Simply applying a digital signature process to the data of a document will generally not result in an enforceable electronic signature. Digital signatures are a very important security tool and PRONTOSign™ uses digital signature technology in its electronic signature processes.

# No End User Software Requirements

One of the strengths of the PRONTOSign™ architecture is that the only user software requirement is a web browser for both a mobile and a desktop environment. PRONTOSign™ does not use any client side software, plug-ins, Java code, ActiveX controls, or similar technology. It supports wireless touch devices such as smartphones and tablets (Apple iOS, Android, Windows and Blackberry OS), as well as standard PC and Mac desktop and laptop computers. When using the optional client-side digital certificate capability, PRONTOSign™ requires Internet Explorer v9.0 or higher on the desktop. Adobe Acrobat® Reader v7.0 or higher is required for viewing signed Adobe® PDF documents, but is not required for the review and signing process.

## Typical Uses

PRONTO*Sign*<sup>™</sup> is typically integrated into web-based business process workflows to perform the function of creating legally enforceable documents including the proper gathering of electronic signatures from all parties to a transaction. The software is broadly applicable to any business process requiring documents or records in permanent form. PRONTO*Sign*<sup>™</sup> is easily extended to hundreds of additional use cases across an enterprise's various groups or business units.



## Further Information

Thank you for your interest in AlphaTrust products and services. For further information, visit [www.alphatrust.com](http://www.alphatrust.com), call us at +1.214.234.9200, option 1, or send us an email at [info@alphatrust.com](mailto:info@alphatrust.com).

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