

# **pisa 3.0.20**

## **XHTML/HTML/CSS to PDF converter**

(C)opyright by Dirk Holtwick, Germany

[dirk.holtwick@gmail.com](mailto:dirk.holtwick@gmail.com)

<http://www.htmltopdf.org>

# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Command line</b>	<b>4</b>
Converting HTML data	4
Using special properties	5
<b>Python module</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Defaults</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Cascading Style Sheets</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Layout Definition</b>	<b>9</b>
Pages and Frames	9
Page size and orientation	10
PDF watermark/ background	10
Static frames	10
<b>Fonts</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Outlines/ Bookmarks</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Barcodes</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Custom Tags</b>	<b>16</b>
Tag-Definitions	16
<i>pdf:barcode</i>	16
<i>pdf:pagenumber</i>	16
<i>pdf:nexttemplate</i>	16
<i>pdf:nextpage</i>	16
<i>pdf:nextframe</i>	16
<i>pdf:spacer</i>	16
<i>pdf:toc</i>	16
<b>Legal notice</b>	<b>18</b>
Q Public License v1.0	19

## Introduction

**pisa** is a HTML/XHTML/CSS to PDF converter written in Python and based on Reportlab Toolkit, pyPDF, TechGame Networks CSS Library and HTML5lib. The primary focus is not on generating perfect printable webpages but to use HTML and CSS as commonly known tools to generate PDF files within Applications. For example generating documentations (like this one), generating invoices or other office documents etc.

## Command line

If you do not want to integrate **pisa** in your own application, you may use the command line tool that gives you a simple interface to the features of **pisa**. Just call `pisa -h` to get the following help informations:

```
pisa 3.0.20
(c) Dirk Holtwick <dirk.holtwick@gmail.com>, Germany
Website http:www.htmltopdf.org

USAGE: pisa [options] <src> <dest>

<src>
  Name of a HTML file or a file pattern using * placeholder.
  If you want to read from stdin use "-" as file name.
  You may also load an URL over HTTP. Take care of putting
  the <src> in quotes if it contains characters like "?".

<dest>
  Name of the generated PDF file or "-" if you like
  to send the result to stdout. Take care that the
  destination file is not already opened by an other
  application like the Adobe Reader. If the destination is
  not writeable a similar name will be calculated automatically.

[options]
  --css, -c:
    Path to default CSS file
  --css-dump:
    Dumps the default CSS definitions to STDOUT
  --debug, -d:
    Show debugging informations
  --encoding:
    the character encoding of <src>. If left empty (default) this
    information will be extracted from the HTML header data
  --help, -h:
    Show this help text
  --quiet, -q:
    Show no messages
  --start-viewer, -s:
    Start PDF default viewer on Windows and MacOSX
    (e.g. AcrobatReader)
  --version:
    Show version information
  --warn, -w:
    Show warnings
  --xml, --xhtml, -x:
    Force parsing in XML Mode
    (automatically used if file ends with ".xml")
  --html:
    Force parsing in HTML Mode (default)
```

## Converting HTML data

To generate a PDF from an HTML file called `test.html` call:

```
$ pisa -s test.html
```

The resulting PDF will be called `test.pdf` (if this file is locked e.g. by the Adobe Reader it will be called `test-0.pdf` and so on). The `-s` option takes care that the PDF will be opened directly in the Operating Systems default viewer.

To convert more than one file you may use wildcard patterns like `*` and `?`:

```
$ pisa test/test-*.html
```

You may also directly access pages from the internet:

```
$ pisa -s http://www.htmltopdf.org/
```

## Using special properties

If the conversion doesn't work as expected some more informations may be usefull. You may turn on the output of warnings adding `-w` or even the debugging output by using `-d`.

Another reason could be, that the parsing failed. Consider trying the `-xhtml` and `-html` options. **pisa** uses the HTML5lib parser that offers two internal parsing modes: one for HTML and one for XHTML.

When generating the HTML output **pisa** uses an internal default CSS definition (otherwise all tags would appear with no differences). To get an impression of how this one looks like start **pisa** like this:

```
$ pisa --css-dump > pisa-default.css
```

The CSS will be dumped into the file `pisa-default.css`. You may modify this or even take a totally self defined one and hand it in by using the `-css` option, e.g.:

```
$ pisa --css=pisa-default.css test.html
```

## Python module

### XXX TO BE WRITTEN

The integration into a Python program is quite easy. We will start with a simple "Hello World" example:

```
import ho.pisa as pisa (1)

def helloWorld():
    filename = __file__ + ".pdf" (2)
    pdf = pisa.CreatePDF( (3)
        "Hello <strong>World</strong>",
        file(filename, "wb"))
    if not pdf.err: (4)
        pisa.startViewer(filename) (5)

if __name__=="__main__":
    pisa.showLogging() (6)
    helloWorld()
```

#### Comments:

- (1) Import the **pisa** Python module
- (2) Calculate a sample filename. If your demo is saved under `test.py` the filename will be `test.py.pdf`.
- (3) The function `CreatePDF` is called with the source and the destination. In this case the source is a string and the destination is a fileobject. Other values will be discussed later (XXX to do!). An object will be returned as result and saved in `pdf`.
- (4) The property `pdf.err` is checked to find out if errors occurred
- (5) If no errors occurred a helper function will open a PDF Reader with the resulting file
- (6) Errors and warnings are written as log entries by using the Python standard module `logging`. This helper enables printing warnings on the console.

## Defaults

Some notes on some default values:

- Usually the position (0, 0) in PDF files is found in the lower left corner. For **pisa** it is the upper left corner like it is for HTML.
- The default page size is the German DIN A4 with portrait orientation.
- The name of the first layout template is `body`, but you better leave the name empty for defining the default template (XXX May be changed in the future!)

## Cascading Style Sheets

**pisa** supports a lot of Cascading Style Sheet (CSS). The following styles are supported:

```
background-color
border-bottom-color
border-bottom-style
border-bottom-width
border-left-color
border-left-style
border-left-width
border-right-color
border-right-style
border-right-width
border-top-color
border-top-style
border-top-width
color
display
font-family
font-size
font-style
font-weight
height
line-height
list-style-type
margin-bottom
margin-left
margin-right
margin-top
padding-bottom
padding-left
padding-right
padding-top
page-break-after
page-break-before
size
text-align
text-decoration
text-indent
vertical-align
white-space
width
zoom
```

And it adds some vendor specific styles:

```
-pdf-frame-border
-pdf-frame-break
-pdf-frame-content
-pdf-keep-with-next
-pdf-next-page
-pdf-outline
-pdf-outline-level
-pdf-outline-open
-pdf-page-break
```



# Layout Definition

## Pages and Frames

Pages can be layouted by using some special CSS at-keywords and properties. All special properties start with `-pdf-` to mark them as vendor specific as defined by CSS 2.1. Layouts may be defined by page using the `@page` keyword. Then text flows in one or more frames which can be defined within the `@page` block by using `@frame`. Example:

```
@page {  
  @frame {  
    margin: 1cm;  
  }  
}
```

In the example we define an unnamed page template - though it will be used as the default template - having one frame with 1cm margin to the page borders. The first frame of the page may also be defined within the `@page` block itself. See the equivalent example:

```
@page {  
  margin: 1cm;  
}
```

To define more frames just add some more `@frame` blocks. You may use the following properties to define the dimensions of the frame:

- `margin`
- `margin-top`
- `margin-left`
- `margin-right`
- `margin-bottom`
- `top`
- `left`
- `right`
- `bottom`
- `width`
- `height`

Here is a more complex example:

```
@page lastPage {  
  top: 1cm;  
  left: 2cm;  
  right: 2cm;  
  height: 2cm;  
  @frame middle {  
    margin: 3cm;  
  }  
  @frame footer {  
    bottom: 2cm;  
    margin-left: 1cm;  
  }  
}
```

```

    margin-right: 1cm;
    height: 1cm;
}
}

```

Layout scheme:



By default the Frame uses the whole page and is defined to begin in the upper left corner and end in the lower right corner. Now you can add the position of the frame using **top**, **left**, **bottom** and **right**. If you now add **height** and you have a value other than zero in **top** the **bottom** will be modified. (XXX If you had not defined **top** but **bottom** the **height** will be ...)

## Page size and orientation

A page layout may also define the page size and the orientation of the paper using the **size** property as defined in CSS 3. Here is an example defining page size "DIN A5" with "landscape" orientation (default orientation is "portrait"):

```

@page {
    size: a5 landscape;
    margin: 1cm;
}

```

Here is the complete list of valid page size identifiers:

- **a0 ... a6**
- **b0 ... b6**
- **letter**
- **legal**
- **elevenseven**

## PDF watermark/ background

For the use of PDF backgrounds specify the source file in the **background-image** property, like this:

```

@page {
    background-image: url(bg.pdf);
}

```

## Static frames

Some frames should be static like headers and footers that means they are on every page but do not change content. The only information that may change is the page number. Here is a simple example that show how to make an element named by ID the content of a static frame. In this case it is the ID `footer`.

```
<html>
<style>
@page {
    margin: 1cm;
    margin-bottom: 2.5cm;
    @frame footer {
        -pdf-frame-content: footerContent;
        bottom: 2cm;
        margin-left: 1cm;
        margin-right: 1cm;
        height: 1cm;
    }
}
</style>
<body>
    Some text
    <div id="footerContent">
        This is a footer on page #<pdf:pagenumber>
    </div>
</body>
</html>
```

For better debugging you may want to add this property for each frame definition:

`-pdf-frame-border: 1`. It will paint a border around the frame.

## Fonts

By default there is just a certain set of fonts available for PDF. Here is the complete list - and their respective alias names - **pisa** knows by default (the names are not case sensitive):

- **Times-Roman:** Times New Roman, Times, Georgia, serif
- **Helvetica:** Arial, Verdana, Geneva, sansserif, sans
- **Courier:** Courier New, monospace, monospaced, mono
- **ZapfDingbats**
- **Symbol**

But you may also embed new font faces by using the `@font-face` keyword in CSS like this:

```
@font-face {  
  font-family: Example, "Example Font";  
  src: url(example.ttf);  
}
```

The `font-family` property defines the names under which the embedded font will be known. `src` defines the place of the fonts source file. This can be a TrueType font or a Postscript font. The file name of the first has to end with `.ttf` the latter with one of `.pfb` or `.afm`. For Postscript font pass just one filename like `<name>.afm` or `<name>.pfb`, the missing one will be calculated automatically.

To define other shapes you may do like this:

```
/* Normal */  
@font-face {  
  font-family: DejaMono;  
  src: url(font/DejaVuSansMono.ttf);  
}  
  
/* Bold */  
@font-face {  
  font-family: DejaMono;  
  src: url(font/DejaVuSansMono-Bold.ttf);  
  font-weight: bold;  
}  
  
/* Italic */  
@font-face {  
  font-family: DejaMono;  
  src: url(font/DejaVuSansMono-Oblique.ttf);  
  font-style: italic;  
}  
  
/* Bold and italic */  
@font-face {  
  font-family: DejaMono;  
  src: url(font/DejaVuSansMono-BoldOblique.ttf);  
  font-weight: bold;  
  font-style: italic;  
}
```

## Outlines/ Bookmarks

PDF supports outlines (Adobe calls them "bookmarks"). By default **pisa** defines the `<h1>` to `<h6>` tags to be shown in the outline. But you can specify exactly for every tag which outline behaviour it should have. Therefore you may want to use the following vendor specific styles:

- `-pdf-outline`  
set it to "true" if the block element should appear in the outline
- `-pdf-outline-level`  
set the value starting with "0" for the level on which the outline should appear. Missing predecessors are inserted automatically with the same name as the current outline
- `-pdf-outline-open`  
set to "true" if the outline should be shown uncollapsed

Example:

```
h1 {  
  -pdf-outline: true;  
  -pdf-level: 0;  
  -pdf-open: false;  
}
```

## Table of Contents

It is possible to automatically generate a Table of Contents (TOC) with **pisa**. By default all headings from `<h1>` to `<h6>` will be inserted into that TOC. But you may change that behaviour by setting the CSS property `-pdf-outline` to `true` or `false`. To generate the TOC simply insert `<pdf:toc />` into your document. You then may modify the look of it by defining styles for the `pdf:toc` tag and the classes `pdftoc.pdftoclevel0` to `pdftoc.pdftoclevel5`. Here is a simple example for a nice looking CSS:

```
pdf:toc {  
    color: #666;  
}  
pdftoc.pdftoclevel0 {  
    font-weight: bold;  
    margin-top: 0.5em;  
}  
pdftoc.pdftoclevel1 {  
    margin-left: 1em;  
}  
pdftoc.pdftoclevel2 {  
    margin-left: 2em;  
    font-style: italic;  
}
```

## Barcodes

XXX <pdf:barcode>

## Custom Tags

**pisa** provides some custom tags. They are all prefixed by the namespace identifier `pdf:`. As the HTML5 parser used by pisa does not know about these specific tags it may be confused if they are without a block. To avoid problems you may consider surrounding them by `<div>` tags, like this:

```
<div>
  <pdf:toc />
</div>
```

## Tag-Definitions

### **pdf:barcode**

Creates a barcode.

### **pdf:pagenumber**

Prints current page number. The argument "example" defines the space the page number will require e.g. "00".

### **pdf:nexttemplate**

Defines the template to be used on the next page.

### **pdf:nextpage**

Create a new page after this position.

### **pdf:nextframe**

Jump to next unused frame on the same page or to the first on a new page. You may not jump to a named frame.

### **pdf:spacer**

Creates an object of a specific size.

### **pdf:toc**

Creates a Table of Contents.





## Legal notice

**pisa** is copyright by Dirk Holtwick, Germany.

**pisa** is distributed by Dirk Holtwick, Schreiberstraße 2, 47058 Duisburg, Germany.

**pisa** is licensed under the Q Public License v1.0.

**For commercial usage of **pisa** a developer license can be purchased!**

# Q Public License v1.0

Copyright © 1999 Trolltech AS, Norway.

Everyone is permitted to copy and distribute this license document.

The intent of this license is to establish freedom to share and change the software regulated by this license under the open source model.

This license applies to any software containing a notice placed by the copyright holder saying that it may be distributed under the terms of the Q Public License version 1.0. Such software is herein referred to as the Software. This license covers modification and distribution of the Software, use of third-party application programs based on the Software, and development of free software which uses the Software.

## Granted Rights

1. You are granted the non-exclusive rights set forth in this license provided you agree to and comply with any and all conditions in this license. Whole or partial distribution of the Software, or software items that link with the Software, in any form signifies acceptance of this license.
2. You may copy and distribute the Software in unmodified form provided that the entire package, including - but not restricted to - copyright, trademark notices and disclaimers, as released by the initial developer of the Software, is distributed.
3. You may make modifications to the Software and distribute your modifications, in a form that is separate from the Software, such as patches. The following restrictions apply to modifications:
  - a. Modifications must not alter or remove any copyright notices in the Software.
  - b. When modifications to the Software are released under this license, a non-exclusive royalty-free right is granted to the initial developer of the Software to distribute your modification in future versions of the Software provided such versions remain available under these terms in addition to any other license(s) of the initial developer.
4. You may distribute machine-executable forms of the Software or machine-executable forms of modified versions of the Software, provided that you meet these restrictions:
  - a. You must include this license document in the distribution.
  - b. You must ensure that all recipients of the machine-executable forms are also able to receive the complete machine-readable source code to the distributed Software, including all modifications, without any charge beyond the costs of data transfer, and place prominent notices in the distribution explaining this.
  - c. You must ensure that all modifications included in the machine-executable forms are available under the terms of this license.
5. You may use the original or modified versions of the Software to compile, link and run application programs legally developed by you or by others.
6. You may develop application programs, reusable components and other software items that link with the original or modified versions of the Software. These items, when distributed, are subject to the following requirements:
  - a. You must ensure that all recipients of machine-executable forms of these items are also able to receive and use the complete machine-readable source code to the items without any charge beyond the costs of data transfer.
  - b. You must explicitly license all recipients of your items to use and re-distribute original and modified versions of the items in both machine-executable and source code forms. The recipients must be able to do so without any charges whatsoever, and they must be able to re-distribute to anyone they choose.
  - c. If the items are not available to the general public, and the initial developer of the Software requests a copy of the items, then you must supply one.

## Limitations of Liability

In no event shall the initial developers or copyright holders be liable for any damages whatsoever, including - but not restricted to - lost revenue or profits or other direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential damages, even if they have been advised of the possibility of such damages, except to the extent invariable law, if any, provides otherwise.

## No Warranty

The Software and this license document are provided AS IS with NO WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING THE WARRANTY OF DESIGN, MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

## Choice of Law

This license is governed by the Laws of Norway. Disputes shall be settled by Oslo City Court.