


Bluebeam or a Leading PDF Editor?

For those working with large format PDFs — especially AEC professionals — nothing beats Bluebeam.

A Leading PDF Editor, while seemingly everywhere, is a basic PDF editing tool. It doesn't have the flexibility, depth of markups and measurements, customization, or collaboration capabilities needed by AEC professionals.

Bluebeam has been serving the AEC industry for over 20 years, providing professional-grade tools for clear, accurate, and efficient collaboration on technical documents.

Key Capabilities*

	 BLUEBEAM	A Leading PDF Editor
Communicate clearly with AEC-leading markup and measurement tools		
Annotate 2D and 3D PDF drawings and documents with general markups; take snapshots and attach photos and videos	✓	✓
Choose from a full library of markup and measurement tools designed for AEC professionals	✓	✗
Precisely measure length, area, perimeters, counts, angles, and volume	✓	Limited
Leverage markup metadata to sort, filter, group, and create reports	✓	Limited
Add simple sketch markups that are accurate to the scale of the drawing	✓	✗
Identify differences and changes by overlaying and comparing drawings	✓	Limited
Work together effectively with a professional-grade collaboration solution		
Collaborate with a secure solution that has the full library of AEC-leading markup and measurement tools	✓	Limited
Prioritize accountability with invitee permissions, custom markup status columns, and a detailed audit trail of activity	✓	Limited
Work from a single source of truth, wherever your team is, across desktop, web, and mobile	✓	✓
Increase productivity with customizations and automations		
Fast rendering navigation performance on large technical files	✓	Limited
Standardize project communication with customizable, sharable profiles and tool sets	✓	✗
Streamline bidding by live linking PDF measurements and takeoffs to Microsoft Excel	✓	✗
Manage and process large document sets with batch automation tools	✓	✗
Collect e-signatures and track responses	✓	✓

**This comparison consists of the features Bluebeam believes are required capabilities for AEC professionals to effectively collaborate on large format PDFs. The feature rating was determined by Bluebeam personnel using the latest version of the Pro offering of a leading PDF editor compared to Complete.*