

# InDesign and PDF tooltips

Back in 2007 I wrote an article for Issue 21 of InDesign Magazine on how to add PDF tooltips to an InDesign CS3 file. The article began as follows:

*“I love the tool tips that appear when you hover over icons in most modern applications and Web sites. These tool tips give you a written explanation of an icon’s purpose or a text’s meaning, and so are a user-friendly way to save on screen real estate. Move over, software developers and Web site engineers—now you and I can include this type of help in PDF files generated from InDesign!”*

*Let’s say you’re laying out a document that’s loaded with technical jargon and acronyms. It will be distributed as a PDF to a wide audience that may not know all those terms. Rather than bury the usual acronym glossary in the back of the document, you can enhance the PDF so that when readers hover over an acronym, the tool tip defines the mystery word.”*

You can download and read the full article here:

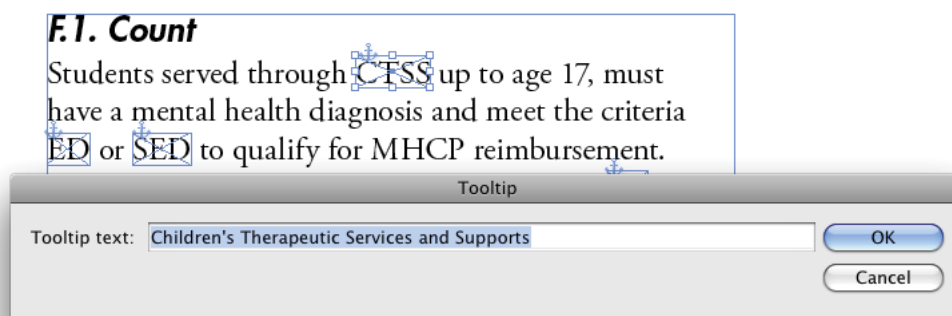
[http://gilbertconsulting.com/pdf/Build\\_tool\\_tips\\_in\\_InDesign.pdf](http://gilbertconsulting.com/pdf/Build_tool_tips_in_InDesign.pdf)

In InDesign CS4, Adobe completely reworked the way that buttons are created and edited. The change was for the better, except that in the process, Adobe removed the dialog box that allowed you to enter and edit tooltips. The underlying code for handling tooltips is still in CS4, but the dialog box for viewing, editing and adding tooltips is gone.

This script adds the functionality for viewing, editing and adding tooltip text to buttons back to InDesign CS4.

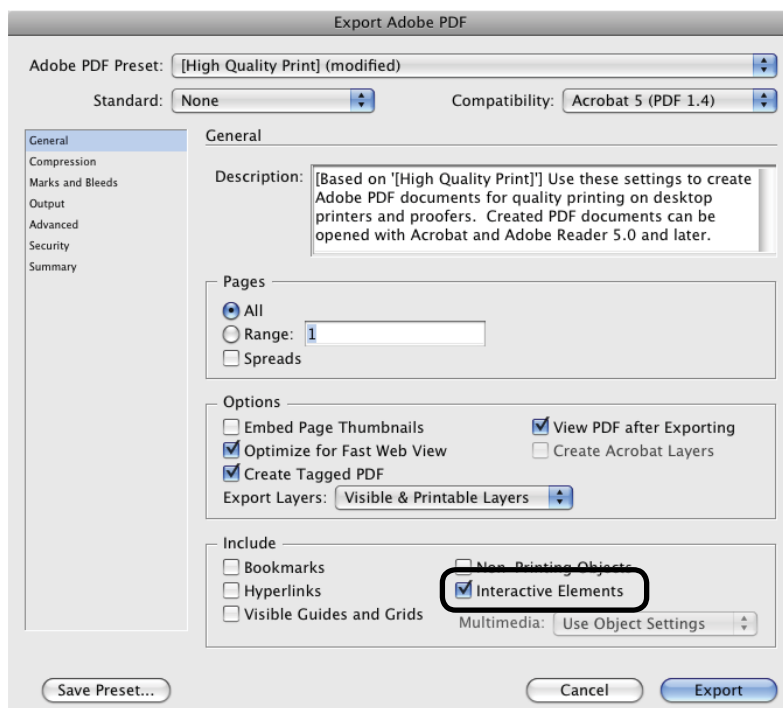
# How to use the Tooltip script

Select a button, and double-click on the script in the Scripts panel (*Window > Automation > Scripts*). You will see the dialog box below.



If the button already has tooltip text assigned, you'll see the tooltip text displayed. You can enter any tooltip text you'd like, and then click the *OK* button.

(When you export your InDesign file to PDF, be sure to check the *Interactive Elements* option, otherwise the tooltip will not be exported to the PDF).



# About Gilbert Consulting

Keith Gilbert is the principal of Gilbert Consulting, a St. Paul Minnesota consulting and training firm. Keith has been instructing and consulting with graphic designers and communicators since 1985.

Keith is an *Adobe Certified Instructor* and an *Adobe Print Specialist*, one of a select group of individuals nationwide to be certified for on-site training in InDesign, InCopy, Illustrator, Photoshop, and Acrobat. Training and consulting engagements have taken him throughout the United States, Canada, Barbados and Nairobi, Kenya.

Keith has a degree in Computer Science from the University of Minnesota. He is passionate about design and typography. When not teaching and consulting, Keith tackles design and production challenges for a select group of clients. This gives him a chance to use the latest software to solve real world design and production problems.

Keith is a founding member and the Chapter Representative for the Twin Cities InDesign User Group. He is a frequent speaker at industry seminars and conferences.

Contact Keith at 651-633-7148 if you would like more information about training or consulting at your company.



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