## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Introduction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Description</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Functions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.1 Features</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.2 Formats</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.3 Conformance</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Operating systems</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Installation</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Windows</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.1 How to set the environment variable “Path”</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Linux and macOS</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1 Linux</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Uninstall</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 Note about the evaluation license</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 License management</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Getting started</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1 Usage</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2 Repair a file</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3 Specify the folder of the output file</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4 Repairing all files in a directory</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4.1 Difference between repairable and recoverable</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Interface reference</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1 Configuration options</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.1 -a Analyze only</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.2 -b Set the rebuild options</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.3 -dp Do not recover pages</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.4 -dx Do not repair cross-reference table</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.5 -l Set the log file</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.6 -1k Set license key</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.7 -p Read an encrypted PDF file</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2 Return codes</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Troubleshooting</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1 Repair time takes too long</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2 File cannot be repaired</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Version history</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1 Changes in versions 6.19–6.27</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2 Changes in versions 6.13–6.18</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3 Changes in versions 6.1–6.12</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4 Changes in version 5</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5 Changes in version 4.12</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.6 Changes in version 4.11</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.7 Changes in version 4.10</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.8 Changes in version 4.9</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.9 Changes in version 4.8</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 Introduction

1.1 Description

The 3-Heights® PDF Analysis & Repair Shell tool is used to analyze, repair, and restore the content of corrupt PDF documents.

Unfortunately, the number of corrupt PDF documents is incredibly huge. The cause is usually down to defective generating tools, converters, and other influences such as attempts at manual editing, copying via FTP without correct settings, system crashes during PDF creation, network interruptions, and defective copying on optical media. The result leads to an enormous loss of important information and to production downtimes caused by corrupt PDF documents.

The 3-Heights® PDF Analysis & Repair Shell analyzes PDF documents with regard to PDF specifications. Defective files are automatically repaired as far as possible and unreadable data is restored.

1.2 Functions

PDF Analysis & Repair Shell is used to check and, where indicated, repair PDF documents. Users can determine customized profiles from a broad range of analysis and repair options. An exact and detailed description is issued for each reported error. The tool is also capable of reading and processing encrypted PDF files without any problems.

1.2.1 Features

- Analyze and/or repair one or more PDF Documents
- Set analysis options, including:
Objects
Page tree
Content stream
Set repair options, including:
- Restore data streams
- Restore fonts
- Restore XRef table
- Restore pages
- Restore images, if pages cannot be restored
Display error description for every message, including:
- Type (errors, warnings, information)
- Error code
- Text-based description
- Page number
- Number of events
Write error messages to log file
Read encrypted PDF files
Encrypt restored file and set permission flags
Set error level to identify whether errors, warnings or merely information occur
Set reporting level to determine the messages to be issued (errors, warnings, information)
Differentiate between “Repair” (corrects the errors in the document) and “Restore” (recreates the document based on the remaining legible information)

1.2.2 Formats

Input formats
- PDF 1.x (PDF 1.0, …, PDF 1.7)
- PDF 2.0
- PDF/A-1, PDF/A-2, PDF/A-3

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 Analysis & Repair 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 Analysis & Repair Shell comes as a ZIP archive or as an MSI installer.

To install the software, proceed as follows:

1. You need administrator rights to install this software.
2. Log in to your download account at https://www.pdf-tools.com. Select the product “PDF Analysis & Repair Shell”. If you have no active downloads available or cannot log in, please contact pdfsales@pdf-tools.com for assistance.
   You can find different versions of the product available. Download the version that is selected by default. You can select a different version.
   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, 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>Runtime executable binaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>doc</td>
<td>Documentation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. (Optional) To easily use the 3-Heights® PDF Analysis & Repair 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.

2.1.1 How to set the environment variable “Path”

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

Select “Path” and “Edit”, then add the directory where pdrepair.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 Analysis & Repair Shell:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bin/x64/pdrepair</td>
<td>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 pdrepair
   ```

   If the previous step reports any missing libraries, you have two 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`.
3. Create a link to the executable from one of the standard executable directories, e.g.
4. Optionally, register your license key using the license manager.

2.3 **Uninstall**

If you have used the MSI for the installation, go to Start → 3-Heights® PDF Analysis & Repair Shell… → Uninstall …

If you have used the ZIP file for the installation, undo all the steps done during installation.

2.4 **Note about the evaluation license**

With the evaluation license, the 3-Heights® PDF Analysis & Repair Shell automatically adds a watermark to the output files.
3 License management

The 3-Heights® PDF Analysis & Repair 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 is set to 10.

More information about license management is available in the license key technote.
4 Getting started

4.1 Usage

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

Example: Read the damaged input file input.pdf. Repair the file and save the result in a new file called output_rep.pdf.

```
pdrepair input.pdf output_rep.pdf
```

4.2 Repair a file

The 3-Heights® PDF Analysis & Repair Shell requires at least two parameters: A name of an existing PDF input file and the desired name for the repaired PDF output file.

```
pdrepair input.pdf
```

4.3 Specify the folder of the output file

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

```
pdrepair input.pdf myfolder\output.pdf
```

or absolute (Windows):

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

4.4 Repairing all files in a directory

The 3-Heights® PDF Analysis & Repair Shell reads the input file while it already writes on the output file. For this reason, it is not possible to directly overwrite the input file.

If you would like to repair all PDF documents in a directory, use a variable to name the output files. Here is an example using the for command of the CMD shell:
Example: Process and repair all files in the current directory.

```bash
for %i in (*.pdf) do pdrepair "%i" "%~ni_rep.pdf"
```

You can adjust the paths or use a different output name.

If you would like the repaired file to have the same name as the original file, you should proceed as follows:

1. Repair the file and create a repaired copy of the original file (like in the for loop above).
2. Ensure the repaired documents are generated correctly. For example, check the return code of the repair tool and require it to be 0 or 4, or ensure the files are not empty (i.e. just a few bytes in size).
3. When you are sure the repaired file is okay and you do not need the original file anymore, delete the original file and rename the recovered file.

### 4.4.1 Difference between repairable and recoverable

**Repairable** The input PDF file contains errors that are repairable. For example, these can be PDF syntax errors. In the repaired PDF output file, these errors are fixed.

**Recoverable** The input PDF file is missing data. For example, data of an embedded image, which was lost/overwritten when copying the file from one location to another failed partially. When relevant data is lost, the file is irreparable. However, the file can be recovered in such a way that the output PDF is valid according to the PDF specification.

Example: Assuming an original PDF (file O) is valid.

- Somehow the file becomes corrupted (→ file C) and file O gets lost.
- If file O can be rebuilt based on file C, then file C is repairable.
- If a new file N can be built based on file C, and file N is a valid PDF and contains (part of) the content of file O, then file C is recoverable.
5 Interface reference

5.1 Configuration options

5.1.1 -a Analyze only

When using this option, the processed input files are only analyzed and a log file is generated. There is no output created.

5.1.2 -b Set the rebuild options

This options controls what parts of the PDF are to be repaired. Available options are:

1  Rebuild streams.
2  Rebuild fonts.
4  Convert CFF fonts to Type1 fonts.

If 4 is applied, the compressed fonts are decompressed. This can potentially lead to an increase of the file size. CFF fonts can be converted to Type1 fonts only if fonts are rebuilt, i.e. 4 can be used together with 2 only.
If multiple options are to be selected, add the values.

Example:  Repair the file and rebuild all

```
pdrepair -b 7 myfile.pdf myfile_rep.pdf
```

5.1.3 -dp Do not recover pages

If pages are not part of the page tree (loose pages), they are recovered and added to the end of the document. If the option -dp is selected, loose pages are not recovered and are left out of the recovered document.

5.1.4 -dx Do not repair cross-reference table

With this option, a corrupt XREF table is not repaired or recovered. This option is useful if it is taking too long to process a document, since repairing the cross-reference table is very time-consuming.
5.1.5 -l Set the log file

Set the log file -l <fn>

Using the -l switch followed by a file name, log messages during the repair process are written into the specified log file. If no log file is specified, the log messages are written to standard error (stderr).

Example: Write messages to the log file log.txt instead of standard error.

```
pdrepair -l log.txt myfile.pdf myfile_rep.pdf
```

5.1.6 -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.

```
pdrepair -lk X-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX ...
```

This is required in an OEM scenario only.

5.1.7 -p Read an encrypted PDF file

Read an encrypted PDF file -p <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 -p 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:

```
pdrepair -p 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 Analysis & Repair Shell cannot read and process the file. Instead it generates the following error message:

```
Password wasn’t correct.
```

5.2 Return codes

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

<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>PDF input file is corrupt and can be repaired.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>PDF input file is corrupt and cannot be repaired but possibly recovered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>License error, e.g. invalid license key.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6 Troubleshooting

6.1 Repair time takes too long

Try excluding the cross-reference table (switch `-dx`). This speeds up the repair time.

6.2 File cannot be repaired

If the `-dx` switch has been selected and the cross-reference table is corrupt, the file cannot be repaired. Ensure the `-dx` switch is not set.
7 Version history

7.1 Changes in versions 6.19–6.27
- Update license agreement to version 2.9

7.2 Changes in versions 6.13–6.18
No functional changes.

7.3 Changes in versions 6.1–6.12
No functional changes.

7.4 Changes in version 5
- Changed error reporting behavior: Errors in the XMP metadata are no longer reported when saving a recovered document.

7.5 Changes in version 4.12
- New HTTP proxy setting in the GUI license manager.

7.6 Changes in version 4.11
- 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).
- New treatment of the DocumentID. In contrast to the InstanceID the DocumentID of the output document is inherited from the input document.

7.7 Changes in version 4.10
- Improved robustness against corrupt embedded font files.
- Improved robustness against corrupt input PDF documents.

7.8 Changes in version 4.9
- Improved support for recovering certain corruption types.
- 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.
7.9 Changes in version 4.8

- **Added** repair functionality for TrueType font programs whose glyphs are not ordered correctly.
8 Licensing, copyright, and contact

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