

Stage One Computing

SOCPDFTool: A quick guide

Introduction

PDFtoPDF/A3b is a tool to be used as a swiss army knife in regards to a PDF. The program can merge multiple PDFs, save it as a PDF/A-3b, sign it, and a whole lot more.

The tool was originally designed to make production equipment auto generate batch reports, containing the batch raw data also. This enables users to have both human-readable and machine-readable data in the same file, and via the ISO defined PDF/A standard format provides some degree of data integrity. Today the tool has evolved to include some additional nice features, making the tool somewhat more versatile, and providing additional tools for data integrity.

Definitions and abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
SOC	Stage One Computing A/S
PDF	Printable Data Format
PDF/A	Archive formatted PDF
PDF/A-3b	A specific kind of PDF/A with file inclusion abilities

Scope

This document is limited to the use of SOCPDFTool in the current version.

Installation

The tool must be installed on the executing computer system, from where it will utilize a number of include files. For installation purposes, the tool is provided with an installer. Start the installer from windows explorer. Name of installer is InstallSOCPDF.

Usage

In order to use the tool, it is recommended to run the tool from a batch file, as this is the only way that the return code can be caught and acted upon.

Batch file sample code PDFtoPDF/A3b.bat (included in the install kit as a sample):

```
socpdftool -s"1.pdf","2.pdf","3.pdf" -d"result.pdf" -i"2.docx"  
echo %errorlevel%
```

The application can also be called directly from the command line:

```
C:\> SOCPDFTool
```

Arguments

Argument	Definition	Example
--help	This will show a help text explaining each of the available commands.	--help
-s	Sets the source PDF files. Multiple files are	-s"c:\documents\PDF1.pdf"

Argument	Definition	Example
	separated by a comma.	, "c:\documents\PDF2.pdf"
-d	Sets the destination file.	-d "c:\documents\result.pdf"
-c	Sets the path to a certificate file.	-c "c:\pfx\key.pfx"
-n	Sets the name of a certificate to be used from the certificate store.	-n "private\mysign"
-u	Use certificate signing. Using -c or -n will have no effect unless, -u is set.	-u True
-i	Sets the path to the files to be included as attachments. Multiple files are separated by a comma.	-i "c:\documents\data.xml"
-r	Converts to images, such that each page in the output document is an image of its source page, not unlike printing a document and scanning it afterwards.	-r True
-m	Adds metadata to the document. Added to PDF document as meta data keywords. Can be used e.g. for classification or adding a specific tag number for identification.	-m "my classification keywords or tag number"
-p	Adds page numbering on all pages. The page number will be placed at the top right of each page.	-p True
-plang	Customizes the page numbering text. By default, page number 1 in a document of 123 pages will appear as: "Page 001 of 123". The words Page and of can be changed with this parameter. The words must be separated by semicolon (;).	-plang "Page;of" -plang ";/"
-a	Adds the current date to all pages. The date will be placed in a box at the top left of each page.	-a True
-t	Adds a specific text to all pages. The text will be placed in the box at the top left of each page.	-t "Some text" -t "Line 1\r\nLine2\r\nLine3"
-color	Sets color of custom texts. This sets the color of any dates, page numbers, and specific texts added to the page by this tool. The color may be specified on hexadecimal format or in plain text with a HTML/CSS color code.	-color #c70c00 -color Purple
-corient	Sets custom orientation of any custom texts, date, and page numbering. Without this set, custom text, date, and page numbering will be added to each page, aligned to the general orientation of the text of the page. This argument can be used to overwrite the alignment and set a specific placement of the custom texts, specified with a degree: 0 for regular portrait placement, 90 for landscape placement, 180 for rotated portrait placement, 270 for rotated landscape placement.	-corient 90

Please note that contents of the argument must come directly after the argument (no space), and text must be enclosed by hyphens.

Command exit codes (Errors)

Exit code	Meaning
0	The application has finished without errors.
200	The source files (one or more) do not exist.
201	The source files (one or more) are not valid.
202	The destination file already exists.
203	The attachment files (one or more) to be included do not exist.
204	The certificate file does not exist.
205	The certificate specified does not exist in the store.
206	The certificate name specified is not a unique name in the store.
207	No certificate specified for signing.
212	Semicolon not found in page language text parameter.
213	The color specified for the custom text was invalid.
214	The specified custom text orientation was invalid.
255	A general error has occurred.

Document metadata

Document metadata is handled in two ways:

The `-m` option can be used to add custom keywords to the output document.

If multiple documents are merged, the metadata from each document is gathered and compiled in an xml document.

Examples

The following examples will show how to use the application:

Merge two PDFs

```
C:\> SOCPDFTool -s"c:\documents\PDF1.pdf",  
"c:\documents\PDF2.pdf" -d"c:\documents\pdfMerge.pdf"
```

Sign the document using a certificate file

```
C:\> SOCPDFTool -s"c:\documents\PDF1.pdf",  
"c:\documents\PDF2.pdf" -d"c:\documents\pdfMerge.pdf" -uTrue  
-c"c:\certificates\cert1.pfx"
```

Include some data with the merger

```
C:\> SOCPDFTool -s"c:\documents\PDF1.pdf",  
"c:\documents\PDF2.pdf" -d"c:\documents\pdfMerge.pdf"  
-i"c:\data\includefile.xml"
```

Additional notes

The PDF tool can be used in conjunction with SOCopy, providing audit trail and version monitoring ability for files transferred between computer file shares. See SOCopy home page for details.