

InDesign Speed Check

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A selection of the best tips to make InDesign faster.
Pick what suits your working environment best.

Hardware

RAM

minimum 4 GB up to CS6 (version 8) more RAM is not supported

Version 9 (CC): As much as the hardware will bear.
InDesign theoretically supports up to 16 exabytes ;-)

Network

As long as InDesign documents and placed images are stored on a server, the preview in high quality generates network traffic.
InDesign is only operating normally if the network connection is fast enough and reliable.

Preferences

"Interface > Options"

Set "Live Screen Drawing" to "Delayed"

"Display Performance > Options"

"Default View > Typical" should be enough

keep deactivated "Preserve Object-Level Display Settings"

"Display Performance > Adjust View Settings"

Normally the Adobe specifications should be used here

These settings can be activated by clicking on "Use Defaults"

Deactivate "File Handling > Saving InDesign Files > Always Save Preview Images with Documents"

Reason why: InDesign needs to constantly update this preview

To show the Creative Cloud Document Preview preview images are not needed. The CC Document Preview is re-rendered

Program

Keep the InDesign application up to date. Adobe is fixing speed problems with updates on a regular basis

Delete the InDesign preference files. On startup a new one will be created

Clear cache

on Mac: Delete the folder "Version [your version]" in /Users/[username]/Library/Caches/Adobe InDesign

Document

Save your document regularly with "Save As..." and replace the previous version with it

Cross-References

References to other documents can slow down InDesign. The best way is to open all documents with a cross-reference destination

Tables

A large number of tables and very long tables can slow down InDesign

Split large documents into several smaller documents

If required use the book feature to manage these files

If problems occur or older files are copied and used for a new production save the InDesign file as IDML. Open this IDML file in InDesign and replace the old one with it

A large number of "GREP Styles" and "Nested Styles" can slow down the document

Tip: You can temporarily disable a GREP Style by adding * at the beginning of the code.

A large number of opacity effects can slow down the document

A large number of "Auto-Sizing" text frames can increase the computation time

While working

View > Display Performance

"Typical Display" should be enough

If objects previews are set to "High Quality Display" manually, this can be reset with: "Clear Object-Level Display Settings"

When opening a document this will happen anyway, if the standard preferences are set

View > Overprint Preview

Activate only when needed

Live Preflight

Do not let extensive "Preflight Profiles" run permanently

Show only when needed

Transform Panel

Info-Panel

Background Tasks

Sometimes InDesign executes several tasks at the same time and slows down. It's faster when the tasks are done

Check with "Window > Utilities > Background Tasks"

Pages Panel

Open only when needed, if necessary deactivate the Thumbnails in the "Panel Options..."

Enable Dynamic Spelling

Activate only when needed

Close "Find/Change Panel" when running scripts that perform find/change

Third Party Tools

Plugins for automatic font activation can slow down InDesign