

PDFprint

Version 2.3 19th April 1998

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What is PDFprint



PDFprint is a very flexible tool to print PDF files (or parts of them) from different directories and recursively from every subdirectories (in the future, from FTP and HTTP sites) to a printer or to the monitor, in PostScript format or in text format.

NEW! PDFprint can also help you to print PostScript files (or parts of them) from different directories and recursively from every subdirectories (in the future, from FTP and HTTP sites) to a printer or to the monitor, in PostScript format or in text format.

PDF problems

How can you print the first page of every PDF file, starting with "a" letter, in your archive?

How can you read, in ascii mode, the first page of every PDF file in your archive?

At the moment, if you want to print a PDF file you need a tool that converts it in PostScript format (level 3 PostScript printers will accept PDF format directly). Usually, the tool is a reader, so you need to visualize the PDF file, then the tool converts it in a PostScript file and sends the PostScript file to the printer.

With PDFprint you can solve these problems.

PostScript problems

How can you print the first and the fifth pages of every PostScript file in your archive?

How can you read, in ascii mode, every PostScript file in your archive?

With PDFprint you can solve these problems.

Getting and Installing PDFprint

1. Get the latest Version of PDFprint from:
<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Lab/3469/pdfprint.html> or CPAN
2. Get and compile the xpdf software, inside you can find **pdftops** and **pdftotext** tools:
<http://www.aimnet.com/~derek/xpdf/>
Also, you can use the option *-toPostScript* of Acrobat Reader or, if you have just compiled Ghostscript 5.xx, you can use **pdf2ps** script

To manipulate PostScript file, get and compile the psutils software, inside you can find **psselect** tools:

<http://www.dcs.ed.ac.uk/home/ajcd/psutils/>

If you have just compiled Ghostscript 5.xx, you can use **ps2ascii** script

3. Make sure you have Perl Version 5.003 or later on your system:

<http://www.perl.com/perl/info/software.html>

4. Create your personal pdfprint.cfg file.

You can change the value of **tmpdir**, **converter** and **print** variables.

With tmpdir you can set the directory for the temporary files. You can use relative and absolute path. Default is /tmp.

With converter you can use *pdf2ps*, *pdftops* or *acroread -toPostScript* to convert PDF files to PostScript files, *pdftotext* to convert PDF files to ASCII files.

You can use *psselect* to modify PostScript files to PostScript files *ps2ascii* to convert PostScript files to ASCII files.

In *acroread -toPostScript* you can specify to convert to Level 2 PostScript (default is Level 1 PostScript) with *-level2* option.

In *pdftops* and *pdftotext* you can specify the pages to convert with the options

- *-f number* the first page to convert
- *-l number* the last page to convert

In *pdftops* you can specify to convert to Level 1 PostScript (default is Level 2 PostScript) with *-level1* option.

In *pdftotext* you can specify to convert to 7-bit ASCII (default is 8-bit ISO Latin-1) with *-ascii7* option.

In *psselect* you can use these options:

- *-r* output the selected pages in reverse order
- *-ppages* specifies the pages which are to be selected. Pages is a comma separated list of page ranges, each of which may be a page number, or a page range of the form first-last. If first is omitted, the first page is assumed, and if last is omitted, the last page is assumed.

With printer you can use printing commands like *lpr* and *lp* or monitor commands like *more* and *pg*. Every PDF or PostScript file, you have selected, is converted with the selected converter tool, then printed with the selected printer tool.

5. Try to start PDFprint. You can use the two test files in tests directory: pdfprint.pdf and pdfprint.ps.

Type **./pdfprint ./tests/pdfprint.pdf** or **./pdfprint ./tests/pdfprint.ps** on the command line

NEW! Original external tools documentation

- pdftops
- acroread
- pdf2ps
- pdftotext
- pssselect
- ps2ascii

Syntax

pdfprint [-options] files

where options include:

-help	print out this message
-verbose	verbose
-recursive	scan recursively the directory
-match files	match different files ex. *.pdf, a?.*
-configure file	default pdfprint.cfg

files:

with files you can use metacharacters and relative and absolute path name
only files with .pdf, .PDF or .ps, .PS extensions are accepted

example:

```
pdfprint *.pdf
pdfprint -v -c tests/test.cfg */*.pdf
pdfprint -m a* -r pdfdocs
```

What's new in this version

- Added tmpdir variable to set the directory of temporary file (idea of Christopher Blencowe).
Default is /tmp

Here you can find an exhaustive history file

Source

Source Code: the last release 2.3

You can also find the source code at CPAN authors/Fabrizio_Pivari/