

PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML

Welcome to the manual of PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML. Here you find everything about how to use this plug-in as well as some general information about PDF and this tool.

Please use the table of contents (TOC), index and search controls to navigate through content or use the following links to get started:

For general information

- [About PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML](#)
- [About PDF](#)
- [About SimplyHTML](#)

For using PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML

- [Getting started](#)
- [Using PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML](#)

This manual is produced with [SimplyHTML](#) and the [JavaHelp Plug-In for SimplyHTML](#)

About PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML

PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML enables application [SimplyHTML](#) to store files in the [Portable Document Format](#) (PDF) from Adobe.

Simple usage

Any document currently open in the editor pane of SimplyHTML can be saved as a PDF file. A simple 'save as' window appears when selected from the menu which allows to set all relevant parameters. Once 'OK' is pressed, the PDF file is created at the selected location.

Features

PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML has the following features

- reads HTML files as produced by SimplyHTML
- transforms CSS as tag attributes or from a separate style sheet
- embeds fonts automatically
- optionally creates header and footer

About SimplyHTML

SimplyHTML is an application for text processing on the basis of HTML and CSS document formats. Its flexible plug-in architecture makes it the ideal platform for added value functionality concerning text processing of any kind such as this plug-in for PDF creation.

SimplyHTML is an open source Java application created by the author of this plug-in. It is available free of charge at <http://www.lightdev.com/template.php4?id=3>.

About PDF

PDF is the abbreviation for Portable Document Format and denotes a common storage specification for documents by Adobe. This is what Adobe says about PDF:

Adobe PDF

Adobe® Portable Document Format (PDF) is the open de facto standard for electronic document distribution worldwide. Adobe PDF is a universal file format that preserves all the fonts, formatting, graphics, and color of any source document, regardless of the application and platform used to create it. Adobe PDF files are compact and can be shared, viewed, navigated, and printed exactly as intended by anyone with free Adobe Acrobat® Reader® software.

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- Compact Adobe PDF files are smaller than their source files, can be downloaded a page at a time for fast display on the Web, and don't slow down your network.

What's the bottom line? If you share documents electronically, you should be doing it in Adobe PDF.

About iText

While PDF Mill does parsing and transformation of HTML files, it uses the iText library for PDF creation. iText is a free Java library by Bruno Lowagie for PDF creation. It is available at <http://www.lowagie.com/iText>

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PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML uses iText, a free Java library for PDF creation. iText is copyright Bruno Lowagie and not part of this license agreement.

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Getting started

This part of the manual covers how to install and initially start the PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML. It is divided into the following chapters.

- [Requirements](#)
- [Installation](#)
- [Starting PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML](#)
- [Starting SimplyHTML](#)

You should at least be familiar with above topics before attempting to use this software.

Requirements

Java[tm]

PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML is created on the basis if Java[tm] technology. It needs a Java Runtime Environment (JRE) installed on the machine it is intended to be used.

The JRE can be obtained free of charge at

<http://java.sun.com/j2se/1.4>

Application SimplyHTML

This plug-in needs an application as a platform to run. It is designed for use with popular open source application SimplyHTML. SimplyHTML is included in the distribution package of PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML. The latest version is available free of charge at

<http://www.lightdev.com/template.php4?id=3>

iText

While this plug-in does parsing and transformation of HTML and CSS it uses iText, a free Java library for PDF creation. iText is included in the distribution package of PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML as necessary. For full source codes and API documentation of iText please visit

<http://www.lowagie.com/iText>

Installation

The full version of PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML can be obtained at <http://www.lightdev.com/template.php?id=28> It is delivered via e-mail as a compressed ZIP archive.

To install the plug-in

- 1.uncompress the contents of file `pdfpl.zip` into a folder of your choice
- 2.move file `pdfpl.jar` into the folder where application SimplyHTML (file `SimplyHTML.jar`) is installed on your machine

The distribution package of PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML comes with a copy of SimplyHTML. If you do not already use SimplyHTML, step 2 above can be omitted.

That's it, you are ready to start the plug-in as described at [Starting PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML.](#)

To be sure that installation is working properly, please make sure to meet the [requirements](#).

Java Web Start (free trial version)

No installation is necessary when Java Web Start is used with the trial version of this product. Simply click on respective link at <http://www.lightdev.com/template.php?id=28> and the free trial version is installed and launched automatically.

Starting PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML

Once properly [installed](#), to start JavaHelp Plug-In for SimplyHTML nothing more is necessary than to start application [SimplyHTML](#). Once [SimplyHTML is started](#)

- open menu [Plugin](#)
- select menu item `Manage plugins...`

The plug-in will appear in the list of installed plug-ins. By clicking on the plug-in name ('PDF') the plug-in preferences such as appearance and whether or not is is activated can be configured.

The plug-in will create a [menu item PDF](#) inside menu `Plugin` of SimplyHMTL when active. All functionality of the plug-in is available from this menu. In addition a help menu is created in menu `Help` of SimplyHTML from where this manual can be viewed.

Starting SimplyHTML

Java Web Start

The simplest way to run SimplyHTML is to press button 'Web Start Me Now' at <http://www.lightdev.com/dev/sh.htm> . Alternately, direct your browser to <http://www.lightdev.com/shtm.jnlp> to achieve the same.

No file copying, no link or path settings, just one click.

Traditional start

To run the executable JAR file without Java Web Start, use the following command on the command line prompt of your system (replace \ by / and omit .exe on Unix or Linux systems)

```
[JRE]\bin\java.exe -jar [AppDir]\SimplyHTML.jar
```

[AppDir] in above command means the directory, you have installed SimplyHTML on your computer. [JRE] means the directory, the Java 2 Standard Edition (J2SE) Runtime Environment (JRE) is stored on your computer.

Note: All paths should not contain blanks. A path such as C:\Program Files\SimplifyHTML as the <AppDir> will only work if it is put in quotes, such as in "C:\Program Files\SimplifyHTML\SimplifyHTML.jar"

Example 1 (Windows)

If your JRE is in directory

```
c:\programs\java\j2re1.4.0_01
```

and SimplyHTML is in directory

```
c:\programs\SimplifyHTML\
```

the command to start SimplyHTML would be

```
c:\programs\java\j2re1.4.0_01\bin\java.exe -jar
```

```
c:\programs\SimplifyHTML\SimplifyHTML.jar
```

Example 2 (Linux)

On Linux your JRE might be on

```
/usr/lib/java2/j2re1.4.0_01
```

and SimplyHTML might be in

```
/opt/simplifyhtml
```

then the command to run SimplyHTML would be

```
/usr/lib/java2/j2re1.4.0_01/bin/java -jar /opt/simplifyhtml/SimplifyHTML.jar
```

Using PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML

In this chapter the functionality of PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML is explained. It has the following topics

[Save as PDF](#)

[Plug-In menu](#)

[Save file as PDF](#)

[Limitations](#)

Please refer to chapter [Welcome](#) for some general information about PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML and to chapter [Getting started](#) as well.

Save as PDF

PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML provides only one function: to save any document currently edited in SimplyHTML as a PDF file. To create a PDF file from the document currently open in the editor pane of SimplyHTML

- 1.open menu [Plugin](#)
- 2.select `Save as PDF . . .` from menu PDF
- 3.make appropriate settings in dialog [Save file as PDF](#)
- 4.press button OK

Note: PDF is always created from the file on disk so any changes which have not been saved so far, need to be saved for being included in the PDF file that is created.

Note: There are limitations on what can be stored as PDF. Normally a file created with SimplyHTML should work, however, please see chapter [Limitations](#) for further information.

Plug-In menu

The plug-in menu allows access to the main function of the PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML. It is implemented as a menu item inside menu `Plugin` of SimplyHTML. To open the plug-in menu

- 1.open menu `Plugin`
- 2.open menu `PDF`

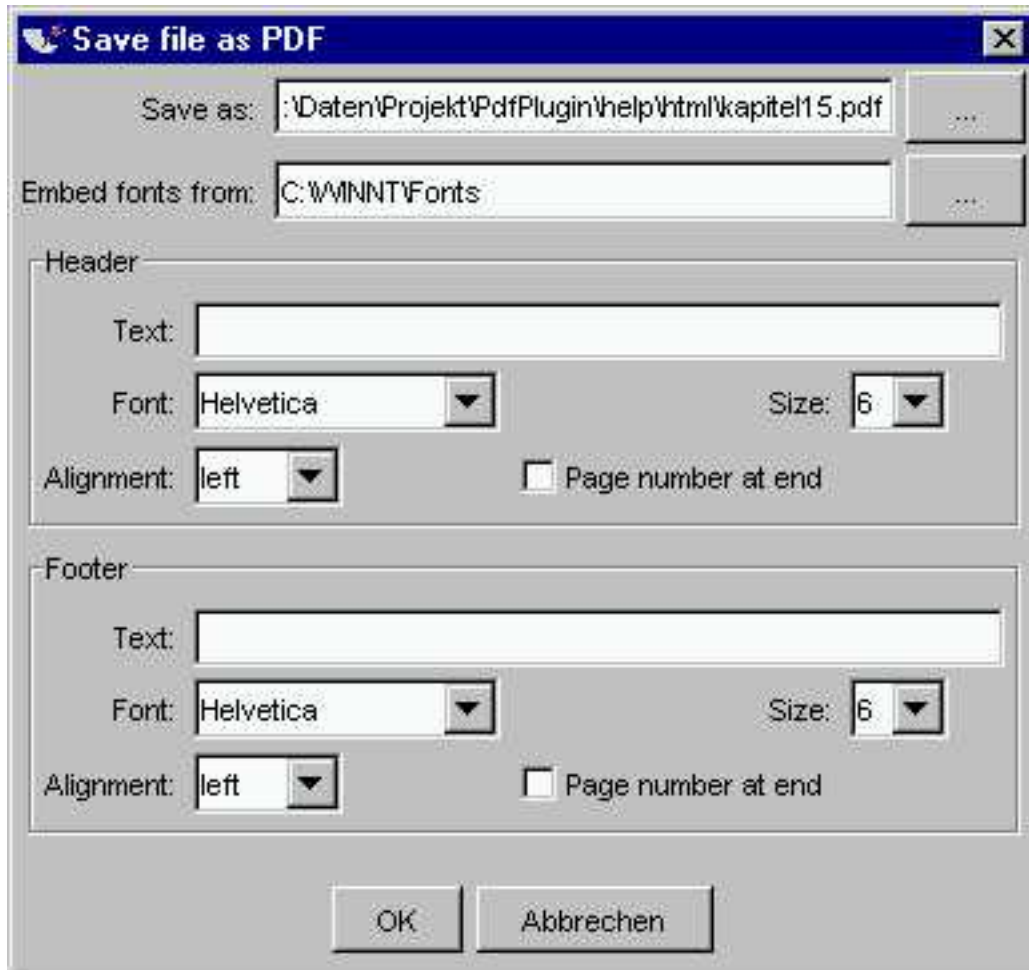
Please refer to chapter [Save as PDF](#) for a detailed description of the functionality available through the plug-in menu.



the Plug-In menu

The dialog Save file as PDF

To save a file as PDF some settings are required which are done in dialog `Save file as PDF`



dialog Save file as PDF

Save as

In field `Save as` the full path and name of the PDF file to be created is entered. With the browse button next to field `Save as` a file chooser dialog can be used to enter a location and name for the PDF file as well.

Embed fonts from

Unless some very common fonts are used in the source file only, fonts need to be embedded in resulting PDF to be rendered correctly. PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML embeds fonts automatically and tries to locate any font referenced in the source file in the directory specified in field `Embed fonts from`. The field points to the system font directory by default.

The entry can be changed by typing another directory into the field directly or by selecting a directory with the browse button next to field `Embed fonts from`.

Header / Footer

A header and footer can be created along with a PDF file upon choice. Panels `Header` and `Footer` have the following fields to specify settings for headers and footers respectively

Text

The text that shall appear in the header or footer

Font

The font family the header or footer shall be rendered in

Size

The font size the header or footer shall be rendered in

Alignment

Alignment for the header or footer

Page number at end

If the header or footer shall have a page number at the end of the text, this check box has to be selected.

Limitations

Although PDF Plug-In for SimplyHTML reads any HTML it mainly focuses on transformation of HTML text documents with explicit formatting information rather than web pages.

Authors of web pages tend to omit formatting information in HTML code and rely on the default formatting of web browsers or other applications. The problem with this design is that there is no standardized way of formatting when no explicit formatting instructions are given. A page may appear differently when viewed in different applications.

Example scenario

Let's say a table is formatted with

```
<table><tr><td><p>Test text in cell 1</p></td></tr></table>
```

This HTML perfectly models a table structure (a table with one row and one column). However, it does not give information about the font family the text shall be displayed for instance.

A browser or other application may choose to display the text in Serif, another might choose SansSerif, so the actual appearance might look completely different. One can not predict how the appearance will look.

To make sure HTML is rendered in a comparable way over different applications formatting information should always be included explicitly.

```
<table style="width:80%"><tr><td><p style="font-family:Sans-Serif; font-size:12; font-weight:bold;">Test text in cell 1</p></td></tr></table>
```

Above HTML will ensure that the table width always is 80% of the width of display window and text will always be rendered in Sans-Serif, 12pt, bold.

Conclusion

It is a good idea to store formatting information along with the content of the document. The formatting information can be stored with each tag as in above example or it can be stored in a separate CSS style sheet the HTML file references. This way it is most likely that the document is rendered similarly over different applications.