

PDF SOLUTIONS INC
Form SC 13D
November 20, 2018

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13D

(Rule 13d-101)

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENTS FILED PURSUANT

TO § 240.13d-1(a) AND AMENDMENTS THERETO FILED PURSUANT TO

§ 240.13d-2(a)

(Amendment No.)¹

PDF SOLUTIONS, INC.

(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock, \$0.00015 par value

(Title of Class of Securities)

693282105

(CUSIP Number)

ERIC SINGER

VIEX CAPITAL ADVISORS, LLC

825 Third Avenue, 33rd Floor

New York, New York 10022

STEVE WOLOSKY, ESQ.

ELIZABETH GONZALEZ-SUSSMAN, ESQ.

OLSHAN FROME WOLOSKY LLP

1325 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10019

(212) 451-2300

(Name, Address and Telephone Number of Person

Authorized to Receive Notices and Communications)

November 12, 2018

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of This Statement)

If the filing person has previously filed a statement on Schedule 13G to report the acquisition that is the subject of this Schedule 13D, and is filing this schedule because of §§ 240.13d-1(e), 240.13d-1(f) or 240.13d-1(g), check the following box “.

Note: Schedules filed in paper format shall include a signed original and five copies of the schedule, including all exhibits. *See* § 240.13d-7 for other parties to whom copies are to be sent.

1 The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person’s initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required on the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be “filed” for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”) or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, *see* the *Notes*).

CUSIP NO. 693282105

1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

VIEX Opportunities Fund, LP –
Series One*

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (a)
(b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 SOURCE OF FUNDS

WC
CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEM 2(d) OR 2(e)

6 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

DELAWARE

7 NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH

SOLE VOTING POWER

- 0 -

8 SHARED VOTING POWER

1,779,396**

9 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

- 0 -

10 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

1,779,396**

11

AGGREGATE AMOUNT
BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY
EACH REPORTING PERSON

1,779,396**

12 CHECK BOX IF
THE AGGREGATE
AMOUNT IN ROW
(11) EXCLUDES
CERTAIN SHARES

13 PERCENT OF CLASS
REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT
IN ROW (11)

14 5.5%
TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

PN

* This Series One is part of a series of VIEX Opportunities Fund, LP, a series limited partnership.

** Includes 617,300 shares underlying call options currently exercisable as further described in Item 6.

CUSIP NO. 693282105

1	NAME OF REPORTING PERSON
	VIEX Opportunities Fund, LP – Series Two*
2	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (a)
	(b)
3	SEC USE ONLY
4	SOURCE OF FUNDS
	WC
5	CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEM 2(d) OR 2(e)
6	CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION
	DELAWARE
NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH	7
	SOLE VOTING POWER
	- 0 -
OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH	8
	SHARED VOTING POWER
	149,600*
PERSON WITH	9
	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
	- 0 -
	10
	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER
	149,600*

11 AGGREGATE AMOUNT
BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY
EACH REPORTING PERSON

149,600*

12 CHECK BOX IF
THE AGGREGATE
AMOUNT IN ROW
(11) EXCLUDES
CERTAIN SHARES

13 PERCENT OF CLASS
REPRESENTED BY
AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

14 Less than 1%
TYPE OF REPORTING
PERSON

PN

* This Series Two is part of a series of VIEX Opportunities Fund, LP, a Delaware series limited partnership.

CUSIP NO. 693282105

1	NAME OF REPORTING PERSON	
	VIEX GP, LLC	
2	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP	(a) (b)
3	SEC USE ONLY	
4	SOURCE OF FUNDS	
	AF	
5	CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEM 2(d) OR 2(e)	
6	CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION	
	DELAWARE	
NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH	7	SOLE VOTING POWER - 0 - 8 SHARED VOTING POWER 1,928,996* 9 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER - 0 - 10 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 1,928,996*

11 AGGREGATE AMOUNT
BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY
EACH REPORTING PERSON

1,928,996*

12 CHECK BOX IF
THE AGGREGATE
AMOUNT IN ROW
(11) EXCLUDES
CERTAIN SHARES

13 PERCENT OF CLASS
REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT
IN ROW (11)

6.0%

14 TYPE OF REPORTING
PERSON

OO

* Includes 617,300 shares underlying call options currently exercisable as further described in Item 6.

CUSIP NO. 693282105

1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

VIEX Capital Advisors, LLC

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER (a) OF A GROUP

(b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 SOURCE OF FUNDS

AF
CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEM 2(d) OR 2(e)

6 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

DELAWARE

NUMBER OF	7	SOLE VOTING POWER
SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH		
		- 0 -
	8	SHARED VOTING POWER
		1,928,996*
	9	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
		- 0 -
	10	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER
		1,928,996*

11 AGGREGATE AMOUNT
BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY
EACH REPORTING PERSON

1,928,996*

12 CHECK BOX IF
THE AGGREGATE
AMOUNT IN ROW
(11) EXCLUDES
CERTAIN SHARES

13 PERCENT OF CLASS
REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT
IN ROW (11)

6.0%

14 TYPE OF REPORTING
PERSON

IA

* Includes 617,300 shares underlying call options currently exercisable as further described in Item 6.

CUSIP NO. 693282105

1	NAME OF REPORTING PERSON	
	Eric Singer	
2	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP	(a)
		(b)
3	SEC USE ONLY	
4	SOURCE OF FUNDS	
	AF	
5	CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEM 2(d) OR 2(e)	
6	CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION	
	USA	
NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH	7	SOLE VOTING POWER
		- 0 -
OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH	8	SHARED VOTING POWER
		1,928,996*
PERSON WITH	9	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
		- 0 -
	10	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER
		1,928,996*

11 AGGREGATE AMOUNT
BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY
EACH REPORTING PERSON

1,928,996*

12 CHECK BOX IF
THE AGGREGATE
AMOUNT IN ROW
(11) EXCLUDES
CERTAIN SHARES

13 PERCENT OF CLASS
REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT
IN ROW (11)

6.0%

14 TYPE OF REPORTING
PERSON

IN

* Includes 617,300 shares underlying call options currently exercisable as further described in Item 6.

CUSIP NO. 693282105

The following constitutes the Schedule 13D filed by the undersigned (the "Schedule 13D").

Item 1.

Security and Issuer.

This statement relates to the Common Stock, \$0.00015 par value (the "Shares"), of PDF Solutions, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Issuer"). The address of the principal executive offices of the Issuer is 2858 De La Cruz Boulevard, Santa Clara, CA 95050.

Item 2.

Identity and Background.

(a)

This statement is filed by:

- (i) VIEX Opportunities Fund, LP – Series One ("Series One"), a series of VIEX Opportunities Fund, LP, a Delaware series limited partnership ("VIEX Opportunities"), with respect to the Shares directly and beneficially owned by it;
- (ii) VIEX Opportunities Fund, LP – Series Two ("Series Two"), a series of VIEX Opportunities, with respect to the Shares directly and beneficially owned by it;
- (iii) VIEX GP, LLC ("VIEX GP"), a Delaware limited liability company, as the general partner of Series One and Series Two;
- (iv) VIEX Capital Advisors, LLC ("VIEX Capital"), a Delaware limited liability company, as the investment manager of each of Series One and Series Two; and

(v) Eric Singer, as managing member of each of VIEX GP and VIEX Capital.

Each of the foregoing is referred to as a "Reporting Person" and collectively as the "Reporting Persons." Each of the Reporting Persons is party to that certain Joint Filing Agreement as further described in Item 6. Accordingly, the Reporting Persons are hereby filing a joint Schedule 13D.

(b) The address of the principal office of each of the Reporting Persons is 825 Third Avenue, 33rd Floor, New York, New York 10022.

(c) The principal business of Series One and Series Two is investing in securities. The principal business of VIEX GP is acting as the general partner of Series One and Series Two. The principal business of VIEX Capital is serving as the investment manager to Series One and Series Two. The principal occupation of Mr. Singer is serving as the managing member of each of VIEX GP and VIEX Capital.

(d) No Reporting Person has, during the last five years, been convicted in a criminal proceeding (excluding traffic violations or similar misdemeanors).

(e) No Reporting Person has, during the last five years, been party to a civil proceeding of a judicial or administrative body of competent jurisdiction and as a result of such proceeding was or is subject to a judgment, decree or final order enjoining future violations of, or prohibiting or mandating activities subject to, federal or state securities laws or finding any violation with respect to such laws.

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(f) Each of Series One, Series Two, VIEX GP, and VIEX Capital is organized under the laws of the State of Delaware. Mr. Singer is a citizen of the United States of America.

Item 3. Source and Amount of Funds or Other Consideration.

The Shares purchased by Series One were purchased with working capital (which may, at any given time, include margin loans made by brokerage firms in the ordinary course of business) in open market purchases, except as otherwise noted, as set forth in Schedule A, which is incorporated by reference herein. The aggregate purchase price of the 1,162,096 Shares beneficially owned by Series One is approximately \$11,066,489, including brokerage commissions. The aggregate purchase price of the 617,300 Shares underlying certain call options which are currently exercisable and may be deemed to be beneficially owned by Series One is approximately \$1,748,702, including brokerage commissions.

The Shares purchased by Series Two were purchased with working capital (which may, at any given time, include margin loans made by brokerage firms in the ordinary course of business) in open market purchases, except as otherwise noted, as set forth in Schedule A, which is incorporated by reference herein. The aggregate purchase price of the 149,600 Shares beneficially owned by Series Two is approximately \$1,198,617, including brokerage commissions.

Item 4. Purpose of Transaction.

The Reporting Persons purchased the Shares based on the Reporting Persons' belief that the Shares, when purchased, were undervalued and represented an attractive investment opportunity. Depending upon overall market conditions, other investment opportunities available to the Reporting Persons, and the availability of Shares at prices that would make the purchase or sale of Shares desirable, the Reporting Persons may endeavor to increase or decrease their position in the Issuer through, among other things, the purchase or sale of Shares on the open market or in private transactions or otherwise, on such terms and at such times as the Reporting Persons may deem advisable.

No Reporting Person has any present plan or proposal which would relate to or result in any of the matters set forth in subparagraphs (a) - (j) of Item 4 of Schedule 13D except as set forth herein or such as would occur upon or in connection with completion of, or following, any of the actions discussed herein. The Reporting Persons intend to review their investment in the Issuer on a continuing basis. Depending on various factors including, without limitation, the Issuer's financial position and investment strategy, the price levels of the Shares, conditions in the securities markets and general economic and industry conditions, the Reporting Persons may in the future take such actions with respect to their investment in the Issuer as they deem appropriate including, without limitation, engaging in communications with management and the Board of the Issuer, engaging in discussions with stockholders of the Issuer and others about the Issuer and the Reporting Persons' investment, making proposals to the Issuer concerning changes to the capitalization, ownership structure, board structure (including board composition) or operations of the Issuer, purchasing additional Shares, selling some or all of their Shares, engaging in short selling of or any hedging or similar transaction with respect to the Shares, or changing their intention with respect to any and all matters referred to in Item 4.

Item 5. Interest in Securities of the Issuer.

The aggregate percentage of Shares reported owned by each Reporting Person is based upon 32,274,543 Shares outstanding, which is the total number of Shares outstanding as of November 5, 2018 as reported in the Issuer's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 9, 2018.

CUSIP NO. 693282105

A. Series One

(a) As of the close of business on November 19, 2018, Series One beneficially owned 1,779,396 Shares. Percentage: Approximately 5.5%

- (b)
1. Sole power to vote or direct vote: 0
 2. Shared power to vote or direct vote: 1,779,396
 3. Sole power to dispose or direct the disposition: 0
 4. Shared power to dispose or direct the disposition: 1,779,396

(c) The transactions in the Shares by Series One during the past 60 days are set forth in Schedule A and are incorporated herein by reference.

B. Series Two

(a) As of the close of business on November 19, 2018, Series Two beneficially owned 149,600 Shares. Percentage: Less than 1%

- (b)
1. Sole power to vote or direct vote: 0
 2. Shared power to vote or direct vote: 149,600
 3. Sole power to dispose or direct the disposition: 0
 4. Shared power to dispose or direct the disposition: 149,600

(c) The transactions in the Shares by Series Two during the past 60 days are set forth in Schedule A and are incorporated herein by reference.

C. VIEX GP

(a) VIEX GP, as the general partner of Series One and Series Two, may be deemed the beneficial owner of the (i) 1,779,396 Shares owned by Series One and (ii) 149,600 Shares owned by Series Two. Percentage: Approximately 6.0%

- (b)
1. Sole power to vote or direct vote: 0
 2. Shared power to vote or direct vote: 1,928,996
 3. Sole power to dispose or direct the disposition: 0
 4. Shared power to dispose or direct the disposition: 1,928,996

(c) VIEX GP has not entered into any transactions in the Shares during the past 60 days. The transactions in the shares on behalf of Series One and Series Two during the past 60 days are set forth in Schedule A and are incorporated herein by reference.

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D. VIEX Capital

(a) VIEX Capital, as the investment manager of Series One and Series Two, may be deemed the beneficial owner of the (i) 1,779,396 Shares owned by Series One and (ii) 149,600 owned by Series Two.

Percentage: Approximately 6.0%

- (b)
1. Sole power to vote or direct vote: 0
 2. Shared power to vote or direct vote: 1,928,996
 3. Sole power to dispose or direct the disposition: 0
 4. Shared power to dispose or direct the disposition: 1,928,996

VIEX Capital has not entered into any transactions in the Shares during the past 60 days. The transactions in the (c) Shares on behalf of each of Series One and Series Two during the past 60 days are set forth in Schedule A and are incorporated herein by reference.

E. Eric Singer

(a) Mr. Singer, as the managing member of VIEX GP and VIEX Capital, may be deemed the beneficial owner of the (i) 1,779,396 Shares owned by Series One and (ii) 149,600 owned by Series Two.

Percentage: Approximately 6.0%

- (b)
1. Sole power to vote or direct vote: 0
 2. Shared power to vote or direct vote: 1,928,996
 3. Sole power to dispose or direct the disposition: 0
 4. Shared power to dispose or direct the disposition: 1,928,996

Mr. Singer has not entered into any transactions in the Shares during the past 60 days. The transactions in the (c) Shares on behalf of each of Series One and Series Two during the past 60 days are set forth in Schedule A and are incorporated herein by reference.

The filing of this Schedule 13D shall not be construed as an admission that the Reporting Persons are, for purposes of Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the beneficial owners of any of the Shares reported herein. Each Reporting Person disclaims beneficial ownership of such Shares except to the extent of his or its pecuniary interest therein.

(d) No person other than the Reporting Persons is known to have the right to receive, or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or proceeds from the sale of, the Shares.

(e) Not applicable.

Item 6. Contracts, Arrangements, Understandings or Relationships With Respect to Securities of the Issuer. On November 20, 2018, the Reporting Persons entered into a Joint Filing Agreement in which the Reporting Persons agreed to the joint filing on behalf of each of them of statements on Schedule 13D with respect to the securities of the Issuer to the extent required by applicable law. The Joint Filing Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

CUSIP NO. 693282105

Series One has purchased in over-the-counter market American-style call options referencing an aggregate of 200,100 Shares, which have an exercise price of \$10.00 and expire on February 15, 2019.

Series One has purchased in over-the-counter market American-style call options referencing an aggregate of 61,900 Shares, which have an exercise price of \$5.00 and expire on February 15, 2019.

Series One has purchased in over-the-counter market American-style call options referencing an aggregate of 210,500 Shares, which have an exercise price of \$7.50 and expire on February 15, 2019.

Series One has purchased in over-the-counter market American-style call options referencing an aggregate of 100,000 Shares, which have an exercise price of \$5.00 and expire on May 17, 2019, as further detailed on Schedule A hereto, which is incorporated by reference herein.

Series One has purchased in over-the-counter market American-style call options referencing an aggregate of 44,800 Shares, which have an exercise price of \$7.50 and expire on May 17, 2019, as further detailed on Schedule A hereto, which is incorporated by reference herein.

Series One has sold in over-the-counter market American-style put options referencing an aggregate of 100,000 Shares, which have an exercise price of \$10.00 and expire on February 15, 2019.

Series One has sold in over-the-counter market American-style put options referencing an aggregate of 200,000 Shares, which have an exercise price of \$12.50 and expire on February 15, 2019.

Series One has sold in over-the-counter market American-style put options referencing an aggregate of 200,000 Shares, which have an exercise price of \$7.50 and expire on February 15, 2019.

Other than as described herein, there are no contracts, arrangements, understandings or relationships among the Reporting Persons, or between the Reporting Persons and any other person, with respect to the securities of the Issuer.

Item 7.

Material to be Filed as Exhibits.

99.1 Joint Filing Agreement by and among VIEX Opportunities Fund, LP – Series One, VIEX Opportunities Fund, LP – Series Two, VIEX GP, LLC, VIEX Capital Advisors, LLC and Eric Singer dated November 20, 2018.

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SIGNATURES

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of his knowledge and belief, the undersigned certifies that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: November 20, 2018

VIEX Opportunities Fund, LP
– Series One

By: VIEX GP, LLC
General Partner

By: /s/ Eric Singer
Name: Eric Singer
Title: Managing Member

VIEX Opportunities Fund, LP
– Series Two

By: VIEX GP, LLC
General Partner

By: /s/ Eric Singer
Name: Eric Singer
Title: Managing Member

VIEX GP, LLC

By: /s/ Eric Singer
Name: Eric Singer
Title: Managing Member

VIEX Capital Advisors, LLC

By: /s/ Eric Singer
Name: Eric Singer
Title: Managing Member

/s/ Eric Singer
Eric Singer

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SCHEDULE A

Transactions in the Shares During the Past Sixty Days

<u>Nature of the Transaction</u>	<u>Securities</u>	<u>Price Per Share(\$)</u>	<u>Date of Purchase / Sale</u>
<u>VIEX opportunities fund, LP – Series one</u>			
Purchase of Common Stock	124,600	8.0500	10/18/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	25,000	7.7433	10/24/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	188,061	8.8918	11/09/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	34,400	8.4749	11/12/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	63,714	8.5463	11/13/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	37,667	8.7912	11/15/2018
Purchase of May 2019 Call Options (\$5.00 Strike Price) ¹	1,000	4.1000	11/16/2018
Purchase of May 2019 Call Options (\$7.00 Strike Price) ¹	448	2.1500	11/16/2018

VIEX opportunities fund, LP – Series TWO

Purchase of Common Stock	124,600	8.0500	10/18/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	25,000	7.7433	10/24/2018

¹ Represents American-style call options purchased in the over-the-counter market. These call options expire on May 17, 2019.