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Xpdf - PDFInfo - Command Line Utility to Retrieve Page Count and Other Information from PDF Files

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Experience Level: Intermediate



5:11

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50+ years in computers
Development • Sales
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EE — FELLOW 2017
MVE 2015, 2016, 2018
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In this fourth video of the **Xpdf** series, we discuss and demonstrate the **PDFInfo** utility, which retrieves the contents of a **PDF** file's Info Dictionary, as well as some other information (metadata), including the page count. We show how to isolate the page count in a plain text file, and the same method may be used to isolate other metadata fields, such as the Author and PDF Producer. PDFInfo provides a command line interface, making it suitable for use in batch files, programs, and scripts — any place where a command line call can be made.

Video Steps

1. Download the software.

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Precompiled binaries are available for the following machines:

- **x86, Linux** (statically linked to Motif and FreeType):
[xpdfbin-linux-3.04.tar.gz](#) (includes 32-bit and 64-bit binaries) (25295651 bytes)
- **x86, Windows** -- pdftops, pdftotext, pdftohtml, pdftoppm, pdftopng, pdftimages, pdfinfo, pdffonts, and pdfdetach only:
[xpdfbin-win-3.04.zip](#) (includes 32-bit and 64-bit binaries) (10794993 bytes)
- **x86, Mac** -- pdftops, pdftotext, pdftohtml, pdftoppm, pdftopng, pdftimages, pdfinfo, pdffonts, and pdfdetach only:
[xpdfbin-mac-3.04.tar.gz](#) (includes 32-bit and 64-bit binaries) (13332242 bytes)

2. Locate the documentation folder for the Xpdf utilities.

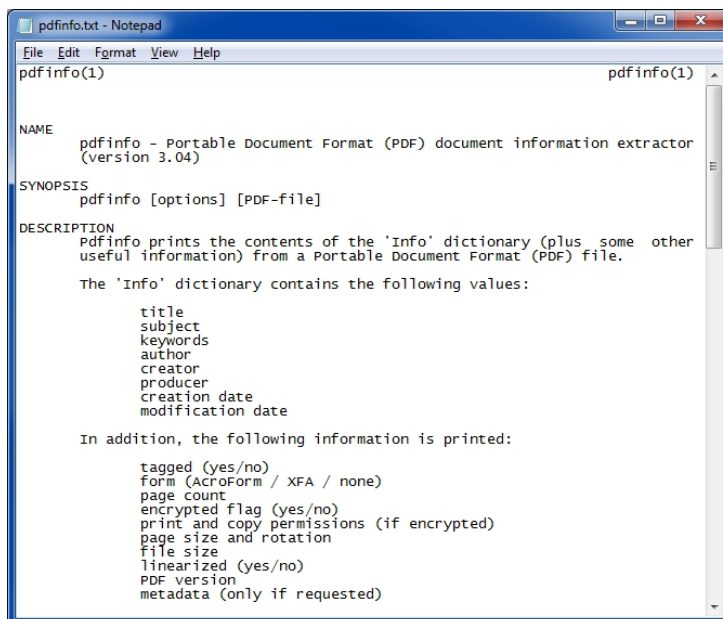
Go to the folder where you unzipped the downloaded ZIP file and find the <doc> folder.

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
bin32	9/28/14 2:21 PM	File folder	
bin64	5/28/14 11:50 AM	File folder	
doc	5/28/14 11:50 AM	File folder	
ANNOUNCE	5/28/14 11:50 AM	File	2 KB
CHANGES	5/28/14 11:50 AM	File	115 KB
COPYING	5/28/14 11:50 AM	File	18 KB
COPYING3	5/28/14 11:50 AM	File	35 KB
INSTALL	5/28/14 11:50 AM	File	1 KB
README	5/28/14 11:50 AM	File	16 KB

3. Read the documentation for the PDFInfo tool.

Go into the <doc> folder and find the plain text file called <pdfinfo.txt>.

Open it with any text editor, such as Notepad, and read it. This is the documentation for the PDFInfo tool.



```
pdfinfo(1)                                pdfinfo(1)

NAME
    pdfinfo - Portable Document Format (PDF) document information extractor
    (version 3.04)

SYNOPSIS
    pdfinfo [options] [PDF-file]

DESCRIPTION
    pdfinfo prints the contents of the 'Info' dictionary (plus some other
    useful information) from a Portable Document Format (PDF) file.

    The 'Info' dictionary contains the following values:

        title
        subject
        keywords
        author
        creator
        producer
        creation date
        modification date

    In addition, the following information is printed:

        tagged (yes/no)
        form (AcroForm / XFA / none)
        page count
        encrypted flag (yes/no)
        print and copy permissions (if encrypted)
        page size and rotation
        file size
        linearized (yes/no)
        PDF version
        metadata (only if requested)
```

4. Set up a test folder.

Create a test folder.

Copy <pdfinfo.exe> from the unzipped <bin32> folder into your test folder.

Copy a sample PDF file into your test folder (in the video and the screenshots below, the file is called **test.pdf**, which is a PDF file created from my EE article, Windows 10 uses YOUR computer to help distribute itself).

Step4

5. Set up a command prompt for testing.

Open a command prompt window.

Navigate to your test folder.

Issue a DIR command in the command prompt to be sure that only two files are in it - the PDFInfo executable and the sample PDF file.

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In the command prompt window, enter the following command:

```
pdfinfo test.pdf
```

View the output in the command prompt.

[Step6](#)

7. Run PDFinfo again, this time piping the output to the FIND filter and then redirecting the output to a text file.

In the command prompt window, enter the following command:

```
pdfinfo test.pdf | find "Pages:" > numpages.txt
```

[Step7](#)

8. Verify that the text file that was created.

Issue a DIR command in the command prompt to show that the text file was created.

[Step8](#)

9. View the text file that was created.

Open the text file with whatever text editor you prefer, such as Notepad or WordPad, and you'll see one line in there with the page count.

[Step9](#)

That's it! If you find this video to be helpful, please click the **thumbs-up** icon below. Thank you for watching!



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Author:
[Joe Winograd](#)



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