

# **Files to PDF**

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## **User's Guide**

Version 1.6b3 for PowerPC

[http://chill.webhostme.com/files\\_to\\_pdf/](http://chill.webhostme.com/files_to_pdf/)

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# Introduction

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Files to PDF is an application, which makes the combining of several PostScript files into one single PDF document very easy. By dropping files on the application, a new file is created, which after distilling, creates a PDF file with all the original PostScript files combined.

The application also offers some other extra options:

- Automatically adding bookmarks based on the original filenames
- Automatically adding the document information
- Possibility to crop the page by 1 inch on each side

## **System requirements**

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The Files to PDF application requires:

- Apple PowerMacintosh computer
- Apple MacOS 8 or higher
- Adobe Acrobat Distiller 3.0 or higher

# Installation

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If you downloaded this package from the internet, then you will need StuffIt Expander 5 or higher to expand the archive. StuffIt Expander is installed by default when you install the Macintosh OS operating system. To uncompress the archive, drop the file “files\_to\_pdf\_1.6b3.sit” on the icon of StuffIt Expander. StuffIt Expander now automatically expands the archive and makes a folder called “Files to PDF 1.6b3” on your hard drive. This folder contains the Files to PDF application and the Files to PDF User’s Guide. Place this folder in a convenient place.

If you wish, you can make an alias to Files to PDF on your desktop. Please refer to the documentation of the Macintosh Operating System if you don’t know how to do this.

# How to use Files to PDF

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## In general

Files to PDF is a so-called “droplet”, which means that you can only use the application by dropping files on the icon of the application. It will display an info screen when double-clicking on the icon.

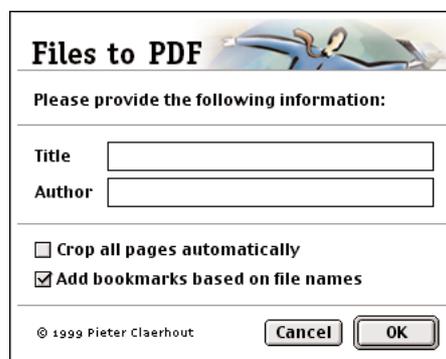
## Files to PDF as application

If you double-click on Files to PDF, then you will get this info screen, which tells you how the application works.



## Files to PDF as droplet

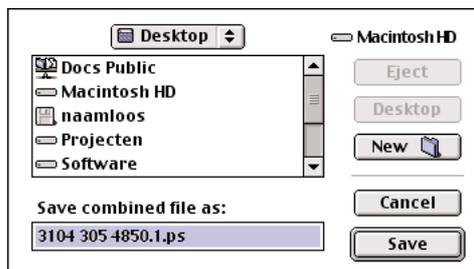
When you drop PostScript files on the icon of Files to PDF, then you will get the following screen:



In this window, you can enter 4 different options:

- The title of the document
- The author of the document.
- If you want to crop the pages or not. If you select this option, then Acrobat Distiller will crop all the pages with one inch on each side. This option will only work with DIN A4 pages (210 mm x 297 mm). This is an easy option if you want to save the bleeding information when you don't want to show it to the user. This option does not delete the bleed information, it just hides it. To use this function, print your PostScript files to a page format of 260,8 mm x 347,8 mm and center the image in this area.
- If you want to add bookmarks based on the filenames of the original PostScript files. If you want to now how to use this function, please read the chapter "The naming of the files".

When you entered all options and clicked OK, then you get a dialog which asks you where you want to save the combined file. Standard the title of the document will be used with the extension ".ps". If you didn't enter a title, then the document will be named "untitled.ps". You can give the file any name you want.



Once you did this, you can distill the file using Acrobat Distiller. Make sure that you leave the original files at their current position, because Distiller needs to reference them during Distilling. If you place one or more of the files in a different folder, you will need to recreate the PostScript file to combine the different files.

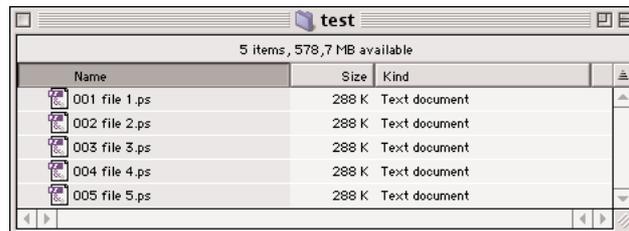
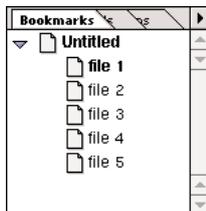
## The naming of the files

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Files to PDF uses the title of the document and the names of the original PostScript files, to determine which bookmarks need to be added, if you selected that option. As main bookmark, the title of the document will be used. Under that bookmark, a bookmark for each file will be added based on the name of the file. The system works as follows:

000 titel.ps

The first 3 characters are the numeric index who determines the order in which the bookmarks need to be added. The space after that will be ignored. After that, you have the title of the bookmark. The extension at the end of the filename is omitted. Visually, this looks like this:



For this example, we didn't enter a title for the document, and that is why the main bookmark is called "untitled". If you specify a title for your document, the title will be entered here.

## Frequently asked questions

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*Files to PDF says that one or more of the files dropped on the icon are non-valid PostScript files. How does Files to PDF check the files to find out if they are PostScript or not?*

Files to PDF tests on the following criteria to find out if a file is a PostScript file or not:

1. The extension “.ps”
2. “%!PS-Adobe-x.x” without quotes as first line
3. The files must have the type “TEXT”

*Files to PDF complains about non-recognized PostScript code. What should I do? Does this mean that I can't use my files?*

This error message normally appears only when you have selected the bookmarks option. This function looks in the PostScript source files to find the comment “%%Pages: “ to determine how many pages the document counts. This error message indicated that this comment wasn't found in the source file. The remedy for this error is to try everything again, but with the bookmarks option deselected.

## Appendix: Python

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To develop this application, the language Python was used. Python is a scripting and programming language which is available for Mac, PC, Unix/Linux and other platforms for free.

The power of Python is based on three principles:

1. The language is very clear and readable, it almost looks like pseudo-code. This makes it very easy to learn the language, and it also makes it easier to maintain source files and applications.
2. Python is completely object-oriented, and is suited for almost every programming task, from a simple script to very complex applications with extensive GUIs. Examples of applications written in Python are Grail (a webbrowser) and TTX (a TrueType to XML and XML to TrueType converter).
3. The language is completely free, and you can distribute your applications under your own licenses. You can even embed Python in other applications.

More information on Python can be found on the internet. The official website of Python can be found at <http://www.python.org/>.