

**NAME**

pdftops – Portable Document Format (PDF) to PostScript converter (version 3.04)

**SYNOPSIS**

**pdftops** [options] [*PDF-file* [*PS-file*]]

**DESCRIPTION**

**Pdftops** converts Portable Document Format (PDF) files to PostScript so they can be printed.

Pdftops reads the PDF file, *PDF-file*, and writes a PostScript file, *PS-file*. If *PS-file* is not specified, pdftops converts *file.pdf* to *file.ps* (or *file.eps* with the `-eps` option). If *PS-file* is '-', the PostScript is sent to stdout.

**CONFIGURATION FILE**

Pdftops reads a configuration file at startup. It first tries to find the user's private config file, `~/xpdfrc`. If that doesn't exist, it looks for a system-wide config file, typically `/usr/local/etc/xpdfrc` (but this location can be changed when pdftops is built). See the **xpdfrc(5)** man page for details.

**OPTIONS**

Many of the following options can be set with configuration file commands. These are listed in square brackets with the description of the corresponding command line option.

**-f** *number*

Specifies the first page to print.

**-l** *number*

Specifies the last page to print.

**-level1** Generate Level 1 PostScript. The resulting PostScript files will be significantly larger (if they contain images), but will print on Level 1 printers. This also converts all images to black and white. No more than one of the PostScript level options (`-level1`, `-level1sep`, `-level2`, `-level2sep`, `-level3`, `-level3sep`) may be given. [config file: **psLevel**]

**-level1sep**

Generate Level 1 separable PostScript. All colors are converted to CMYK. Images are written with separate stream data for the four components. [config file: **psLevel**]

**-level2** Generate Level 2 PostScript. Level 2 supports color images and image compression. This is the default setting. [config file: **psLevel**]

**-level2sep**

Generate Level 2 separable PostScript. All colors are converted to CMYK. The PostScript separation convention operators are used to handle custom (spot) colors. [config file: **psLevel**]

**-level3** Generate Level 3 PostScript. This enables all Level 2 features plus CID font embedding and masked image generation. [config file: **psLevel**]

**-level3sep**

Generate Level 3 separable PostScript. The separation handling is the same as for `-level2Sep`. [config file: **psLevel**]

**-eps**

Generate an Encapsulated PostScript (EPS) file. An EPS file contains a single image, so if you use this option with a multi-page PDF file, you must use `-f` and `-l` to specify a single page. No more than one of the mode options (`-eps`, `-form`) may be given.

**-form**

Generate a PostScript form which can be imported by software that understands forms. A form contains a single page, so if you use this option with a multi-page PDF file, you must use `-f` and `-l` to specify a single page. The `-level1` option cannot be used with `-form`.

**-opi**

Generate OPI comments for all images and forms which have OPI information. (This option is only available if pdftops was compiled with OPI support.) [config file: **psOPI**]

**-noembt1**

By default, any Type 1 fonts which are embedded in the PDF file are copied into the PostScript file. This option causes pdftops to substitute base fonts instead. Embedded fonts make PostScript

files larger, but may be necessary for readable output. [config file: **psEmbedType1Fonts**]

**–noembtt**

By default, any TrueType fonts which are embedded in the PDF file are copied into the PostScript file. This option causes pdftops to substitute base fonts instead. Embedded fonts make PostScript files larger, but may be necessary for readable output. Also, some PostScript interpreters do not have TrueType rasterizers. [config file: **psEmbedTrueTypeFonts**]

**–noembcidps**

By default, any CID PostScript fonts which are embedded in the PDF file are copied into the PostScript file. This option disables that embedding. No attempt is made to substitute for non-embedded CID PostScript fonts. [config file: **psEmbedCIDPostScriptFonts**]

**–noembcidtt**

By default, any CID TrueType fonts which are embedded in the PDF file are copied into the PostScript file. This option disables that embedding. No attempt is made to substitute for non-embedded CID TrueType fonts. [config file: **psEmbedCIDTrueTypeFonts**]

**–preload**

Convert PDF forms to PS procedures, and preload image data. This uses more memory in the PostScript interpreter, but generates significantly smaller PS files in situations where, e.g., the same image is drawn on every page of a long document.

**–paper** *size*

Set the paper size to one of "letter", "legal", "A4", or "A3". This can also be set to "match", which will set the paper size to match the size specified in the PDF file. [config file: **psPaperSize**]

**–paperw** *size*

Set the paper width, in points. [config file: **psPaperSize**]

**–paperh** *size*

Set the paper height, in points. [config file: **psPaperSize**]

**–nocrop**

By default, output is cropped to the CropBox specified in the PDF file. This option disables cropping. [config file: **psCrop**]

**–expand**

Expand PDF pages smaller than the paper to fill the paper. By default, these pages are not scaled. [config file: **psExpandSmaller**]

**–noshrink**

Don't scale PDF pages which are larger than the paper. By default, pages larger than the paper are shrunk to fit. [config file: **psShrinkLarger**]

**–nocenter**

By default, PDF pages smaller than the paper (after any scaling) are centered on the paper. This option causes them to be aligned to the lower-left corner of the paper instead. [config file: **psCenter**]

**–pagecrop**

Treat the CropBox as the PDF page size. By default, the MediaBox is used as the page size. [config file: **psUseCropBoxAsPage**]

**–duplex**

Set the Duplex pagedevice entry in the PostScript file. This tells duplex-capable printers to enable duplexing. [config file: **psDuplex**]

**–opw** *password*

Specify the owner password for the PDF file. Providing this will bypass all security restrictions.

- upw** *password*  
Specify the user password for the PDF file.
- q** Don't print any messages or errors. [config file: **errQuiet**]
- cfg** *config-file*  
Read *config-file* in place of ~/.xpdfrc or the system-wide config file.
- v** Print copyright and version information.
- h** Print usage information. (**-help** and **--help** are equivalent.)

## EXIT CODES

The Xpdf tools use the following exit codes:

- 0 No error.
- 1 Error opening a PDF file.
- 2 Error opening an output file.
- 3 Error related to PDF permissions.
- 99 Other error.

## AUTHOR

The pdftops software and documentation are copyright 1996-2014 Glyph & Cog, LLC.

## SEE ALSO

**xpdf(1)**, **pdftotext(1)**, **pdftohtml(1)**, **pdfinfo(1)**, **pdffonts(1)**, **pdfdetach(1)**, **pdftoppm(1)**, **pdftopng(1)**,  
**pdfimages(1)**, **xpdfrc(5)**  
<http://www.foolabs.com/xpdf/>