Digital Signatures vs. Electronic Signatures

The terms ‘*digital signatures*’ and ‘*electronic signatures*’ are often used synonymously. But these are two different solutions and cannot be used interchangeably. It is therefore important to highlight the differences between these two for users evaluating the purchase of a signature tool.

Electronic Signatures	VS.	Digital Signatures
An e-signature is the electronic form of a traditional pen and paper based signature which is legally binding and secure.	Description	A digital signature is a form of e-signature which uses Public Key Infrastructure but it is more secure and tamper-proof.
The primary objective is to sign the document.	Purpose	The primary objective is to secure the document.
It is similar to a digitalized wet signature and focuses on verifying the signer identity using aunthentication methods.	Security	The high security emerges by encrypting the document and permanently embedding the information in it.
The authentication method includes phone PIN, email, etc.	Authentication	The authentication method includes certificate-based digital ID.
It is of four types - basic electronic signature, click-to-sign signature, advanced electronic signature, and qualified signature.	Types	It is of two types - Microsoft and Adobe pdf.
It is regulated by the national and local laws. These are authorized by the specific vendors, document creator or the participating parties.	Compliance	It is regulated by the certification authority. It is also authorised by the government or non-government certification provider authority.

Making the right choice is important.

The type of signature that works best for you depends on why you want to go paperless. Electronic signatures are the best bet if your main objective is to get a lot of paperwork done in a shorter span of time with some level of security. They are also great for carrying out buy-sell activities, low-medium value transactions, and filling out forms. Digital signatures should be the choice when it comes to industries such as the BFSI, public sector organizations, and for high-value transactions.

Certinal is a wholly owned subsidiary of Zycus, the pioneer in Cognitive Procurement. A familiar name and market leader with years of experience in managing critical contracts & agreements, Zycus boasts of over Fortune 1000 enterprise clients and deployments of procurement and sourcing suite of products. Digital Signing has always been a focus area for Zycus. Thus Certinal was born with the stated goal of offering a best-in-class Digital Transaction Management solution that will be easy-to-use, 100% secure to deploy, and legally compliant around the world. We stand committed to providing a one-stop solution to large enterprise customers, compliant with various security standards and conforming to different regional regulations.

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