

Print Multiple Mails into Single PDF

Two options are available to print multiple mails into single PDF: **Default** and **Merge**.

Default Option

MBox Viewer concatenates headers and content of all mails into a single HTML file and requests Edge or Chrome Web Browser to convert HTML file into PDF. MBox Viewer's default solution is non-standard and in **rare cases** can affect font sizes and possibly other formatting in all mails. If the generated PDF file didn't meet expectation, please consider running "Merge" option.

Starting with version 1.0.3.32, MBox Viewer was enhanced to practically eliminate the impact of email concatenation on the font sizes in most cases and therefore you may need to rely on "Merge" option on rare occasions only.

Print to PDF Default option offers some benefits not available when using the "Merge" option. Multiple small mails can be placed on a single page while in the "Merge" option each mail will start new page.

Also, users can configure MBox Viewer to print page break after each mail or after each conversation thread of mails. Select "File-->Print Config --> PDF document options --> Page Break After Each Mail/Page or Break After Each Conversation Thread".

Merge Option

Merge option applies to multiple mails only. Right-click on selected mails and select "Print Selected Mails To --> PDF --> Merge" option. This will print all selected mails into separate PDF files first and then merge them into a single target PDF file using free PDFBox tool.

Conversion of mails into PDF format by Edge or Chrome Browsers is typically high quality and the merging process typically preserves original quality. **Merged file is typically much larger** than the size of PDF file generated by Default option. It looks like that PDFBox tools is not able to reduce redundant font, etc definitions when merging.

Each mail starts at the beginning of a page in the merged PDF. This may be considered less than optimal for small mails.

In order to run Merge mode, users must install free java PDFBox command line tool and Java VM. Java VM is typically installed on Windows but PDFBox application must be downloaded from the following link [PDFBox](#).

Please download the latest pdfbox-app-3.*.jar file and install in **the same directory as mboxview.exe**.

Also, check whether java.exe is installed on your system as follow:

Start Command Prompt and type **where java**. If java.exe is not listed in the output, you need to install java for Windows. You may also have to update PATH system environmental variable and restart Explorer and MBox Viewer.

Free Java 8 can be downloaded from [jdk8-downloads](#).

Performance

The Maximum number of mails that can be merged by both options depends on the complexity and size of mails to be merged.

Merging may take minutes when merging relatively small plain text mails or it may take hours when merging a large number of business mails with hyperlinks, graphics, tables, etc.

Printing Simple Plain Text Mails Example

Print of 2673 of simple plain text mails in **Default** mode took 13 minutes (780 seconds) and generated the PDF file of **19MB** size.

Print of 2673 of simple plain text mails in **Merge** mode took 32 minutes (1,920 seconds) and generated the PDF file of **181MB** size.

User should always try first the Default mode and try the Merge mode only if Default mode has issues.

Printing of mix of Simple Plain Text Mails and Complex from Business Mails Example

Running Merge option, it took 3 hours to print 3926 mails, a mix of simple and business mails, into separate PDFs and another 40 minutes to merge them by PDFBox. Task Manager was showing that PDFBox process memory utilization was close to 8GB.

Default option never finished with the same set of mails. Test was canceled when it didn't finish within 5 hours.