

## FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

1. [What is the purpose of this project?](#)
2. [How do I use it?](#)
3. [What is the main difficulty involving this project?](#)
4. [What are the known bugs?](#)
5. [How do I convert a PHP-2-PDF?](#)
6. [How do I stop the navigation pane from showing? I have setup bookmarks in the PDF but it shows them when opening!](#)
7. [Additional comments.](#)

**Q:** What is the purpose of this project? [\[back\]](#)

**A:** At first I was looking for a free, easy-to-use, customizable HTML-2-PDF PHP script, a "Fire-and-Forget" script. At the time, I couldn't find any PHP script that did not require installing things on the server or paying some fee. Then I found the FPDF script which did half of what I wanted, the "2-PDF" part. While still looking for the "HTML-" missing part, I found the "WriteHTML" script on the very same site and thought "There it goes!". However, a friend of mine wanted a better HTML-2-PDF script which is not the case of the aforementioned script. Well, I was willing to learn and train PHP programming so I thought "Why not extend this script?" and so this project begun.

**Q:** How do I use it? [\[back\]](#)

**A:** First download the package [here](#). Then unzip everything in one folder. Then understand this example:

```
<?
require("html2fpdf.php");
//Get file contents
$htmlFile = "debugcases/test1.html";
$file = fopen($htmlFile,"r");
$size_of_file = filesize($htmlFile);
$buffer = fread($file, $size_of_file);
fclose($file);
//Initialize class
//define RELATIVE_PATH,FPDF_FONTPATH if needed
$pdf=new HTML2FPDF();
$pdf->AddPage();
//Code below used only if you want relative links to be understood
//$pdf->setBasePath(dirname(__FILE__)."\.$htmlFile");//insert full path where
html is
$pdf->WriteHTML($buffer);
$pdf->Output(); //Read the FPDF.org manual to know the other options
?>
```

Also you may read the PHP codes in this site or some help content in the sourceforge project forum.

**Q:** What is the main difficulty involving this project? [\[back\]](#)

**A:** I have found a sentence that sums it all up pretty well: "*Some parts of it's code are however extremely touchy, and making changes there (that might fix a bug on one web page) might introduce severe bugs.*" [\[http://webcvs.kde.org/\\*checkout\\*/kdelibs/khtml/DESIGN.html\]](http://webcvs.kde.org/*checkout*/kdelibs/khtml/DESIGN.html)

I have set the challenge in levels of difficulty:

- 1 - RTF-like HTML code/text
- 2 - HTML inside P,DIV with alignments
- 3 - Tables and CSS (external/internal/inline)
- 4 - Table inside table, all CSS properties
- 5 - Perfect HTML to PDF translation (XHTML code no longer needed)

Current version: 3.0 (up to 3rd level of difficult supported)

I also noticed that the best way to make a HTML-2-PDF script is using a XML-tree-parser, but for now it is being used a LINEAR tag recognition parser

**Q:** What are the known bugs? [\[back\]](#)

**A:** The known BUGs are:

- Table inside Table, <p> inside <p>, <div> inside <div> et cetera are not supported
- HTML-entities not fully implemented
- List with roman numerals indexation (e.g. "XIII.") are not correctly aligned
- Font size=+3 not recognized correctly
- Using many different font sizes/families might create many bugs
- Different page formats are not supported 100%
- Text around image does not work (nor around textarea or other form elements)
- CSS not available to all tags
- Border painting of objects that span more than 1 page do not work

- Optimized only to "A4" paper (default font: Arial , normal , size 11 )
  - Link color is always blue
- (plus others bugs that may appear in the site's forum)

**Q:** How do I convert a PHP-2-PDF? [\[back\]](#)

**A:** Learn by this example:

```
<?php
require( 'html2fpdf.php' );
// activate Output-Buffer:
ob_start();
//START-OF-PHP code
(...) // PHP code here
//END-OF-PHP code
// Output-Buffer in variable:
$htmlbuffer=ob_get_contents();
// delete Output-Buffer :
ob_end_clean();
require( 'html2fpdf.php' );
$pdf=new PDF();
$pdf->AddPage();
$pdf->WriteHTML($htmlbuffer);
$pdf->Output(); //Outputs on browser screen
?>
```

(Q&A obtained from sourceforge project forum)

**Q:** How do I stop the navigation pane from showing? I have setup bookmarks in the PDF but it shows them when opening! [\[back\]](#)

**A:** Remove this line:

```
$this->_out( '/PageMode /UseOutlines' ); (Q&A obtained from FPDF.org's forum)
```

**Q:** Additional comments. [\[back\]](#)

**A:** Feedbacks, patches, donations, bug-reporting are always welcome! (post them in [here](#))

This page was dynamically created using PHP `ob_get_contents` and `HTML2FPDF` class.

Read more on FAQ on how to make this or check the 2<sup>nd</sup> page (use the 'PageDown' keyboard key)

```

<?
require_once('html2fpdf.php');
// activate Output-Buffer:
ob_start();
?>
<html>
<head>
<title>HTML 2 (F)PDF Project</title>
</head>
<body>
<div><a name="begin"> </a></div>
<h2 align="center">FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)</h2>
<br />
<ol>
<li><a href="#1">What is the purpose of this project?</a>
<li><a href="#2">How do I use it?</a>
<li><a href="#3">What is the main difficulty involving this project?</a>
<li><a href="#4">What are the known bugs?</a>
<li><a href="#5">How do I convert a PHP-2-PDF?</a>
<li><a href="#6">How do I stop the navigation pane from showing? I have setup
bookmarks in the PDF but it shows them when opening!
<li><a href="#7">Additional comments.</a>
</ol>
<newpage>
<div style="background:#8a1;color:white"><a name="1"><b>Q:</b> What is the
purpose of this project? </a><a href="#begin">[back]</a></div>
<div style="background:#0f3;"><b>A:</b> At first I was looking for a free,
easy-to-use, customizable HTML-2-PDF PHP script, a "Fire-and-Forget" script. At
the time, I couldn' find any PHP script that did not require installing things
on the server or paying some fee. Then I found the FPDF script which did half of
what I wanted, the "2-PDF" part. While still looking for the "HTML-" missing
part, I found the "WriteHTML" script on the very same site and thought "There it
goes!". However, a friend of mine wanted a better HTML-2-PDF script which is not
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PHP programming so I thought "Why not extend this script?" and so this project
begun.</div>
<div style="background:#8a1;color:white"><a name="2"><b>Q: </b>How do I use it?
</a><a href="#begin">[back]</a></div>
<div style="background:#0f3;"><b>A: </b>First download the package <a
href="www.sf.net/projects/html2fpdf">here</a>. Then unzip everything in one
folder. Then understand this example:
<pre>
<code>
<pre>
<code>
require("html2fpdf.php");
//Get file contents
$htmlFile = "debugcases/test1.html";
$file = fopen($htmlFile,"r");
$size_of_file = filesize($htmlFile);
$buffer = fread($file, $size_of_file);
fclose($file);
//Initialize class
//define RELATIVE_PATH,FPDF_FONTPATH if needed
$pdf=new HTML2FPDF();

```

```
$pdf->AddPage();
//Code below used only if you want relative links to be understood
//$pdf->setBasePath(dirname(__FILE__).\".$htmlFile);//insert full path where
html is
$pdf->WriteHTML($buffer);
$pdf->Output(); //Read the FPDF.org manual to know the other options
?&gt;
</pre>
```

Also you may read the PHP codes in this site or some help content in the sourceforge project forum.

</div>

<div style="background:#8a1;color:white"><a name="3"><b>Q: </b>What is the main difficulty involving this project? </a><a href="#begin">[back]</a></div>  
<div style="background:#0f3;"><b>A: </b>I have found a sentence that sums it all up pretty well: "*Some parts of it's code are however extremely touchy, and making changes there (that might fix a bug on one web page) might introduce severe bugs*</i>." <br />

[<a href='http://webcvs.kde.org/\*checkout\*/kdelibs/khtml/DESIGN.html'  
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but for now it is being used a LINEAR tag recognition parser

</div>

<div style="background:#8a1;color:white"><a name="4"><b>Q: </b>What are the known bugs? </a><a href="#begin">[back]</a></div>

<div style="background:#0f3;"><b>A: </b>The known BUGs are: <br />

- Table inside Table, &lt;p&gt; inside &lt;p&gt;, &lt;div&gt; inside &lt;div&gt; et cetera are not supported <br />
- HTML-entities not fully implemented <br />
- List with roman numerals indexation (e.g. "XIII.") are not correctly aligned <br />
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- Link color is always blue <br />

(plus others bugs that may appear in the site's forum)

</div>

<div style="background:#8a1;color:white"><a name="5"><b>Q: </b>How do I convert a PHP-2-PDF? </a><a href="#begin">[back]</a></div>

<div style="background:#0f3;"><b>A: </b>Learn by this example: <pre>  
&lt;?php

```

require('html2fpdf.php');
// activate Output-Buffer:
ob_start();
//START-OF-PHP code
(...) // PHP code here
//END-OF-PHP code
// Output-Buffer in variable:
$htmlbuffer=ob_get_contents();
// delete Output-Buffer :
ob_end_clean();
require('html2fpdf.php');
$pdf=new PDF();
$pdf->AddPage();
$pdf->WriteHTML($htmlbuffer);
$pdf->Output(); //Outputs on browser screen
?&gt;
</pre> (Q&A obtained from sourceforge project forum)
</div>
<div style="background:#8a1;color:white"><a name="6"><b>Q: </b>How do I stop the
navigation pane from showing? I have setup bookmarks in the PDF but it shows
them when opening! </a><a href="#begin">[back]</a></div>
<div style="background:#0f3;"><b>A: </b>Remove this line: <br />
<code>$this->_out('/PageMode /UseOutlines');</code> (Q&A obtained from
FPDF.org's forum)</div>
<div style="background:#8a1;color:white"><a name="7"><b>Q: </b>Additional
comments. </a><a href="#begin">[back]</a></div>
<div style="background:#0f3;"><b>A: </b>Feedbacks, patches, donations,
bug-reporting are always welcome! (post them in <a
href="www.sf.net/projects/html2fpdf">here</a></div>
<br /><br />
<div style='background:#ccc;border:thin dashed black'>
This page was dinamically created using PHP ob_get_contents and HTML2FPDF
class.<br />
Read more on FAQ on how to make this or check the 2<sup>nd</sup> page (use the
'PageDown' keyboard key)</div><newpage>
<div style='background:#eee;font-weight:bold'><code>
<?
    $metaphp = htmlspecialchars($metaphp);
    $metaphp = str_replace("\n",'<br>',$metaphp);
    echo "&lt;?".$metaphp."&gt;";
?>
</div></code>
</body>
</html>
<?
// Output-Buffer in variable:
$html=ob_get_contents();
// delete Output-Buffer
ob_end_clean();
$pdf = new HTML2FPDF();
$pdf->DisplayPreferences('HideWindowUI');
$pdf->AddPage();
$pdf->WriteHTML($html);

```

```
$pdf->Output('doc.pdf','I');  
?>
```