

Compare PDF Files in AIQ Web Tests

Last reviewed: October 2, 2026

Use this article when a web test needs to compare generated or downloaded PDF output against an expected PDF or expected text content.

What changed in this article

- Reframed PDF comparison around validation intent instead of generic file comparison.
- Added guidance for choosing text extraction, metadata checks, page count checks, or binary comparison based on expected variability.
- Added checks for dynamic timestamps, generated IDs, rendering differences, download location, and evidence in results.

Validation workflow

1. Decide whether the test should validate exact file match, extracted text, metadata, page count, or selected fields.
2. Normalize or exclude dynamic content such as dates, IDs, user names, or environment-specific paths.
3. Attach or log comparison evidence so reviewers can tell which PDF section failed.

Review note: This page now distinguishes stable PDF validation from brittle byte-for-byte comparisons.

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If you have feedback on this topic, contact documentation@appvance.ai.

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