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<td>63</td>
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1 Introduction

1.1 Description

The 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell optimizes PDF documents to suit specific target needs such as electronic document exchange, archiving, or printing.

Many processes produce PDF documents that may not be optimized for their specific target application. E.g. the file size may deteriorate download times, or multiply embedded fonts may impede printing. In most of the cases, there is no advantage gained when trying to convert a PDF to some other file format. In contrary, document content may be compromised and file size may increase. Optimization, on the other hand, often leads to good results, or lets the user finely tune trade-offs.

The 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell not only provides easy configuration through the use of optimization profiles, but also flexible fine-grained control through various specific options.

1.2 Functions

The 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell reads an input document and writes the corresponding output document. Depending on the configured optimization options, various parts of the PDF are thereby processed as required.

The 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell is capable of removing redundant or alternative information, sub-setting and merging font programs, down-sampling images, intelligently choose optimal compression algorithms, and linearize the PDF for fast web view.

1.2.1 Features

- Easy configurability through optimization profiles, three of which are as follows:
- Web profile
  - Remove redundant and unnecessary data for electronic document exchange
  - Down-sample, clip, and intelligently compress images
  - Merge and subset fonts
  - Linearize the output
  - Convert colors to RGB
- Archive profile
  - Remove redundant and unnecessary data for archiving
  - Intelligently compress images
  - Merge and subset fonts
- Print profile
  - Remove redundant and unnecessary data for printing
  - Down-sample, clip, and intelligently compress images
  - Merge and subset fonts
  - Convert colors to CMYK

- Features and fine grained configuration for optimizing images
  - Separately configurable compression of bi-tonal, indexed and continuous (i.e. color and gray-scale) images
  - Define threshold in dots per inch (DPI) for triggering image down-sampling
  - Define target image resolution in DPI for image down-sampling
  - Automatically select best compression type for each image
  - Configure enforcement of configured compression types
  - Color conversion to CMYK, RGB, or GrayScale
  - Remove invisible parts of images
  - Reduce the number of color channels used for images, image masks and soft masks if applicable
  - Convert soft masks to image masks if applicable
  - Perform mixed raster content (MRC) optimization for images
  - Choose color management engine
  - Remove images entirely and substitute by empty XObjects

- Features and fine grained configuration for optimizing fonts
  - Subset font programs to contain only the used glyphs
  - Merge compatible font programs and fonts
  - Compress Type 1 fonts (convert to CFF)
  - Remove font programs

- Features for optimizing page content
  - Remove unused resources
  - Automatic page content optimization
  - Flatten or remove page annotations and form fields

- Fine grained configuration for removal of:
  - Redundant objects
  - Embedded standard fonts (e.g. Courier, Arial, Times)
  - Embedded, non-symbolic fonts
  - Unnecessary file information
  - Article threads
  - Alternative images
  - Metadata
  - Page piece information
  - Output intent
  - Document structure tree including markup
  - Miniature page preview images
  - Spider (web capture) information

- Features and configuration on file level
- Read encrypted input files
- Encrypt and set access authorization for the output file
- Automatic removal of obsolete objects stemming from previous changes to the file
- Set minimum PDF version of the output file
- Linearize output file for fast web view
- Listing and extraction features
  - List fonts and their properties
  - List and extract images and their properties
  - Error code

### 1.2.2 Formats

**Input Formats**

- PDF 1.x (PDF 1.0, ..., PDF 1.7)
- PDF 2.0

**Output Formats**

- PDF 1.x (PDF 1.0, ..., PDF 1.7)
- PDF 2.0

### 1.2.3 Conformance

Standards:

- ISO 32000-1 (PDF 1.7)
- ISO 32000-2 (PDF 2.0)

### 1.3 Operating Systems

The 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell is available for the following operating systems:

- Windows Client 7+ | x86 and x64
- Linux:
  - Red Hat, CentOS, Oracle Linux 7+ | x64
  - Fedora 29+ | x64
  - Debian 8+ | x64
  - Other: Linux kernel 2.6+, GCC toolset 4.8+ | x64
- macOS 10.10+ | x64

‘+’ indicates the minimum supported version.
2 Installation

2.1 Windows

The 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell comes as a ZIP archive or as an MSI installer.

The installation of the software requires the following steps.

1. You need administrator rights to install this software.
   If you have no active downloads available or cannot log in, please contact pdfsales@pdf-tools.com for assistance.
   You will find different versions of the product available. We suggest to download the version, which is selected by default. A different version can be selected using the combo box.
   There is an MSI (*.msi) package and a ZIP (*.zip) archive available. The MSI (Microsoft Installer) package provides an installation routine that installs and uninstalls the product for you. The ZIP archive allows you to select and install everything manually.
   There is a 32 and a 64-bit version of the product available. While the 32-bit version runs on both, 32 and 64-bit platforms, the 64-bit version runs on 64-bit platforms only. The MSI installs the 64-bit version, whereas the ZIP archive contains both the 32-bit and the 64-bit version of the product. Therefore, on 32-bit systems, the ZIP archive must be used.
3. If you select an MSI package, start it and follow the steps in the installation routine.
4. If you are using the ZIP archive, do the following. Unzip the archive to a local folder, e.g. C:\Program Files\PDF Tools AG\. This creates the following subdirectories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subdirectory</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bin</td>
<td>Contains the runtime executable binaries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>doc</td>
<td>Contains documentation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. (Optional) To easily use the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell from a shell, the directory needs to be included in the “Path” environment variable.
6. (Optional) Register your license key using the License Management.
7. Make sure your platform meets the requirements regarding color spaces described in chapter Color Profiles.

2.1.1 How to set the Environment Variable “Path”

To set the environment variable “Path” on Windows, go to Start → Control Panel (classic view) → System → Advanced → Environment Variables.

Select “Path” and “Edit”, then add the directory where pdfoptimize.exe is located to the “Path” variable. If the environment variable “Path” does not exist, create it.
### 2.2 Linux and macOS

This section describes installation steps required on Linux or macOS.

Here is an overview of the files that come with the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bin/x64/pdfoptimize</td>
<td>This is the main executable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>doc/<em>.</em></td>
<td>Documentation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2.2.1 Linux

1. Unpack the archive in an installation directory, e.g. `/opt/pdf-tools.com/`
2. Verify that the GNU shared libraries required by the product are available on your system:

   ```
   ldd pdfoptimize
   ```

In case the above reports any missing libraries you have three options:

a. Download an archive that is linked to a different version of the GNU shared libraries and verify whether they are available on your system. Use any version whose requirements are met. Note that this option is not available for all platforms.

b. Use your system's package manager to install the missing libraries. It usually suffices to install the package `libstdc++6`

c. Use GNU shared libraries provided by PDF Tools AG:

   2. Download the GNU shared libraries for your platform.
3. Install the libraries manually according to your system's documentation. This typically involves copying them to your library directory, e.g. `/usr/lib` or `/usr/lib64`, and running `ldconfig`.

4. Verify that the GNU shared libraries required by the product are available on your system now.

3. Create a link to the executable from one of the standard executable directories, e.g:

   ```bash
   ln -s /opt/pdf-tools.com/bin/x64/pdfoptimize /usr/bin
   ```

4. Optionally register your license key using the Command Line License Manager Tool.

5. Make sure your platform meets the requirements regarding color spaces described in chapter Color Profiles.

2.3 Uninstall

If you have used the MSI for the installation, go to Start → 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell... → Uninstall...

If you have used the ZIP file for the installation: In order to uninstall the product, undo all the steps done during installation.

2.4 Color Profiles

The color conversion feature of the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell uses color profiles by default. For calibrated color spaces (such color spaces with an associated ICC color profile) the color conversion is well defined. For the conversion of uncalibrated device color spaces (DeviceGray, DeviceRGB, DeviceCMYK) however, the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell requires appropriate color profiles. Therefore it is important, that the profiles are available and that they describe the colors of the device your input documents are intended for.

**Note:** When setting an alternative color management system such as Neugebauer, no color profiles are required.

If no color profiles are available, default profiles for both RGB and CMYK are generated on the fly by the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell.

2.4.1 Default Color Profiles

If no particular color profiles are set default profiles are used. For device RGB colors a color profile named "sRGB Color Space Profile.icm" and for device CMYK a profile named "USWebCoatedSWOP.icc" are searched for in the following directories:

**Windows**

1. `%SystemRoot%\System32\spool\drivers\color\Icc`, which must be a direct sub-directory of where the `pdfoptimize.exe` resides.

**Linux and macOS**

1. `$PDF_ICC_PATH` if the environment variable is defined
2. the current working directory
2.4.2 Get Other Color Profiles

Most systems have pre-installed color profiles available, for example on Windows at %SystemRoot%\system32\spool\drivers\color\. Color profiles can also be downloaded from the links provided in the directory bin\Icc\ or from the following websites:

- [http://www.color.org/srgbprofiles.html](http://www.color.org/srgbprofiles.html)

2.5 Note about the Evaluation License

With the evaluation license the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell automatically adds a watermark to the output files.
3 License Management

The 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell requires a valid license in order to run correctly. If no license key is set or the license is not valid, then the executable will fail and the return code will be set to 10.

3.1 License Features

The functionality of the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell contains two areas to which the following license features are assigned:

- **Optimize**: General optimization
- **Color**: Optimizations involving color conversion

A license can include an arbitrary set of these features. The presence of any feature in a given license key can be checked in the Graphical License Manager Tool or by means of the Command Line License Manager Tool. The Interface Reference specifies in more detail which functions are included in which license features.

3.2 License Installation and Management

There are three possibilities to pass the license key to the application:

1. The license key is installed using the GUI tool (graphical user interface). This is the easiest way if the licenses are managed manually. It is only available on Windows.
2. The license key is installed using the shell tool. This is the preferred solution for all non-Windows systems and for automated license management.
3. The license key is passed to the application at run-time via the switch `-lk`. This is the preferred solution for OEM scenarios.

3.2.1 Graphical License Manager Tool

The GUI tool LicenseManager.exe is located in the bin directory of the product kit (Windows only).

![License Manager GUI](image)

List all installed license keys

The license manager always shows a list of all installed license keys in the left pane of the window. This includes licenses of other PDF Tools products. The user can choose between:

- Licenses available for all users. Administrator rights are needed for modifications.
Licenses available for the current user only.

**Add and delete license keys**

License keys can be added or deleted with the “Add Key” and “Delete” buttons in the toolbar.

- The “Add key” button installs the license key into the currently selected list.
- The “Delete” button deletes the currently selected license keys.

**Display the properties of a license**

If a license is selected in the license list, its properties are displayed in the right pane of the window.

### 3.2.2 Command Line License Manager Tool

The command line license manager tool `licmgr` is available in the `bin\x86` and `bin\x64` directory.

**Note:** The command line tool `licmgr` is not included in Windows platform kits, as the GUI tool is the recommended tool for managing licenses. A Windows `licmgr` shell tool is available in the Utilities & Tools section of your My PDF Tools customer account.

A complete description of all commands and options can be obtained by running the program without parameters:

```
licmgr
```

**List all installed license keys**

```
licmgr list
```

The currently active license for a specific product is marked with a * on the left side.

**Example:**

```
>licmgr list
Local machine:
  Product Name:
    1-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX
    1-YYYYY-YYYYY-YYYYY-YYYYY-YYYYY-YYYYY-YYYYY
    * 1-ZZZZZ-ZZZZZ-ZZZZZ-ZZZZZ-ZZZZZ-ZZZZZ-ZZZZZ-ZZZZZ
Current user:
```

**Add and delete license keys**

Install new license key:

```
licmgr store 1-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX
```
Delete old license key:

```
licmgr delete 1-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX
```

Both commands have the optional argument `-s` that defines the scope of the action:

- `g` For all users
- `u` Current user

**Display the properties of a license**

```
licmgr info 1-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX
```

Properties that invalidate the license are marked with an X, properties that require attention are marked with an !. In that case an additional line with a comment is displayed.

**Example:**

```
>licmgr info 1-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX
- Product:      Product Name
- Features:     Feature1,Feature2
- Intended use: Development
- Watermark:    No
- Platform:     Windows
- Installation: Yes
! Activation:   2018-05-07
   (The license has not yet been activated.)
- Expiration:   Does not expire
- Maintenance:  2019-04-27
```

## 3.3 License Selection and Precedence

### 3.3.1 Selection

If multiple keys for the same product are installed in the same scope, only one of them can be active at the same time.

Installed keys that are not selected are not considered by the software!

**In the Graphical User Interface** use the check box on the left side of the license key to mark a license as selected.

**With the Command Line Interface** use the `select` subcommand:
3.3.2 Precedence

License keys are considered in the following order:

1. License key passed at runtime.
2. License selected for the current user
3. License selected for the current user (legacy key format)
4. License selected for all users
5. License selected for all users (legacy key format)

The first matching license is used, regardless whether it is valid or not.

3.4 Key Update

If a license property like the maintenance expiration date changes, the key can be update directly in the license manager.

**In the Graphical User Interface** select the license and press the button “Update Key” in the toolbar:

![License Manager Interface](image)

**With the Command Line Interface** use the `update` subcommand:

```
licmgr update 1-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX
```

3.5 License activation

New licenses keys have to be activated (except for OEM licenses).

**Note:** Licenses that need activation have to be installed in the license manager and must not be passed to the component at runtime.

The license activation is tied to a specific computer. If the license is installed at user scope, the activation is also tied to that specific user. The same license key can be activated multiple times, if the license quantity is larger than 1.

Every license key includes a date, after which the license has to be activated, which is typically 10 days after the issuing date of the key. Prior to this date, the key can be used without activation and without any restrictions.

3.5.1 Activation

The License can be activated directly within the license manager. Every activation increases the activation count of the license by 1.
It is recommended to add a comment to the activation request which helps keeping track of all activations for a specific license key. In case of problems it also helps us providing support.

The comment is stored in the activation database as long as the license key remains activated. Upon deactivation it is deleted from the database immediately.

All activations and the corresponding comments can be examined using the **Load online properties** function of the license manager. The information is accessible to anyone with access to the license key.

**In the Graphical User Interface** select the license and press the button “Activate license” in the toolbar:

![Image of Graphical User Interface](image)

It is recommended to add a comment to the activation request by using the subsequent dialog box.

**With the Command Line Interface** use the activate subcommand:

```
licmgr activate 1-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX
```

Note that the key has to be installed first.

It is recommended to add a comment to the activation request by using the `-c` or `-cd` option:

```
licmgr activate -cd 1-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX
licmgr activate -c "custom comment" 1-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX
```

### 3.5.2 Reactivation

The activation is tied to specific properties of the computer like the MAC address or host name. If one of these properties changes, the activation becomes invalid and the license has to be reactivated. A reactivation does **not** increase the activation count on the license.

The process for reactivation is the same as for the activation.

**In the Graphical User Interface** the button “Activate license” changes to “Reactivate license”:

![Image of Graphical User Interface](image)

**With the Command Line Interface** the subcommand activate is used again:

```
licmgr activate 1-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX
```

### 3.5.3 Deactivation

To move a license to a different computer, it has to be deactivated first. Deactivation decreases the activation count of the license by 1.
The process for deactivation is similar to the activation process.

**In the Graphical User Interface** select the license and press the button “Deactivate license” in the toolbar:

![Graphical User Interface](image)

**With the Command Line Interface** use the deactivate subcommand:

```
licmgr deactivate 1-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX
```

### 3.6 Proxy Setting

A proxy URL can be configured for computers that cannot access the internet without a web proxy.

**Note:** The proxy must allow connections via HTTP CONNECT to the server www.pdf-tools.com:443.

**In the Graphical User Interface** press the button “Settings” in the toolbar:

![Graphical User Interface](image)

and enter the proxy URL in the respective field:

![Proxy Setting](image)

### 3.7 Offline Usage

The following actions in the license manager need access to the internet:

- License Activation
- License Reactivation
- License Deactivation
- Key Update

On systems without internet access, a three step process can be used instead, using a form on the PDF Tools website.

#### 3.7.1 First Step: Create a Request File

**In the Graphical User Interface** select the license and use the dropdown menu on the right side of the button in the toolbar:
With the Command Line Interface use the `-fs` option to specify the destination path of the request file:

```
licmgr activate -fs activation_request.bin 1-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX
```

License Deactivation: When saving the deactivation request file, the license is deactivated immediately and cannot be used any further. It can however only be activated again after completing the deactivation on the website.

### 3.7.2 Second Step: Use Form on Website


Upon success, the response will be downloaded automatically if necessary.

### 3.7.3 Third Step: Apply the Response File

In the Graphical User Interface select the license and use the dropdown menu on right side of the button in the toolbar:

With the Command Line Interface use the `-fl` option to specify the source path of the response file:

```
licmgr activate -fl activation_response.bin 1-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX
```
3.8 License Key Versions

As of 2018 all new keys will have the format 1-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX. Legacy keys with the old format 0-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX are still accepted for a limited time period.

For compatibility reasons, old and new version keys can be installed side by side and one key of each version can be selected at the same time. In that case, the software always uses the new version.

3.9 License Key Storage

Depending on the platform the license management system uses different stores for the license keys.

3.9.1 Windows

The license keys are stored in the registry:
- "HKLM\Software\PDF Tools AG" (for all users)
- "HKCU\Software\PDF Tools AG" (for the current user)

3.9.2 macOS

The license keys are stored in the file system:
- /Library/Application Support/PDF Tools AG (for all users)
- ~/Library/Application Support/PDF Tools AG (for the current user)

3.9.3 Unix/Linux

The license keys are stored in the file system:
- /etc/opt/pdf-tools (for all users)
- ~/.pdf-tools (for the current user)

Note: The user, group and permissions of those directories are set solely by the license manager tool. It may be necessary to change permissions to make the licenses readable for all users. Example:

    chmod -R go+rx /etc/opt/pdf-tools

3.10 Troubleshooting

3.10.1 License key cannot be installed

The license key cannot be installed in the license manager application. The error message is: "Invalid license format."

Possible causes:
- The license manager application is an older version that only supports the legacy key format.
Solution

Use a current version of the license manager application or use a license key in the legacy key format if available.

3.10.2 License is not visible in license manager

The license key was successfully installed previously but is not visible in the license manager anymore. The software is still working correctly.

Possible causes:
- The license manager application is an older version that only supports the legacy key format.

Solution

Use a current version of the license manager application.

3.10.3 License is not found at runtime

The license is not found at runtime by the software. The error message is: "No license key was set."

Possible causes:
- The license key is actually missing (not installed).
- The license key is installed but not selected in the license manager.
- The application is an older version that only supports the legacy key format, while the license key has the new license format.

Solution

Install and select a valid license key that is compatible with the installed version of the software or use a newer version of the software. The new license key format is supported starting with version 4.10.26.1

For compatibility reasons, one license key of each format can be selected at the same time.

3.10.4 Eval watermark is displayed where it should not

The software prints an evaluation watermark onto the output document, even if the installed license is a productive one.

Possible causes:
- There is an evaluation license key selected for the current user, that takes precedence over the key for all users.

Note: The software might be run under a different user than the license manager application.

- An evaluation license key that is passed at runtime takes precedence over those selected in the license manager.
- There is an evaluation license key selected with a newer license format that takes precedence over the key in the older format.
- The software was not restarted after changing the license key from an evaluation key to a productive one.

**Solution**
Disable or remove all evaluation license in all scopes, check that no evaluation key is passed at runtime and restart the software.

### 3.10.5 Activation is not recognized

The license is installed and activated in the license manager, but the software does not recognize it as activated.

The error message is: "The license has not been activated."

**Possible causes:**
- There is an unregistered license key selected for the current user, that takes precedence over the key for all users. This leads to an error even if the same license is registered for all users.

  **Note:** The software might be run under a different user than the license manager application.

- A license key that is passed at runtime takes precedence over those selected in the license manager. This leads to an error even if the same license is registered in the license manager.

  **Note:** Licenses that need activation have to be installed in the license manager and must not be passed to the component at runtime.

- The software was not restarted after activating the license.

**Solution**
Disable, remove or activate all unregistered licenses in all scopes, check that no key is passed at runtime and restart the software.

### 3.10.6 Activation is invalidated too often

The license activation is invalidated regularly, for no obvious reason.

**Possible causes:**
- One of the properties used to calculate the system fingerprint is changing frequently.

**Solution**
Update to a newer version of the PDF Tools product, deactivate the license key using the new license manager and activate it again. After that, an improved fingerprinting algorithm is used.
Deactivation and activation have to be executed separately, a reactivation of the license in one step does not change the fingerprinting algorithm and thus does not solve the problem.
Note: After this procedure, older products might not recognize the activation as valid anymore. Reactivating the license using an old license manager will revert the activation to the old fingerprinting algorithm.

3.10.7 Connection to the licensing service fails

The license activation/deactivation/update fails because the license manager cannot reach the licensing server. The error message depends on the platform and the exact error condition.

Possible causes:
- The computer is not connected to the internet.
- The connection is blocked by a corporate firewall.

Solution

Make sure that the computer is connected to the internet and that the host www.pdf-tools.com is reachable on port 443 (HTTPS).

If this is not possible, try Offline Usage instead.

3.10.8 Offline usage fails due to a request/response mismatch

The offline license activation/deactivation/update fails because the response file does not match the request file. The error message is: "Mismatch between request and response."

Possible causes:
- The response file is applied to a different machine than the request file was created.
- The response file as applied to a different user than the request file was created.
- The response file was applied to a specific user while the request was created for all users, or vice versa.
- The response file is applied to the wrong license key.
- Another request file has been created between creating the request file and applying the response file.
- The license key was updated between creating the request file and applying the response file.
- The license key was removed and re-added between creating the request file and applying the response file.

Solution

Delete any old request and response files to make sure they are not used by accident.

Retry the entire process as outlined in chapter 3.7 and refrain from making any other license-related actions between creating the request file and applying the response file.

Make sure that the response file is applied to exactly the same license key in exactly the same location (machine, all users or specific user) where the request file was created.
4 Getting Started

The simplest command requires two parameters: The names of the PDF input and output files.

```
pdfoptimize input.pdf output.pdf
```

This command will generate a new PDF file with almost no optimization done at all. In order to perform an actual optimization, more parameters have to be specified in the form of options. E.g., in the following the "web" optimization profile is selected (see `-pr`):

```
pdfoptimize -pr web input.pdf output.pdf
```

All options start with a hyphen (-). Some options, as in the example above, require additional parameters. All options are documented in the Interface Reference.

4.1 Usage

By typing `pdfoptimize` without parameters, the usage, the version and a list of available options is returned.

4.2 Specify the Folder of the Output File

The output folder can simply be added in front of the output file name

```
pdfoptimize input.pdf myfolder\output.pdf
```

or absolute (Windows):

```
pdfoptimize input.pdf C:\myfolder\output.pdf
```

4.3 Processing All Files in a Folder

A simple way of optimizing all files in a given directory using a command line uses a for-loop and a variable to name the current input document inside the loop.

**Example:** Optimize all PDFs in the current directory and save the results in files that have a suffix `-opt` in the same directory.

**Windows CMD**

```
for %i in (*.pdf) do pdfoptimize -v -pr web "%i" "%i-opt.pdf"
```

**Unix shell**

```
for f in *.pdf; do pdfoptimize -v -pr web "$f" "$(basename "$f" .pdf)-out.pdf"; done
```
Example: Optimize all PDFs in a given input directory and save the results using the same filenames in a given output directory.

Windows CMD

```
for %i in (C:\in\*.pdf) do pdfoptimize -v -pr web "%i" "C:\out\~%ni.pdf"
```

Unix shell

```
for f in ~/in/*.pdf; do pdfoptimize -v -pr web "$f" "~/out/$(basename "$")"; done
```

When using variables in a Windows batch file (.bat) instead of on the Windows command line, then variables have to be written with two leading percent characters (e.g. `%%i`) instead of just one (`%i`).

### 4.3.1 Windows Batch Sample

In a situation where all files in a directory need to be processed and the optimized file should have the same name as the original document, i.e. overwrite it, the following approach can be used.

- Make sure you really want this, the original file is lost in this process!
- Create the output files, either with a different name or in a different directory.
- Ensure the output files are created correctly. This can be done by verifying the return code (must be 0), or verify the document was created at all and is not empty.
- Delete the original file.
- Rename or copy back the new file to replace the original file.

The following sample does the steps described above. This sample does not ensure to always yield a correct result. Errors in the optimization or an abort of the process can still lead to loss of data. It is suggested to keep a backup of the original files.

```
@ECHO off
rem *************************************************************************
rem * This batch files optimizes all PDF files in the current directory     *
rem *                                                                       *
rem * The steps are as following:                                           *
rem *                                                                       *
rem * 1. Optimize all files in a folder. The optimized output files         *
rem *    have the temporary extension .tmp.                                 *
rem *                                                                       *
rem * 2. If the return code of the pdfoptimize is 0, and an output is       *
rem *    created, the optimization process is considered successful.        *
rem *                                                                       *
rem * 3. If successful, the original input file is deleted and the         *
rem *    .tmp file is renamed to .pdf.                                      *
rem *                                                                       *
rem *    If the process was not successful, the .tmp file is deleted        *
rem *    and the original file is left as is.                               *
rem *************************************************************************
if exist *.tmp del /f /q *.tmp
for %%i in (*.pdf) do (  
   set name=%%-ni  
   call :_Optimize  
)
goto :eof
```
In order to optimize all files in all sub-folders, it is best to create a batch file that runs through all sub-folders and executes the batch file above.

So, create a batch file called run.bat and copy the upper code in it.

Then create another batch file called for example runsub.bat and add the code below:

```batch
@echo off
for %%r in (.) do set rootfolder=%%-pr
for /r %%s in (.) do (
    cd %%s
    call %rootfolder%run.bat
) cd %rootfolder%
set rootfolder=
```

Now copy the two batch files to the root folder (i.e. the folder from which every PDF file in every sub folder should be processed) and run the batch runsub.bat.
5 Optimization Process

5.1 How to Optimize PDF Documents

5.1.1 Identify Target Application Area

PDF documents are used in a wide variety of application areas, all having different requirements. As a very first step, one should precisely identify the targeted application area. A few typical fields of application are described briefly below. However, PDF documents can also be used in other ways or in combinations of the ones listed below.

Web

All documents related to the web should be kept small in file size. As a consequence they take less storage on the web-server and can be transferred quicker, resulting in shorter download times.

In order to reduce the file size as much as possible, all information that is not required for displaying the document without a visual loss can be removed. This may include:

- Down-sampling images (-dt, -dr)
- Clipping images to their visible parts (-oc)
- Applying compressions algorithms with high compression ratios (-fb, -fc, -fi)
- Collapsing redundant objects (-or)
- Removing unused resources (-od)
- Removing irrelevant information such as article threads, metadata, alternate images, document structure information, etc. (Strip the File)
- Merging and sub-setting embedded font programs (-s and -m)
- Depending on the PDF documents to be optimized, font programs of embedded standard fonts can even be removed (-rs).

Additionally, PDF documents can be linearized (-ow). This is a method of preparing a PDF file in way that pages can be accessed randomly via a PDF viewer web-browser plug-in, i.e. selected pages can be displayed before the whole file is downloaded. For this to work, the PDF viewer web-browser plug-in has to support correct interpretation of linearized PDF.

Documents which are intended to be displayed on a Computer display should be saved in ab RGB (red green blue) color space. RGB is the native form for any light-emitting device, such as computer monitor or television. An RGB image uses three channels and therefore takes up less space than a CMYK (cyan magenta yellow black) image which uses four channels. (-c)

Printing

For printing applications the file size is not the highest priority. More important is to have a document which prints in a predictable way. This means that correct fonts should be used, colors should look as expected, images should be high in resolution, etc.

For that reason no data from the original document that is used for a well-defined re-production should be removed or altered. Fonts should not be un-embedded, images should not be down-sampled. (Of course there are always exceptions).

For many printing applications it may be advantageous to convert images to the CMYK color space because this is primarily used in systems that reflect light (such as printed paper). (-c)
In certain documents, the same font is embedded multiple times. If, e.g., a PDF-producing software embeds the same font for each created page, then large multi-page documents contain many copies of a font program. Also, a document can contain a complete font program, of which only very few glyphs are used for display. In such situations, merging and sub-setting font programs can lead to faster printing. (-m and -s)

There are still further ways to decrease the file size:

- Clipping images to their visible parts (-pc)
- Compressing uncompressed images, e.g. with a lossless compression type (-fb, -fc, -fi, see also Supported Image Compression Types)
- Collapsing redundant objects (-or)
- Removing unused resources (-od)
- Removing irrelevant information for printing, such as thumbnails, article threads, document structure information, etc. (Strip the File)

Archiving

Archiving can have varying requisites, such as: Minimize the file size, maximize the reproducibility of the document, minimize the access time to find a specific archived document, etc.

The most common way for archiving a PDF is the PDF/A format, which is defined in the ISO Standard 19005. PDF/A requires fonts to be embedded, metadata to be included and prohibits certain features, like LZW or JPEG2000 compression or alternate images. The 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell does not create PDF/A output but can be used, e.g., to reduce the file size prior to converting to PDF/A.

Scanned Documents

For certain types of scanned documents, MRC (mixed raster content) optimization can have a significant impact on file size while still preserve the visual appearance of the document. The 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell supports MRC, see also Mixed Raster Content (MRC) Optimization for Images.

Special Requirements

As an example for a specific requirement, the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell supports the restriction of compression types for images in a document to a given list of types. (See -ft, -fb, -fc, and -fi.)

Another requirement may be to encrypt the resulting PDF and protect it by a user password and/or by an owner password. The 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell provides both by means of the options -p, -u, and -o.

PDF documents which mainly consist of scanned images to which an OCR (optical character recognition) layer is to be applied at a later time should be optimized in a way that the OCR process of the optimized document works as well as with the original. That means that image compression should either be lossless, or at least perceptually lossless. Perceptually lossless refers to a compression which is lossy, but its visual quality is high enough that neither the human eye nor an OCR engine can distinguish between original and optimized document. (See also Supported Image Compression Types.)

5.1.2 Using Optimization Profiles

The 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell provides the notion of “optimization profiles” to quickly arrive at a configuration suitable for many application areas. Once the application area is defined, the optimization profile that best matches the requirements can be identified. The configuration is done by setting this profile (-pr) followed by adjusting individual settings that differ from the profile.
The actual profile settings for all profiles are in Profile Settings.

### 5.2 Optimizing Images

For the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell the target compression type of an image is specified by giving a numerical value between -1 and 10 to the options \(-fb\), \(-fc\), and \(-fi\). Several values can be combined in a comma-separated list. (No spaces are allowed in the list.)

The values 1 to 8 directly correspond to PDF compression types, other values indicate a special behavior.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Compression</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>No Compression (Raw)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>DCT (JPEG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Flate (ZIP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>LZW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>CCITT Fax Group 3 (CCITT Fax Group 3 and 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>CCITT Fax Group 3 2D (CCITT Fax Group 3 and 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>CCITT Fax Group 4 (CCITT Fax Group 3 and 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>JBIG2 (Supported in PDF 1.4 or later)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>JPEG2000 (Supported in PDF 1.5 or later, not supported in PDF/A-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>In contrast to the values 0-8, this is not a single compression format. Instead, this enables MRC optimization on color and monochrome images. (See Mixed Raster Content (MRC) Optimization for Images) Application area: Scanned documents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>In contrast to the values 0-8, this is not a single compression format. Instead, this tells 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell to use the same compression as the original input image.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-1</td>
<td>Exclude from processing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 5.2.1 Supported Image Compression Types

In PDF, up to 8 different ways of compressing binary data are supported. (See also PDF Reference 1.7, Chapter 3.3 for more information on these types.)

**No Compression (Raw)**

Raw means no compression is applied.
## DCT (JPEG)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Developer</th>
<th>Joint Photographic Experts Group committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Version</td>
<td>PDF 1.2 and later, PDF/A-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color depth</td>
<td>8, 24 bits per pixel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compression type</td>
<td>Lossy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compression algorithm</td>
<td>The image is broken up into blocks that are 8 by 8 samples. On each of these blocks and color channel a discrete cosine transformation (DCT) is applied and its coefficients are quantized. The visual quality of the resulting image depends on the loss of information defined by the step size of the quantization and on the image that is being compressed. The compression can be controlled via an image quality parameter—a value from 1 to 100 (default 75). Typical compression ratios are 15:1 (no perceptible loss of information) to 30:1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application area</td>
<td>Sampled continuous-tone pictures (photographs)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Flate (ZIP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Developer</th>
<th>Flate compression is based on the public-domain zlib / deflate compression method.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Version</td>
<td>PDF 1.2 and later, PDF/A-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color depth</td>
<td>1-8, 24 bits per pixel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compression type</td>
<td>Lossless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compression algorithm</td>
<td>A lossless data compression algorithm that uses a combination of the LZ77 algorithm and Huffman coding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application area</td>
<td>Images</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## LZW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Developer</th>
<th>Abraham Lempel, Jacob Ziv and Terry Welch Copyright based issues, which expired in most countries in 2003/2004, reduced the popularity of this compression. As one of its consequences it is not included in PDF/A standard.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Version</td>
<td>PDF 1.2 and later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color depth</td>
<td>2-8 bits per pixel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compression type</td>
<td>Lossless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compression algorithm</td>
<td>An indexed based compression that is also used in the GIF and TIFF image formats.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### CCITT Fax Group 3 and 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Developer</strong></td>
<td>International Telecommunications Union (ITU), formerly known as the Comité Consultatif International Téléphonique et Télégraphique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Version</strong></td>
<td>PDF 1.0 and later, PDF/A-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Color depth</strong></td>
<td>1 bit per pixel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Compression type</strong></td>
<td>Lossless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Compression algorithm</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 3</td>
<td>1-dimensional version of the CCITT Group 3 Huffman encoding algorithm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 3 2D</td>
<td>2-dimensional version of the CCITT Group 3 Huffman encoding algorithm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 4</td>
<td>An advanced version of a bi-tonal algorithm based on the CCITT Fax Group 3 2D compression.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Application area**: Line-art image, bi-tonal, faxes

### JBIG2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Developer</strong></td>
<td>Joint Bi-Level Image Experts Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Version</strong></td>
<td>PDF 1.4 and later, PDF/A-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Color depth</strong></td>
<td>1 bit per pixel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Compression type</strong></td>
<td>Lossless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Compression algorithm</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The image is broken down into individual symbols, which are stored in a table. A symbol is added to the table if it does not exist yet. If a matching symbol already exists, it is used as a reference. This algorithm works especially well for images with a lot of similar symbols such as scanned text or images that use patterns. Generally JBIG2 provides a better compression ratio than CCITT Group 3 or Group 4 compression. Typical compression ratios for text pages are 20:1 to 50:1.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Application area**: Line-art image, bi-tonal
**JPEG2000**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Developer</th>
<th>Joint Photographic Experts Group committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Version</td>
<td>PDF 1.5 and later, PDF/A-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color depth</td>
<td>8, 24 bits per pixel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compression type</td>
<td>Lossless if the image quality index is set to 100. Lossy otherwise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compression algorithm</td>
<td>JPEG2000 is a wavelet-based image compression standard. It was developed with the intention of superseding the original discrete cosine transform-based JPEG standard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application area</td>
<td>Sampled continuous-tone pictures (photographs)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 5.2.2 Relevant Factors for the File Size

The size of an image is basically determined by four factors:

- **The pixel mass**  The total amount of pixels the image has. An image with a size of 600 by 800 pixels has 480,000 pixels total.

- **The color depth**  How many bits are required to describe 1 pixel? The table below gives the answer for different types of images. For example, an RGB image with 600 by 800 pixels requires therefore 600 x 800 x 3 bytes = 1.44 Mbytes in uncompressed format.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color Space</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Bits/ Pixel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bi-tonal</td>
<td>Black and white</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indexed</td>
<td>Colors are stored in an index table which usually holds 2 to 256 entries, e.g. GIF</td>
<td>2-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grayscale</td>
<td>Monochrome</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color RGB</td>
<td>Color using Red, Green, Blue</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color CMYK</td>
<td>Color using Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Key (=black)</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **The compression type**  A compression algorithm can compress data (such as an image) to reduce its file size. Such an algorithm belongs to either of the following two classes:

  - **Lossless**  The original image can be restored exactly.

  - **Lossy**  The compression modifies the pixels. The original image cannot be restored from the compressed version. This is typically applied to photographic images where the human eye cannot distinguish whether the image was modified. The most common lossy compression is JPEG. The benefit of lossy compression is the higher compression ratio.

See also [Supported Image Compression Types](#).
The content of the image  The simpler the image, the better it compresses. For most compression algorithms a simple image (e.g. completely white) compresses much better than a complex image (e.g. a photo).

Examples:

CCITT Fax compression was designed to compress black text written on a white background. The algorithm was optimized under the assumption that a page contains more white pixels than black pixels. Therefore a bi-tonal image with a lot of black does generally not compress as well as in image with more white even if they have the same pixel mass.

JBIG2 compression searches for patterns, and uses them multiple times. For example in a scanned text document the same few dozen of characters are used over and over again. The algorithm is optimized to save frequent patterns more efficiently than rare ones.

5.2.3 Provided Features for Optimizing Images

The 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell offers the following possibilities to optimize images:

The pixel mass  can be reduced. (It cannot be increased.) This is done by clipping (cropping) the image size to its visible extent and/or by reducing the image resolution.

The resolution defines how many pixels there are in given length of the image. The most common unit for resolution is DPI (dots per inch). If an image has a resolution of 200 DPI, it means when displayed at 100% zoom, there are 200 pixels for 1 inch of image. The higher the resolution, the "sharper" is the image. A monitor has usually a resolution of at least 96 DPI, a laser printer of at least 600 DPI. When the file size matters, a common resolution for color and grayscale images in PDF is 150 DPI (usually higher for bi-tonal).

The process of changing the amount of pixels an image has, is called re-sampling, or down-sampling when the result has less pixels than the original image.

In the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell down-sampling is applied by setting a target resolution and a threshold resolution. The default values are 150 DPI for the target resolution and 225 DPI for the threshold resolution. This means every image that has a resolution of 225 DPI or higher is potentially down-sampled to 150 DPI. Of course, the threshold resolution can be set equal to the target resolution. However there are many cases where down-sampling by just a little bit has disadvantages. In particular, lossy images (e.g. JPEG compression) loose visual quality every time they are newly compressed. On top of that the compressed output can be larger than the input because artifacts introduced by the previous compression(s) are now considered as part of the image which needs to be compressed and lead to a worse compression even when the resolution is reduced. Per default, the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell will, however, prevent such unnecessary re-sampling.

The color depth  can be modified for color images. The color depth can be left unchanged, set to Grayscale (8 bit), RGB (24 bit) or CMYK (32 bit). It cannot be changed to black and white (1 bit).

Note:  In certain circumstances, the color depth of the image is not converted, e.g. if the resulting file size increases or if the image is pre-blended with a matte color.

The color complexity  can be reduced. By “color complexity” we mean the following hierarchy of possible image pixel contents:

1. All pixels have the same color.
2. All pixels are either black or white.
3. All pixels are colored gray.
4. Pixels have differing colors.
By color complexity reduction we mean that images are converted to their lowest possible color complexity. E.g., a color image with only black and white pixels is converted to a bi-tonal image. Furthermore, an image with color complexity 1 (single color) is down-sampled to one pixel.

Color complexity reduction is also applied to masks and soft masks: Soft masks of complexity 2 (bi-tonal) are converted to masks. Masks and soft masks with complexity 1 (single color) whose color is such that the (soft) mask is opaque are removed.

Note: Currently, color complexity reduction is only carried out for images that have a device color space (DeviceRGB, DeviceGray, or DeviceCMYK) or an indexed color space whose base color space is a device color space.

The compression can be setup independently for the following three image compression types:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bi-tonal</td>
<td>Black and white images.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indexed</td>
<td>Images with an indexed (also known as “paletted”) color space.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>Color (RGB and CMYK) images and grayscale images.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bi-tonal images usually contain text or black and white graphics, indexed images usually contain color graphics such as logos, while continuous images usually contain photographs.

For each of the above image types, several compression algorithms can be set. The 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell tries all the given compression algorithms and takes the one that yields the smallest file size. Note that the more compression algorithms are set, the longer the process of optimizing images will take.

Furthermore, a more conservative image processing strategy can be enabled. This strategy prevents all the compression trials if the image has neither been clipped nor down-sampled nor undergone a color-conversion. Hence, if the image has not been altered, then the original image from the input document is taken.

The content of the image cannot be changed directly. However changing the resolution or applying a lossy compression algorithm modifies the content of the image.

Note: Unless forcing of re-compression is enabled, the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell never increases the file size of an image because it chooses the smallest among all tried compression algorithms and the original image in the input file. This means the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell cannot be used to “un-compress” embedded images.

5.2.4 Mixed Raster Content (MRC) Optimization for Images

Some raster images—typically scanned documents—consist mainly of text, possibly in several colors and interspersed with some pictures. Such images are difficult to compress with one single compression type because of the diverse or even conflicting features of different parts of the image.

Note: There exists an optimization profile for MRC optimization. See Profile Settings.
MRC optimization is a way of breaking such images down into parts, such that each part is well suited for one type of a compression algorithm. With this approach, the resulting file size often can be reduced without significantly reducing the visual quality of the document.

**Note:**
- MRC optimization can only be enabled for continuous images, i.e. not for bi-tonal images and images with an indexed color space.
- Monochrome (gray-scale) images are treated as entire photographic regions, see also Phase 1: Cutting out Pictures.
- MRC optimization may yield unexpected results, e.g. because the input image is not suitable for MRC. As another example, images in the original PDF may be stored as small slices, and MRC optimization fails because the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell has no option to concatenate such image slices.
- A PDF that contains MRC-optimized images is not suited for optical character recognition (OCR) and image extraction.

In the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell, MRC optimization works in three phases as explained below.

**Phase 1: Cutting out Pictures**

In this phase, the input image is analyzed and rectangular areas containing photographic features are detected. Each detected region is cut out and placed as a separate image in the resulting PDF.

Depending on the input image it is possible that this phase decides that the whole input image consists of one photographic region covering the whole image. In this case, the second phase (Phase 2: Separation into Layers) is omitted.

On the other hand, it is possible, that actual photographic regions present in the input image are not recognized correctly. This can happen for example if a photographic region contains parts with uniform color. For the cut-out images, a compression type can be set.

**Note:** The resulting cut pictures are neither down-sampled nor color-converted. Monochrome (gray-scale) images are always treated as entire photographic regions.

**Phase 2: Separation into Layers**

For this second phase the image is not supposed to contain any photographic features. Instead, the image is assumed to consist of text and graphic, potentially with varying color.

Now, the whole image is separated into two layers, a foreground and a background layer. Additionally, a mask is created, which can be thought of as a bi-tonal image that is not displayed directly but tells for each pixel whether to show the foreground layer or the background layer.

**Example:**

Let the image consist of a yellow background with black paragraph text and a title text in red. Then the resulting background layer contains the yellow color only. The foreground layer contains the black text color where the paragraph text is located and the red text color where the title is located. In the mask, pixels for which the foreground layer should be displayed are set to 1, the others are set to 0. I.e. the mask contains 1’s where the black and the red text is and 0’s everywhere else.
In the resulting PDF the foreground layer, the background layer and the mask are stored as three images and thus are allowed to have different resolution and different compression types. Since all the detailed features have been moved to the mask, it makes sense to down-sample the foreground and background layers and use a low image quality. The mask on the other hand is usually stored with a lossless compression type optimized for text.

**Phase 3: Reconstruction**

In this phase the results of phase 1 (the cut-out images) and phase 2 (the layers and the mask) are used to synthesize the desired result. If in phase 1, a single photographic region covering the entire image is detected, then the original image is used and the reconstruction is finished. Otherwise, the reconstruction first places the background layer, followed by the foreground layer with the mask. Finally if any cut-images are found they are placed at their respective locations on top of the foreground layer.

### 5.3 Optimizing Fonts

Every text in a PDF document is written with a font. This font can either be embedded or not embedded in the resources of the PDF. Embedded means a font program is embedded that describes how glyphs are drawn. If a font is not embedded the application rendering the PDF (e.g. 3-Heights™ PDF Viewer or Adobe Acrobat) have to select a replacement font. Therefore the visual appearance of text written with an embedded font is determinable, whereas it is not when the font is not embedded.

A font program can be quite large. An embedded font which contains all WinAnsi characters has a size of about 20-100 Kbytes, if it contains a large Unicode range (e.g. Asian Characters) it can be several Mbytes, whereas an non embedded font requires much less.

This leads to the following ways to optimize fonts:

- **Remove the embedded font:** Removing embedded fonts can reduce the file size of a document, particularly when the document contains many fonts. Removing fonts is best applied to (PDF-) standard fonts, such as Arial, Courier, Courier New, Helvetica, Times, Times New Roman. Removing fonts should not be applied to barcode fonts or fancy types.

  **Note:** PDF/A requires fonts to be embedded.

- **Subset fonts:** Only keep the information in the font program that is required to render the characters that are actually used in text in this document. All unused characters are removed.

- **Merge fonts:** A document can have the same font, or a subset of it, embedded multiple times. This commonly occurs when multiple input document, are merged into one large output document. The 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell Tool can merge these fonts into one font (if they can be merged).
# 6 Interface Reference

## 6.1 Profile Settings

The following table lists all settings for optimization all profiles. The profile labeled “(default)” contains the settings in effect when no profile is selected.

**Note:** Values in parentheses, although set, have no effect because images are excluded from processing or image down-sampling is disabled due to a threshold set to −1.

**Note:** The license feature Color does support none of the following profiles but the default profile.

### Profile Settings

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>(default)</th>
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## Profile Settings

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</tbody>
</table>

### 6.2 Optimization Options

An option is a configuration string of the form

```
-<option> <parameters>
```

where `<option>` is a 1 to 3-letter string that names the option and `<parameters>` are further configuration values given to this option. Many options don't support any `<parameters>`.

Options are provided on the command line after the command `pdfoptimize`. They define how the document should be optimized. The last two strings of the command line should always be the input and the output-file. (There is no output-file required when using any of the listing-options `-li` and `-lf`.)

---

1 These values, although set, have no effect because down-sampling of images is disabled.
Options are parsed from left to right, the last set value is applied. (An exception to this is setting a profile with `-pr`.) Profiles are always applied first.

**Example:** With the following options, the resolution for re-sampling of all raster image types (color, monochrome, bi-tonal) is first set to 100, then the monochrome resolution is set explicitly to 120.

```bash
defoptimize -dr 100 -dmr 120 input.pdf output.pdf
```

If in the above command the setting `-dmr 120` was set before `-dr 100`, it would not have any influence, since `-dr 100` applies to all compressions and therefore would overwrite the previous setting.

In the following all options are listed in alphabetical order.

Options that are marked with a license features are available if the listed feature is included in the license. See also **License Features**.

### 6.2.1 -c Set the Color Conversion

**Set the Color Conversion**  
- `<n>`

License feature:  **Color**

This option activates conversion of raster images from one color space into another, e.g. convert all RGB images to CMYK images.

This option does not have any impact on objects other than raster images that use color spaces, such as vector graphics or text. Color key masked images are not color converted. Pre-blended images can be converted from RGB to Grayscale.

The parameter `<n>` has the following meaning:

**Color Conversions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><code>&lt;n&gt;</code></th>
<th>Conversion</th>
<th>Color Values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>(default) Don't convert colors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Convert to ICE sRGB colors</td>
<td>red, green, blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Convert to CYMK color (using profiles)</td>
<td>cyan, yellow, magenta, key</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Convert color images to grey scale</td>
<td>grey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example:** To convert all embedded color images that use the RGB color space to images of the CMYK color space, use the following command

```bash
defoptimize -c 2 input.pdf output.pdf
```

### 6.2.2 -cff Compress Type1 fonts (convert to CFF)

**Compress Type1 fonts (convert to CFF)**  
- `cff`

License feature:  **Optimize**
Convert embedded Type1 (PostScript) fonts to Type1C (Compact Font Format). This reduces the file size.

This option is affected when setting a profile (-pr).

### 6.2.3 -cms Set the Color Management Engine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>License feature:</th>
<th>Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-cms &lt;engine&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The transformation of colors from one color space to another is performed using a color management engine. Supported engines are:

- **none** The algorithms specified in the PDF reference are used. This results in the maximum possible contrast.
- **neugebauer** The Neugebauer algorithm efficiently converts CMYK to RGB. It does not need any color profiles. The results, however, look similar to conversion using color profiles.
- **lcms** (default): Use ICC color profiles. Default profiles are used for all unmanaged device color spaces as described in section Color Profiles.

The color transition remains smooth.

**Example:** The following command selects the neugebauer color management engine.

```
pdfoptimize -cms neugebauer input.pdf output.pdf
```
6.2.4 Resolution Values per Image Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DPI for Bi-Tonal Images</th>
<th>-dbt &lt;dpi&gt;</th>
<th>License feature: Optimize</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DPI for Color Images</td>
<td>-dct &lt;dpi&gt;</td>
<td>License feature: Optimize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPI for Monochrome Images</td>
<td>-dmt &lt;dpi&gt;</td>
<td>License feature: Optimize</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The target resolution values for down-sampling images can be set individually for different types of images.

Parameter:

<dpi> The target resolution in DPI. The default values for <dpi> are as follows:

- Bi-Tonal Images: 200
- Color Images: 150
- Monochrome Images: 150

6.2.5 Threshold Values per Image Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DPI for bi-tonal images</th>
<th>-dbt &lt;dpi&gt;</th>
<th>License feature: Optimize</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DPI for color images</td>
<td>-dct &lt;dpi&gt;</td>
<td>License feature: Optimize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPI for monochrome images</td>
<td>-dmt &lt;dpi&gt;</td>
<td>License feature: Optimize</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The threshold values above which down-sampling an image is activated can be set with these options.

Parameter:

<dpi> The threshold in DPI. A value of -1 indicates that all images of this type are excluded from down-sampling.

Default: -1.

6.2.6 -dr Resolution in DPI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution in DPI</th>
<th>-dr &lt;dpi&gt;</th>
<th>License feature: Optimize</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Set the target resolution after re-sampling images, image masks and image's soft masks in dots per inch (DPI). Only those images with a resolution value higher than the threshold value, which is set with option -dt, will be processed. The default target resolution is 150 DPI.

Pre-blended images, images with a color key mask, masks, and soft mask images are not re-sampled.

**Example:** In order to down-sample all raster images with a resolution greater than 150 DPI to 75 DPI, apply the following

```
pdfoptimize -dt 150 -dr 75 input.pdf output.pdf
```

### 6.2.7 -dt Threshold in DPI

This option defines the minimum resolution an image must have to be optimized. The threshold value for down-sampling raster images is used in conjunction with the option -dr, which sets the actual target resolution for those down-sampled images.

The threshold resolution must be equal or higher than the target resolution. If the value is set to -1, down-sampling is turned off. This is the default.

**Example:** Select the “web” profile and down-sample all raster images with an original resolution higher or equal to 150 DPI to a new resolution of 75 DPI.

```
pdfoptimize -pr web -dt 150 -dr 75 input.pdf output.pdf
```

**Example:** Select the “web” profile but disable down-sampling of images.

```
pdfoptimize -pr web -dt -1 input.pdf output.pdf
```

If the size (in terms of bytes) of the re-sampled image is larger than its original size, the original image is kept instead.

### 6.2.8 -fb Compression Types for Bi-tonal Images

This option affects only bi-tonal (black and white) images. The option -fb is followed by a comma-separated list of numerical values (no spaces allowed in the list). The following values are possible:
### Bi-Tonal Compression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Compression Filter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>RAW data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Flate (ZIP) compression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lempel-Ziv-Welch (LZW) compression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>CCITT Fax Group 3 compression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>CCITT Fax Group 3 2D compression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>(default) CCITT Fax Group 4 compression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>JBIG2 compression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Take the compression type from the original image in the input PDF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-1</td>
<td>Exclude bi-tonal images from processing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example:** To let the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell try CCITT Group 3 compression, JBIG2 compression and the compression that is used in the source image of the original file use the following command

\[ \text{pdfoptimize } -fb \ 3,7,10 \ \text{input.pdf output.pdf} \]

The above command makes the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell go through all bi-tonal images and processes each image individually as follows. All the given compression algorithms are executed. If the input image has a compression different from CCITT Fax Group 3 and JBIG2, then the compression of the input image is also executed. As a result, several candidate versions are obtained. Now a choice is made among all these versions (including the original image) based on the size in bytes. The smallest candidate is chosen and used in the output document.

### 6.2.9 -fc Compression Types for Color and Grayscale Images

This option affects normal color images (RGB and CMYK) as well as grayscale (monochrome) images. The option \(-\text{fc}\) is followed by a comma-separated list of numerical values (no spaces allowed in the list). The following values are possible:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Compression Filter</th>
<th>License Feature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>RAW data</td>
<td>Optimize,Color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>(default) DCT(JPEG) compression</td>
<td>Optimize,Color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Flate (ZIP) compression</td>
<td>Optimize,Color</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This option is affected when setting a profile \(-\text{pr}\).
Color/Monochrome Compression

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>JPEG2000 compression</td>
<td>Optimize, Color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Perform MRC optimization (See Mixed Raster Content (MRC) Optimization for Images)</td>
<td>Optimize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Take the compression type from the original image in the input PDF</td>
<td>Optimize, Color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-1</td>
<td>Exclude continuous images from processing</td>
<td>Optimize, Color</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example: To let the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell try JPEG compression, JPEG2000 compression and the compression that is used in the source image of the original file use the following command.

```plaintext
pdfoptimize -fc 1,8,10 input.pdf output.pdf
```

The above command makes the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell go through all color and grayscale images and processes each image individually as follows. All the given compression algorithms are executed. If the input image has a compression different from JPEG and JPEG2000, then the compression of the input image is also executed. As a result, several candidate versions are obtained. Now a choice is made among all these versions and the original image based on the size in bytes. The smallest candidate is chosen and used in the output document.

6.2.10 -ff Force Re-Compression

```
Force Re-Compression -ff
License feature: Optimize
```

If this option is set, then images are always re-compressed, i.e., the original image is never used as a candidate for inclusion in the output document. If not set (default), then images are only re-compressed if the resulting image is smaller than the original, i.e. occupies less bytes to store in the file.

6.2.11 -fi Compression Types for Indexed (Paletted) Images

```
Compression Types for Indexed (Paletted) Images -fi <compr>
```

This affects only images with an indexed color space. This type of color space is sometimes used for color graphics and logos. The option -fc is followed by a comma-separated list of numerical values (no spaces allowed in the list). The following values are possible:

```
Indexed Compression Types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Compression Filter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>RAW data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Flate (ZIP) compression</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

This option is affected when setting a profile (-pr).
Indexed Compression Types

- **Lempel-Ziv-Welch (LZW) compression**
- Take the compression type from the original image in the input PDF

**Example:** To let the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell try Flate compression and LZW compression use the following command:

```
pdfoptimize -fi 2,3 input.pdf output.pdf
```

The above command makes the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell go through all images with indexed color space and processes each image individually as follows. All the given compression algorithms are executed. As a result, two candidate versions are obtained. Now a choice is made among these two versions and the original image based on the size in bytes. The smallest candidate is chosen and used in the output document.

### 6.2.12 -fn File Name

**File Name** -fn `<file.pdf>`

The intension of this option is to provide support for file names that start with a dash character and would therefore cause a parameter error.

The parameter after the option `-fn` is a file name. It can optionally also be used for file names not starting with a dash character.

**Example:**

```
pdfoptimize -fn -input.pdf output.pdf
```

### 6.2.13 -ft Force Compression Types

**Force Compression Types** -ft

License feature: Optimize

If this option is set, then re-compression of images is forced if an image in the input PDF has a compression type that differs from the compression types given in `-fb`, `-fc`, or `-fi`. Use this option if you want to allow only the given compression types for images in the output PDF.

This option is affected when setting a profile (`-pr`).

### 6.2.14 -fv Minimum PDF Version

**Minimum PDF Version** -fv `<1.x>`
This option allows to set the minimum PDF version of the created PDF output file. Supported values are 1.1 to 1.7 and 2.0. (PDF 1.4 corresponds to Acrobat 5, PDF 1.5 to Acrobat 6, etc.) There are three parameters that influence the version of the PDF output file:

- The value set using the option \(-fv\).
- The PDF version of the input file.
- Other settings in the optimization (JBIG2 requires PDF 1.4, JPEG2000 requires PDF 1.5) The maximum of the three values above sets the PDF version in the output file.

**Example:** 1. Input PDF is version 1.5 and the following setting is used

```
pdfoptimize -fv 1.4 input.pdf output.pdf
```

The output file is PDF version 1.5.

**Example:** 2. Input PDF is version 1.4 or lower and the following setting is used

```
pdfoptimize -fv 1.4 input.pdf output.pdf
```

The output file is PDF version 1.4.

**Example:** Input PDF is version 1.3 and the following setting is used

```
pdfoptimize -fv 1.4 -fc 8 input.pdf output.pdf
```

If input.pdf contains color images to which JPEG2000 compression is applied, the output file will be version 1.5. Otherwise it will be version 1.4.

### 6.2.15 \(-h\) Dithering Mode for Bi-Tonal Images

Dithering Mode for Bi-Tonal Images \(-h \langle\text{mode}\rangle\)

This option enables or disables dithering when down-sampling bi-tonal images.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(\langle\text{mode}\rangle)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>No dithering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Floyd-Steinberg dithering algorithm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some bi-tonal images try to evoke the impression of different levels of gray by randomly setting pixels to black. If dithering is applied during down-sampling then the gray levels of such images are preserved better. If dithering is switched off then lines (e.g. text glyphs) are preserved better.

### 6.2.16 \(-id\) Set Value in the Document Information Dictionary

Set Value in the Document Information Dictionary \(-id \langle\text{key}\rangle \langle\text{value}\rangle\)
Set the value of a document information dictionary entry \texttt{<key>}. Popular entries specified in the PDF Reference 1.7 are "Title", "Author", "Subject", "Creator" (sometimes referred to as Application), and "Producer" (sometimes referred to as PDF Creator). If the entry already exists then the previous entry is overwritten. If the key corresponds to a standard metadata key then the XMP metadata is updated accordingly.

\textbf{Example:} Overwrite the default producer:

\begin{verbatim}
pdfoptimize -id Producer "MyProgram 1.2" input.pdf output.pdf
\end{verbatim}

\subsection*{6.2.17 -lf List Fonts}

\begin{quote}
\textbf{List Fonts} -lf
License feature: \texttt{Optimize}
\end{quote}

List all fonts and their properties.

\begin{center}
\begin{tabular}{|l|l|l|}
\hline
\textbf{Parameter} & \textbf{Description} & \textbf{Example} \\
\hline
FontName & The name of the font. Subsetting-prefixes are not listed as name of the font. & “Arial-BoldMT”, “Verdana” \\
\hline
FontType & The Font Type & TrueType, Type1 \\
\hline
Encoding & The encoding of the font, see examples. & Difference Encoding, IntrinsicEncoding, MacRomanEncoding, SymbolEncoding, WinAnsiEncoding \\
\hline
IsCID & Whether the font is a CID font (Character Identifier Font) or not. & CID, Non-CID \\
\hline
IsEmbedded & Whether the font has an embedded font program or not. & Embedded, Non-embedded \\
\hline
IsSubsetted & Whether a font program is subsetted or not. This value is only set for fonts, which have an embedded font program. & Subsetted, Non-Subsetted \\
\hline
FileName & The file name of the font program. This is the name under which the font is saved to file in case the option \texttt{-xf} is applied. For all non-embedded fonts, there is no file name available (N/A). & fnt12.ttf, fnt2477.cff, N/A \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{center}

\textbf{Example:} The following command lists all fonts of a PDF document

\begin{verbatim}
pdfoptimize -lf input.pdf
FontName, FontType, Encoding, IsCID, IsEmbedded, IsSubsetted, Filename
"Arial-BoldMT", TrueType, MacRomanEncoding, Non-CID, Non-embedded, N/A,
"Arial-BlackItalic", TrueType, MacRomanEncoding, Non-CID, Non-embedded, N/A,
\end{verbatim}
The first line in the above example is the actual command, the following lines list the output.
See also option -xf for extracting fonts.

6.2.18  -li List Images

List Images -li

List all images and their properties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ObjectNumber</td>
<td>The PDF object number</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>The width of the image in pixel.</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>The height of the image in pixel.</td>
<td>589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BitsPerComponent</td>
<td>The number of bits that are used to represent one component. This number is</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in most cases either 1 (bi-tonal) or 8 (RGB, CMYK, Gray).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ColorSpace</td>
<td>The color space of the image.</td>
<td>DeviceCMYK, DeviceRGB, DeviceGray, ICCBased, Indexed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolution</td>
<td>The resolution in dots per inch (DPI).</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filter</td>
<td>The compression filter.</td>
<td>DCTDecode, FlateDecode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ImageSize</td>
<td>The uncompressed image size.</td>
<td>706800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CompressedSize</td>
<td>The compressed image size.</td>
<td>28172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CompressionRatio</td>
<td>The ratio compressed image size divided by uncompressed images size. The</td>
<td>3.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>smaller this value, the higher the compression.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FileName</td>
<td>The file name of the image. This is the name under which the image is saved</td>
<td>img9.tif</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to file in case the option -xi is applied.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example: The following command lists all images in the file input.pdf. In this case there is one image.

```
pdfoptimize -li input.pdf
ObjectName, Width, Height, BitsPerComponent, ColorSpace, Resolution,
Filter, ImageSize, CompressedSize, CompressionRatio, FileName
9, 400, 589, 8, ICCBased, 96, DCTDecode, 706800, 28172, 3.99%, img9.tif
```
See also option `-xf` for extracting fonts.

### 6.2.19 -lk Set License Key

**Set License Key** `-lk <key>`

Pass a license key to the application at runtime instead of using one that is installed on the system.

```
pdfoptimize -lk X-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX ...
```

This is required in an OEM scenario only.

### 6.2.20 -m Merge Embedded Font Programs

**Merge Embedded Font Programs** `-m`

License feature: `Optimize`

Font programs can be merged, if they originate from the same font, e.g. they are of the same type, have the same name and encoding. Merging of Type1 (PostScript) and TrueType fonts is supported.

This option is affected when setting a profile (`-pr`).

### 6.2.21 -ml Compression Type for MRC Layers

**Compression Type for MRC Layers** `-ml <compr>`

License feature: `Optimize`

This option affects only MRC foreground and background layers. The option is followed by a single numerical value indicating the compression type to use for MRC foreground and background layers. For possible values see `Color/Monochrome Compression`. The default is 8 (JPEG2000 compression).

See also [Mixed Raster Content (MRC) Optimization for Images](#).

This option is affected when setting a profile (`-pr`).

### 6.2.22 -mlq Image Quality for MRC Layers

**Image Quality for MRC Layers** `-mlq <q>`

License feature: `Optimize`

This option affects only MRC foreground and background layers. The option is followed by a numerical value between 0 and 100 to be used as the image quality for MRC foreground and background layers when using a lossy compression for these layers. The default is 10.

See also [Mixed Raster Content (MRC) Optimization for Images](#).

This option is affected when setting a profile (`-pr`).
### 6.2.23 -mlr Resolution in DPI for MRC Layers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution in DPI for MRC Layers</th>
<th>-mlr ( \langle \text{dpi} \rangle )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>License feature:</td>
<td>Optimize</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This option affects only MRC foreground and background layers. The option is followed by a numerical value that indicates the target resolution in DPI of MRC layers after downsampling. The default is 70.

See also Mixed Raster Content (MRC) Optimization for Images.

### 6.2.24 -mm Compression Type for the MRC Mask

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compression Type for the MRC Mask</th>
<th>-mm ( \langle \text{compr} \rangle )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>License feature:</td>
<td>Optimize</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This option affects only MRC masks. The option is followed by a single numerical value indicating the compression type to use for MRC masks. For possible values see Bi-Tonal Compression. The default is 6 (CCITT Fax Group 4 compression).

See also Mixed Raster Content (MRC) Optimization for Images.

### 6.2.25 -mp Compression Type for MRC Cut-Out Pictures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compression Type for MRC Cut-Out Pictures</th>
<th>-mp ( \langle \text{compr} \rangle )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>License feature:</td>
<td>Optimize</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This option affects only cut-out images and entire monochrome (gray-scale) images when doing MRC optimization. The option is followed by a single numerical value indicating the compression type to use for MRC cut-out pictures. For possible values see Color/Monochrome Compression. The default is 1 (JPEG compression).

See also Mixed Raster Content (MRC) Optimization for Images.

### 6.2.26 -o Owner Password

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner Password</th>
<th>-o ( \langle \text{owner} \rangle )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The owner password is required to change the security settings of the document. In order to apply permission flags, an owner password must be set. Permission flags are set with the switch \(-p\).

**Example:** Encrypt a document and set the owner password to \( \langle \text{owner} \rangle \).

```bash
pdfoptimize -o owner input.pdf output.pdf
```
6.2.27  -oc  Clip Images

Images in PDF documents can be clipped. This means that only part of the image is visible, whilst the rest is hidden. The option -oc detects these images, reduces their size the area that is actually displayed and replaces the original image by the reduced image. Pre-blended images are not clipped.

Setting -oc activates the -od option.

6.2.28  -od  Optimize Resources

Optimize the resources of the PDF, such as images, color spaces, or fonts. If set, unused resources are removed. Also content streams are re-built.

6.2.29  -ol  Linearize Only

Do not apply any optimizations, but linearize the file. This can be significantly faster than the option -ow. See -ow for more information.

When this option is set then all other options are disabled except -o, -u, -pw, and -p.

6.2.30  -or  Remove Redundant Objects

This option removes redundant PDF objects. I.e. it identifies duplicates objects in the input document and collapses them into single objects in the output document.

6.2.31  -ow  Optimize for the Web

This option has no effect when combined with -owa.

This option is affected when setting a profile (-pr).
Linearize the PDF output file, i.e. optimize file for fast web access.

A linearized document has a slightly larger file size than a non-linearized file and provides the following main features:

- When a document is opened in a PDF viewer of a web browser, the first page can be viewed without downloading the entire PDF file. In contrast, a non-linearized PDF file must be downloaded completely before the first page can be displayed.
- When another page is requested by the user, that page is displayed as quickly as possible and incrementally as data arrives, without downloading the entire PDF file.

The above applies only if the PDF viewer supports fast viewing of linearized PDFs.

**Note:** In order to make use of a linearized PDF file, the PDF must reside as a “file” on the web-server. It must not be streamed.

When enabling this option, then no PDF objects will be stored in object streams in the output PDF. For certain input documents this can lead to a significant increase of file size.

### 6.2.32 -owa Automaticall Optimize for the Web

This option is affected when setting a profile (`-pr`).

Automatically decide whether to linearize the PDF output file for fast web access.

Applying linearization can lead to a large increase in file size for certain documents. Enabling this option lets the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell automatically apply linearization or refrain from doing so based on the estimated file size increase.

See also `-ow` for more information for linearized PDFs.

**Note:** When `-owa` is given, then the option `-ow` has no effect.

### 6.2.33 -p Permission Flags

This option sets the permission flags. It is only usable when producing encrypted documents. I.e. at least an owner password must be set with `-o`, and additionally a user password can be set with `-u`. When omitting the option `-p` then all permissions are granted. The permissions that can be granted are listed below.
Permission Flags

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flag</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>allow printing (low resolution)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>allow changing the document</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>allow content copying or extraction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>allow commenting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>allow filling of form fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>allow content extraction for accessibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>allow document assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>allow high quality printing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>set the same permissions as in the input file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>θ</td>
<td>allow nothing (no permissions are granted)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The actual \(\text{flags}\) given to this option is a string that contains one or several of the permission flags above.

**Note:** The values \(i\) and \(θ\) cannot be combined with any other permission flags.

**Example:** The following command sets the owner password to “owner” and the permission flags to “allow printing in low resolution” and “allow form filling”.

```bash
pdfoptimize -o owner -p pf input.pdf output.pdf
```

**Example:** “High quality printing” requires the standard printing flag to be set too.

```bash
pdfoptimize -o owner -p pd input.pdf output.pdf
```

**Example:** Create a document with the same permission settings as present in the input document.

```bash
pdfoptimize -o owner -p i input.pdf output.pdf
```

For further information about the permission flags, see [PDF Reference 1.7](#) Section 3.5.2.

### 6.2.34 -pr Set an Optimization Profile

**License feature:** Optimize
With this option one of the predefined optimization profiles can be set. Section Profile Settings tabulates the configuration values for all profiles. If a profile is set then all the tabulated configuration parameters are set to their respective values. Configuration parameters not listed in this table are left unchanged.

**Parameter:**

`<profile>` The profile. Currently, the following profiles can be selected:

- `web` Optimization for the Internet.
- `print` Optimization for print.
- `archive` Optimization for archiving purposes.
- `max` Optimization for maximal memory size reduction.
- `mrc` MRC (Mixed Raster Content) optimization of images. See Mixed Raster Content (MRC) Optimization for Images.

One way of quickly arriving at a specific setting is to set a profile and adapt individual configuration parameters.

**Example:** Use the “web” profile, but inhibit the down-sampling of bi-tonal images.

```
pdfoptimize -pr web -dbt -1 input.pdf output.pdf
```

### 6.2.35 -pw Read an Encrypted PDF File

**Read an Encrypted PDF File**  **-pw** `<password>`

A PDF document that has a user password (the password to open the document) can only be processed when either the user or the owner password is provided. The password can be provided using the option `-pw` followed by the password.

**Example:** The input PDF document is encrypted with a user password. Either the user or the owner password of the input PDF is “mypassword”. The command to process such an encrypted file is:

```
pdfoptimize -p w mypassword input.pdf output.pdf
```

When a PDF is encrypted with a user password and the password is not provided or is incorrect, the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell cannot read and process the file. Instead it will generate the following error message:

```
Password wasn’t correct.
```

### 6.2.36 -q Compression Quality

**Compression Quality**  **-q** `<quality>`

License feature: **Optimize**
Set the compression quality index for lossy compression methods. This option only applies to JPEG, JPEG2000 and JBIG2 images. A lower value results in a smaller file size but the images are of poorer visual quality. A higher value results in better visual quality, but also a larger file size.

The supported values range from 1 (lowest) to 100 (highest). The default is 75.

For image compressions that support lossless compression (JPEG2000), a value of 100 corresponds to lossless compression, any other value represents lossy compression. For JBIG2, compression is always lossless irrespective of the quality index set. JPEG compression is always lossy.

**Example:** The following selects the “web” optimization profile and sets the quality index to 50. All images types which support the quality parameter are recompressed with this quality index.

```
pdfoptimize -pr web -q 50 input.pdf output.pdf
```

### 6.2.37 -rc Reduce Color Complexity of Images

This option is used to enable color complexity reduction of images. (See also **Provided Features for Optimizing Images**.)

If enabled then images with device color spaces (DeviceRGB, DeviceCMYK, or DeviceGray) and indexed images with a device color space as base color space are analyzed and if possible converted as follows:

- An image with DeviceRGB or DeviceCMYK color space in which all pixels are gray is converted to a grayscale image with DeviceGray color space.
- An image that contains only black and white pixels is converted into a bitonal image.
- An image in which all the pixels have the same color is down-sampled to one pixel.

Furthermore, images’ masks and soft masks are optimized as follows:

- A soft mask that contains only black and white pixels is converted to a mask.
- A (soft) mask that is opaque is removed.

Note that color complexity reduction is disabled for those images whose compression type is set to -1. See **-fc** and **-fi**.

### 6.2.38 -ri Remove Images

When enabling this option, then images and stencil masks are substituted by empty form XObjects. Inline images are left untouched. All other image processing options are thus irrelevant.

**Warning:** Enabling this option usually alters the visual appearance of the document significantly.
6.2.39  -rf  Remove Embedded Font Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Remove Embedded Font Program</th>
<th>-rf &lt;font&gt;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>License feature:</td>
<td>Optimize</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This option makes the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell remove the embedded font program for the given `<font>`. This option can be given several times to remove several font programs.

**Warning:** The output document may not display correctly on certain systems.

6.2.40  -rs  Remove Embedded Standard Fonts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Remove Embedded Standard Fonts</th>
<th>-rs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>License feature:</td>
<td>Optimize</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This option is affected when setting a profile (`-pr`).

This option enables the removal of the font programs of all embedded standard fonts, such as Arial, Courier, CourierNew, Helvetica, Symbol, Times, TimesNewRoman and ZapfDingbats. (A complete list is given below.) The fonts are replaced with one of the 14 PDF Standard Fonts, all of which have no associated font program. Un-embedding a font decreases the file size.

A PDF Viewer must be able to display these 14 PDF Standard Fonts correctly. Therefore using this option usually should not visually alter the PDF when it is displayed.

Un-embedding the font works based on the font's Unicode information. I.e. the un-embedded font's characters are mapped to those of the original font with the same Unicode. Therefore, only fonts with Unicode information will be un-embedded by the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell. However, if a font's Unicode information is not correct, un-embedding may lead to visual differences. Whether or not a font's Unicode information is correct can be verified by extracting text that uses the font. Suitable tools for this purpose are for instance the 3-Heights™ PDF Extract Tool or an interactive PDF viewer.

If the extracted text is meaningful, the font's Unicode information is correct and unembedding of the font will not lead to visual differences.

**List of Candidate Font Base Names for Removing**

- Arial
- Arial,Bold
- Arial,BoldItalic
- Arial,Italic
- Arial-Bold
- Arial-BoldItalic
- Arial-BoldItalicMT
- Arial-BoldMT
- Arial-Italic
- Arial-ItalicMT
- ArialMT
- Courier
- Courier,Bold
- Courier,BoldItalic
- Courier,Courier
- Courier,Oblique
- Courier-Bold
- Courier-BoldOblique
- Courier-BoldItalic
- Courier-BoldItalicMT
- Courier,BoldItalic
- Courier,Symbol
- Courier,Times
- Courier,TimesNewRoman
- CourierNew
- CourierNew,Bold
- CourierNew,BoldItalic
- CourierNew,BoldOblique
- CourierNewItalic
- CourierNew-bold
- CourierNew-boldItalic
- CourierNew-boldOblique
- CourierNew-italic
- CourierNew-ps-bolditalic
- CourierNew-ps-bolditalicMT
- CourierNew-ps-boldmt
- CourierNew-ps-italicmt
- CourierNew-ps-smt
- Helvetica
- Helvetica,Bold
- Helvetica,BoldItalic
- Helvetica,BoldOblique
- Helvetica,Italic
- Helvetica-Oblique
- Helvetica-Bold
- Helvetica-BoldItalic
- Helvetica-BoldOblique
- Helvetica-Italic
- Helvetica-Oblique
6.2.41 -s Subset Fonts

Subset Fonts -s
License feature: Optimize

Embedded fonts can be subsetted. Subsetting refers to only storing those character glyphs of the font that are actually used. Unused character glyphs are removed. The advantage is that the file size can be reduced this way (in particular for Asian fonts).

The downside is that if text is to be edited, only the characters of the subsetted font can be used.

6.2.42 Strip the File

Remove certain elements of the PDF file. Please refer to the PDF Reference 1.7 for more details on these elements.

The following parts of a PDF can be stripped:

Strip article threads -sa
Flatten and strip form fields and annotations -sf
Flatten and strip form fields -sff
Flatten and strip link annotations -sf1
Flatten and strip other annotations -sf1
Strip invisible annotations -sia
Strip alternate images (variant representations of the base image) -si
Strip the document’s output intents -so
Strip meta data -sm
Strip page piece info (private application data) -sp
Strip document structure tree (incl. markup) -ss
Strip embedded thumbnails -st
Strip spider (web capture) info -sw
Strip everything (all of the above) -se

Note that -sf implies -sfa, -sff, and -sf1. Likewise, -se implies all other strip options listed.
6.2.43 -sfs Flatten Appearances of Signature Fields

A signature in a PDF consist of two parts:

a. The invisible digital signature in the PDF.
b. The visual appearance that was attributed to the signature.

Part (a) can be used by a viewing application, to verify that a document has not changed since it has been signed and report this to the user. Part (b) is merely a “decorative” element on the page without further significance.

When optimizing a PDF, the PDF is altered and hence the digital signature is broken. Therefore, the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell removes all signatures, including parts (a) and (b).

If the option sfs is set, then digital signatures (parts (a)) are still removed, but their visual appearances (parts (b)) are flattened. I.e. the latter are retained and drawn as non-editable graphic onto the page.

Note: The resulting PDF can be misleading as it visually appears to be signed, but it has no digital signature and hence, a viewer application does not report any broken signature. In most cases, such a behavior is undesirable.

6.2.44 -u User Password

User Password -u <user>

Set the user password of the document. If a document which has a user password is opened for any purpose (such as viewing, printing, editing), either the user or the owner password must be provided.

Someone who knows the user password is able to open and read the document. Someone who knows the owner password is able to open, read and modify (e.g. change passwords) the document. A PDF document can have none, either, or both passwords.

Example: Encrypt a document with a user and an owner password.

```bash
pdfoptimize -u userpassword -o ownerpassword input.pdf output.pdf
```

6.2.45 -v Verbose Mode

Verbose Mode -v

This option enables the verbose mode. In the verbose mode, the individual steps performed by the 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell are displayed.

6.2.46 -xf Extract Fonts

Extract Fonts -xf

License feature: Optimize
This option enables the extraction of embedded fonts into files. Only embedded fonts can be extracted, non-embedded fonts are not affected. Be aware that due to copyright reasons, the extracts fonts are not installable. The generated files are stored in the current directory and are named as following:

- A TrueType font file is named: fnt‹objno›.ttf
- A Type 1 font file is named: fnt‹objno›.pfb
- A CFF font file is named: fnt‹objno›.cff

In the above, ‹objno› corresponds to the object number of the font in the PDF document.

6.2.47  -xi  Extract Images

This option extracts the images from a PDF document and automatically stores them as TIFF or JPEG. The images are stored in the current directory and are named as following:

- img‹objno›.jpg for images with JPEG compression
- img‹objno›.tif for any other type of image

In the above, ‹objno› corresponds to the object number of the image in the PDF document. This number can also be retrieved with the option -li.

6.3  Return Codes

All return codes other than 0 indicate an error in the processing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Success.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Couldn’t open input file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>PDF output file could not be created.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Error with given options, e.g. too many parameters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Linearization failed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>License error, e.g. invalid license key.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7 Tips, Tricks and Troubleshooting

It is recommended to use an optimization profile -pr and adapt it to your needs.

7.1 The Output File is Still Too large

First and foremost it is important to understand what kind of content there is in the document. There is no point in trying to optimizing fonts when the document contains scanned images only. Document properties, such as embedded fonts and images can be listed using the corresponding listing functions (-li, -lf).

Second, it is not possible to compress a document arbitrarily without loss of information.

7.1.1 Images

- Try setting a lower threshold and a lower DPI for the images.

**Example:** Use the "web" profile and rescale all images with a DPI greater than 72 DPI to 50 DPI

```
pdfoptimize -pr web -dt 72 -dr 50 input.pdf output.pdf
```

- Try reducing the quality of the JPEG and JPEG2000 images by setting -q.

**Example:** Use the "web" profile and set the quality index to 60

```
pdfoptimize -pr web -q 60 input.pdf output.pdf
```

7.1.2 Fonts

- Apply sub-setting to fonts using -s. This means all glyphs of characters that are unused are removed from the font.
- Merge font programs using -m. Multiply occurring glyphs in compatible font programs are then merged into one glyph.
- Remove non-symbolic embedded fonts using -rs. Keep in mind that the appearance when rendering a PDF document with non-embedded non-PDF Standard Fonts is unpredictable:

Note: While sub-setting and merging font programs is enabled in most optimization profiles, removing standard fonts is not. (See Profile Settings.)

7.2 The Output File Is Larger Than the Input File

- The 3-Heights™ PDF Optimizer Shell also repairs corrupt documents to a certain extent. This means if relevant data is missing it is recovered. This could possibly lead to a larger file size.
- If linearization is applied, there is information added to the document. This information contains hints for the browser plug-in, and allows it to specifically download only those objects relevant for displaying a certain page. The linearization information can increase the file size by about 1 to 10%.
- The input file may contain compressed object streams. These are currently not re-constructed in the output document.
7.3 The Selected Compression Type is not Applied

- Not all compression types can be applied to all types of images. Check the tables Bi-Tonal Compression, Color/Monochrome Compression, and Indexed Compression Types.
- The optimization is only applied if it reduces the file size, therefore an image usually is not re-compressed with a new compression that uses more disc space than the original compression. This behavior can, however, be switched off with -ff.

7.4 The Output Document Is not Encrypted

In order to encrypt the output document, set an owner password using the switch -o and permission flags using the switch -p.

**Example:** Set the owner password to “mypassword” and do not grant any permissions:

```
pdfoptimize -o mypassword -p 0 input.pdf output.pdf
```

It is not possible to inherit the owner or user password or the permission flags from the input document.
8 Version History

8.1 Changes in Version 6

No functional changes.

8.2 Changes in Version 5

- MRC improvements
  - **Improved** MRC background and foreground layer coloring.
  - **Changed** default value for MRC layer compression quality to 20 [previously 10].
  - **Changed** MRC behavior: monochrome (gray-scale) images are treated as entire photographic regions (cut-out pictures).
  - **Improved** MRC pre-processing: conversion to RGB is now possible.
  - **Changed** optimization profile mrc: Now includes color conversion to RGB.
- **Changed** behavior: Invisible annotations are not removed anymore by default.
- **New** option -sia to remove invisible annotations.
- **New** additional supported operating system: Windows Server 2019.

8.3 Changes in Version 4.12

- **Introduced** license features Optimize and Color.
- **Improved** MRC functionality supports images with differing resolution in horizontal and vertical direction.
- **Improved** file size reduction by using object streams for annotations and form fields by default.
- **Improved** runtime for certain document types.
- **New** support for encryption according to PDF 2.0 (revision 6, replaces deprecated revision 5).
- **New** HTTP proxy setting in the GUI license manager.
- **New** option -owa to automatically choose whether to linearize the output document or not.
- **Changed** option -pr: In the web optimization profile, linearization (-ow) is substituted by auto linearization (-owa).

8.4 Changes in Version 4.11

- **New** support for the creation of appearance streams for free text annotations that contain rich text content.
- **New** support for reading and writing PDF 2.0 documents.
- **New** support for the creation of output files larger than 10GB (not PDF/A-1).
- **Improved** font subsetting of CFF and OpenType fonts.
- **Improved** repair of corrupt image streams.
- **New** treatment of the DocumentID. In contrast to the InstanceID the DocumentID of the output document is inherited from the input document.
- **Changed** option -p: Added a new value 1 to adopt the encryption parameters from the input document.

8.5 Changes in Version 4.10

- **New** support for down-sampling of non-shared Masks and SMasks.
- **Improved** removal of redundant objects: More types of dictionaries are included.
- **New** support for writing PDF objects into object streams. Most objects that are contained in object streams in the input document are now also stored in object streams in the output document. When enabling linearization, however, no objects are stored in object streams.

- **New** feature: If linearization and the removal of document structure information are both disabled, then any document structure elements, if present in the input document, are stored in objects streams in the output document.

- **Improved** robustness against corrupt input PDF documents.

- **Improved** annotation appearance generation for polyline, squiggly, and stamp annotations.

- **Changed** option `-pr`: Added a new profile `archive` to optimize for archiving purposes.

### 8.6 Changes in Version 4.9

- **Improved** support for and robustness against corrupt input PDF documents.

- **Improved** repair of embedded font programs that are corrupt.

- **New** support for OpenType font collections in installed font collection.

- **Improved** metadata generation for standard PDF properties.

- **Changed** option `-pr`: The `max` profile includes color conversion to RGB.

- **New** option `-ri`: Remove images by replacing them with empty XObjects.

- **New** option `-sfs`: Allows to flatten the visual appearance of digital signatures. (During optimization, digital signatures are always removed.)

### 8.7 Changes in Version 4.8

- **Improved** content stream optimization.

- **Improved** creation of annotation appearances to use less memory and processing time.

- **Added** repair functionality for TrueType font programs whose glyphs are not ordered correctly.

- **New** option `-rc`: Reduce color complexity for images.

- **Changed** option `-pr`: The profiles `web`, `print`, and `max` now include the option `-rc`. 
9 Licensing, Copyright, and Contact

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Contact
PDF Tools AG
Kasernenstrasse 1
8184 Bachenbüelach
Switzerland
http://www.pdf-tools.com
pdfsales@pdf-tools.com