

## Lab 12: Generating PDF File

In this lab exercise, we will learn how to generate a PDF file with assistance of an external object.

There are several good tools available for free that you can choose to include in your PHP application to generate a PDF file, including:

- FPDF <http://www.fpdf.org/>
- mPDF <https://mpdf.github.io/>
- DOMPDF <https://github.com/dompdf/dompdf>
- Snappy + wkhtmltopdf <https://github.com/KnpLabs/snappy>,  
<https://github.com/wkhtmltopdf/wkhtmltopdf>
- TCPDF <https://tcpdf.org/>

Do further reading about the above tools, its features and how to use them. They will come handy in your career in the near future.

In this lab exercise, we will use *Snappy + wkhtmltopdf*.

### 12.1 Pre-requisites

There are some pre-requisites before we begin, as follows:

1. Download and install from <https://getcomposer.org/Composer-Setup.exe>
2. Download and install from [https://downloads.wkhtmltopdf.org/0.12/0.12.4/wkhtmltox-0.12.4\\_mingw-w64-cross-win64.exe](https://downloads.wkhtmltopdf.org/0.12/0.12.4/wkhtmltox-0.12.4_mingw-w64-cross-win64.exe)
3. Ensure the following are set in the System PATH of your computer:  
  
    %USERPROFILE%\AppData\Roaming\Composer\vendor\bin  
    C:\ProgramData\ComposerSetup\bin  
    C:\Program Files\wkhtmltopdf\bin
4. Restart the computer.
5. Open command prompt as an Administrator, and navigate to directory:  
  
    C:\Windows\SysWOW64\
6. Run the following code in command line prompt:  
  
    composer require knplabs/knp-snappy  
    php composer install
7. Copy all contents of the following folder:  
  
    Source : C:\Windows\SysWOW64\vendor  
    Destination : <your web folder>
8. Set permission for Windows temporary folder (C:\Windows\Temp) to allow *Everyone* a *Modify* permission.

The above will prepare your computer by installing *wkhtmltopdf.exe* application and generating an *autoload.php* file needed for subsequent parts of this exercise.

### 12.2 Generating PDF File

The following Figure 1 below shows an example to generate a PDF file from HTML, from a web page, and by merging multiple web pages.

```
<?php

require 'autoload.php';
use Knp\Snappy\Pdf;
$snappy = new Pdf('wkhtmltopdf.exe');

$ID = $_GET['id'];
$web1 = 'http://www.whitireia.ac.nz';
$web2 = 'http://moodle.whitireia.ac.nz';
$web3 = 'https://results.whitireia.ac.nz';

switch ($ID) {
    case 1: // Download the streamed PDF
        header('Content-Type: application/pdf');
        header('Content-Disposition: attachment; filename="file.pdf"');
        echo $snappy->getOutput($web1);
        break;
    case 2: // Merge multiple sources
        header('Content-Type: application/pdf');
        header('Content-Disposition: attachment; filename="file.pdf"');
        echo $snappy->getOutput(array($web2,$web3));
        break;
    case 3: // Generate a PDF from HTML tag
        $snappy->generateFromHtml('<h1>Hello PDF</h1><p>.</p>', 'download/file.pdf');
        break;
}
```

Figure 1: Sample code to generate PDF file using various methods.

Your tasks:

1. Write a PHP code that list the existing product inventory in Product table.
2. Allow the user to download the information as a PDF file.

-- END --