

Filers need the following hardware and software to electronically file documents in CM/ECF:

- A computer running a standard operating system such as Microsoft Windows or Mac OS X. Although numerous people successfully e-file documents using Mac and Linux operating systems, the ECF Help Desk does not support or have any information regarding these operating systems. The ECF Help Desk available at 605-330-6600 or at [ecfhelp@sdd.uscourts.gov](mailto:ecfhelp@sdd.uscourts.gov) solely supports Microsoft Windows.
- Word processing software like Windows or Mac-based versions of WordPerfect or Word. Several word processing and other programs contain features that convert documents created in those programs into PDF. CM/ECF is designed to accept only documents in PDF format.
- Internet service. A dial-up connection works, but a faster connection such as DSL or cable is better.
- A Javascript-enabled web browser such as Internet Explorer 7 and 8 or Firefox 3.5 and 3.6. Safari, Opera, and Chrome seem to work, but have not been tested.
- Adobe Acrobat Writer 3.0 or higher, or other PDF writer software, to convert documents from a word processor format to a portable document format (PDF). Adobe Acrobat's portable document format (PDF) is the key to CM/ECF because it makes all documents viewable in their original format on any computer regardless of whether they were scanned or created by a word processor and regardless of the type of computer or word processing software used by the individual who created them or by others who wish to view them.
- Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available for free, to view PDF documents.
- A scanner may be necessary to create electronic images of documents not created using your word processor. Please be advised that scanned documents that are e-filed need to have a minimum resolution of 300 ppi (pixels per inch). Please make sure the settings on your scanner are set accordingly.
- A CM/ECF account from this court with a login and password for filing documents in CM/ECF.
- A PACER account from the PACER Service Center with a separate login and password for viewing documents in CM/ECF. Contact the PACER Service Center at 1-800-676-6856 or at <http://www.pacer.gov> to set up an account.
- An e-mail account is also necessary to receive electronic notification of documents filed in CM/ECF.