

Oxofolio and Adobe Acrobat, compared

What a firm gains, and what it gives up, by moving confidential document work off a cloud-tethered suite

For practice owners and IT leads at audit, accounting and legal firms | 08 September 2026

These are not two versions of the same product. Acrobat is a mature, cloud-integrated suite that edits, signs and publishes documents. Oxofolio is a local workbench that processes folders of them and never opens a network socket. A firm that needs the first will not be served by the second.

This paper sets out what each is built for, what the licence requires of a machine, and — the part most comparisons leave out — the work Oxofolio refuses to do. Every claim about Adobe below is taken from Adobe's own pricing and support pages, dated and linked, because a comparison a reader cannot check is an advertisement.

1. Two products, two different jobs

Adobe Acrobat is a document suite. Its centre of gravity is a single file on a canvas: editing words and fonts in place, building interactive forms, preparing artwork for commercial print, collecting signatures through Acrobat Sign, and carrying all of it across desktop, web and mobile.

Oxofolio is a workbench. Its centre of gravity is a folder: the two hundred files a client sent for one engagement, opened together and processed in a pass — unlocked, compressed, redacted, converted, sampled, sealed — on the machine in front of you, by an application that opens no network sockets at all.

That difference decides most of what follows. A firm whose document work is *authoring* should keep Acrobat. A firm whose document work is *handling what other people sent* is paying a suite price for a small part of a suite, and paying it into a cloud it may not want the files near.

The honest version of this comparison has to concede the first paragraph before it argues the second. Acrobat does several things Oxofolio does not do at all, listed in section 5.

2. What each one costs

Adobe's Indian pricing, from Adobe's own page on 8 September 2026:

	OXOFOLIO	ACROBAT STANDARD	ACROBAT PRO
Annual, prepaid	Rs 999 per seat, incl. 18% GST	Rs 5,734.80, incl. GST	Rs 7,660.56, incl. GST
Monthly	Not offered	Rs 477.90, incl. GST	Rs 638.38, incl. GST
Five seats, a year	Rs 4,499 for the Team tier	Rs 28,674	Rs 38,302
Platforms per licence	macOS, Windows and Linux	Windows and macOS	Windows and macOS
Free trial	14 days, no account	7 days, Adobe ID required	7 days, Adobe ID required

A five-seat practice pays Rs 4,499 a year for Oxofolio against Rs 38,302 for Acrobat Pro. That gap is real, and it is also the least interesting thing on this page: a firm that needs Acrobat's authoring tools should buy Acrobat, and Rs 33,000 is not a reason to work in a way that does not fit.

The comparison worth making is narrower. If Acrobat is on the desktop to unlock, compress, combine, redact and convert what clients send — which in a great many practices is exactly why it is there — then the suite is being bought for a fraction of itself.

3. What the licence requires of the machine

This is where the two products differ in a way that survives any price change, and it is worth being precise rather than dramatic about it.

Acrobat, per Adobe's documentation

- A subscription copy connects to the internet on first launch to license, and revalidates **every 30 days** thereafter.
- A permanently offline machine must complete an **offline activation within 7 days** of first launch, by carrying a request code to an internet-connected device and a response code back.
- A perpetual licence — Acrobat Pro 2024 — installs to the desktop and, once activated, runs offline for the term. If offline operation is the requirement, this is the Adobe answer to it.
- Starting even the trial requires an Adobe ID.

Oxofolio

- The licence is a signed file. Your copy verifies the signature locally, against a public key compiled into the build; there is no activation call, on the first launch or ever.
- There is no account. Nothing to register, no identity system to integrate, no sign-in before the application will open a file.
- The application opens no network sockets. A check runs before every release and fails the build if any shipped source so much as imports a networking library, so it is a property of the artefact rather than a promise someone has to keep.

For most firms on a normal corporate network, a 30-day revalidation is a non-event. It matters in two situations: an air-gapped or tightly egress-filtered environment, where every outbound destination has to be justified to whoever runs the firewall, and an audit conversation where the question is not *does it phone*

home but what can it send.

Adobe facts in this section are from Adobe's Acrobat pricing page and its help article on internet connectivity and the offline grace period, both read on 8 September 2026. Adobe changes prices and terms; check them rather than trusting a vendor's summary — including this one.

4. Where the workbench is genuinely better

Four things Oxofolio does that a canvas-first suite is not shaped to do.

The unit of work is the folder

Open an engagement folder and every file in it is listed with its kind — PDF, image, Word, Excel, deck — and acted on together. The operations that follow are batch operations by default, not a file-at-a-time loop somebody has to sit through.

Redaction that reads itself back

Oxofolio deletes the text-showing operators from the content stream and paints the black rectangle only as the visible mark of what was removed. It then reopens the finished PDF and searches it for the values that were supposed to disappear. If any survives, the operation is reported as failed and the file is not offered as redacted — because a redaction that quietly under-removes is the one failure that becomes a breach.

Extraction that keeps its provenance

Figures read off a scanned statement or invoice land in a checkable table, and every field carries the snippet and page it came from. The reviewer's question is not *is this number right* but *show me where it came from*, and that is a link rather than a hunt.

Detection separated from removal

A firm can run a privacy scan across a folder and learn what personal data it holds without altering a single document. Identity and tax numbers are validated by check digit rather than matched by shape, so a twelve-digit invoice total is not reported as an Aadhaar number and a real one is not missed.

5. Where Acrobat wins, and what Oxofolio refuses

A comparison that finds nothing in the other product's favour is not a comparison. Buy Acrobat, or keep it alongside, if the work includes any of this:

- Word-by-word text and font editing on the page, and layout control.
- Building interactive PDF forms, and collecting responses.
- Digital signature workflows — Acrobat Sign, certificate-based signing, and the compliance apparatus around them.
- Preflight and colour management for commercial print.
- Continuity across desktop, web and mobile, and collaborative review in the cloud.

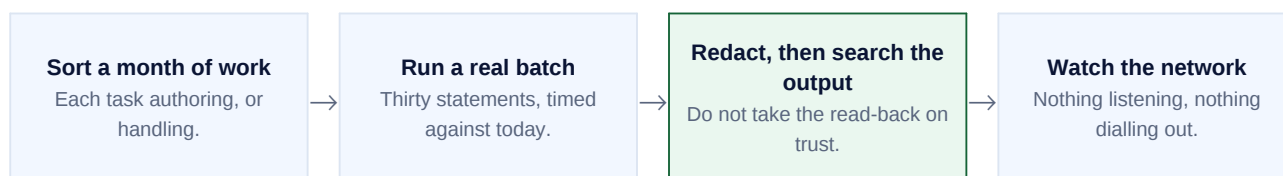
And the refusals on this side, stated plainly because a buyer finds them in the first week anyway:

- **Redaction is PDF-only.** It works by removing text operators from a content stream. A Word contract cannot be redacted in Oxofolio; convert it first, or do it elsewhere.
- **Word and slide decks are read, not edited.** They open with their real layout, headers and outline. Light edits exist in the spreadsheet viewer only — a cell value, a row, a column, and the metadata stripped from a copy about to be sent — and anything that would move a formula's references is refused rather than attempted.
- **There is no e-signature, and no form builder.**
- **It does not make a firm compliant.** Software cannot. What it does is remove one specific act — uploading a client's document to a third party to perform a routine operation on it — from the list of things that happen on deadline day.
- **It is not a small download.** The Windows installer is 222 MB, and the macOS and Linux builds are of the same order. Everything the application needs, including the OCR engine, ships inside it, precisely so that nothing has to be fetched later.

That last point is worth stating against the grain of most comparisons. A lean footprint is not the argument here — a self-contained one is. An application that downloads a component on first use has a network dependency whatever its installer weighs.

6. How to decide in a fortnight

The 14-day trial takes no account and no card, which makes an evidence-based decision cheap. Four checks worth running against a real engagement folder rather than a sample:



The first box decides it. The last two are there because both are claims this paper makes, and both are checkable in about a minute on your own machine.

If the answer is that most of the work is handling, and the suite was on the desktop for a fraction of what it does, the switch is straightforward. If the firm builds forms and collects signatures, it is not, and no amount of price difference makes it so.

This paper describes what software does. It is not legal advice, and nothing in it should be read as a statement about your obligations under any statute.