AutoRedactPDF

Hello and welcome to AutoRedactPDF — a lightweight tool for redacting sensitive information (full names and dates of birth) from PDFs, including scanned documents.
 Whether you're handling lab reports, medical forms, or any PDFs with private details, this app helps you securely and quickly remove that info. No manual redacting, no fuss.

What's Included

There are two versions of the app included in this folder:

AutoRedactPDF
 Uses OCR (Optical Character Recognition) to extract text from scanned or image-based PDFs before redacting. Best for scanned medical forms, faxes, or PDFs where you can't highlight the text.

AutoRedactPDF_NoOCR
 Skips OCR and redacts only text-based PDFs. Operates faster and is best for digital PDFs that already contain selectable text (like most EMR exports or lab reports generated digitally).

Use AutoRedactPDF when you're not sure if your PDF is scanned.
 Use AutoRedactPDF_NoOCR if you know your PDF is already searchable — it's faster and doesn't require any extra tools.

What It Does

Both versions will:

- Search for all instances of the name and DOB you provide

- Apply permanent black redactions over every match

- Save a redacted version of your PDF with "_redacted" in the filename

AutoRedactPDF (the OCR version) will also:

- Run OCR to extract searchable text from scanned PDFs before redacting

The result is a clean, searchable PDF with sensitive info permanently removed.

One-Time Setup (required before first use)

If you're using AutoRedactPDF_NoOCR only, you can skip Step 4.

Step 0: Drag both app files onto your Desktop
This helps the program correctly locate files while running.

Step 1: Remove macOS quarantine (so it will open)
In Terminal, paste:

```
xattr -r -d com.apple.quarantine $HOME/Desktop/AutoRedactPDF.app
```

```
xattr -r -d com.apple.quarantine $HOME/Desktop/AutoRedactPDF_NoOCR.app
```

Step 2: Install Homebrew (if you don't already have it)
Still in Terminal, paste:

```
/bin/bash -c "$(curl -fsSL https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Homebrew/install/HEAD/install.sh)"
```

Follow the prompts. This may take a few minutes.

Step 3: Activate Homebrew (if brew command doesn't work yet)
Run the following commands:

```
echo 'eval "$(/opt/homebrew/bin/brew shellenv)"' >> ~/.zprofile
```

```
eval "$(/opt/homebrew/bin/brew shellenv)"
```

Step 4: Install OCRmyPDF (only needed for the OCR app)
This is the tool that lets AutoRedactPDF read scanned/image-based PDFs.

```
brew install ocrmypdf
```

Once installed, the app will be able to OCR scanned/faxed documents before redacting them.

How to Use Either App

1. Drag and drop one or more PDFs onto the app

2. Enter:

   ○ The person's full name (first, optional middle, last)

   ○ Their date of birth in MMDDYYYY format (e.g. 06021985)

3. The app will:

   ○ Run OCR if needed (OCR version only)

   ○ Search for name and DOB in multiple formats

   ○ Apply black redactions

   ○ Save a new file in the same folder

Example output file:
 original_filename_redacted.pdf

The original file is untouched. The new file contains permanent redactions.

What Kinds of PDFs Work?

Works with:

● Text-based PDFs

● Scanned image PDFs (faxes, lab reports) — use OCR version

● Multi-page documents

Doesn't currently support:

● Encrypted or password-protected PDFs

● Handwritten documents

Common Issues & Fixes

If the app won't open:
 Run the quarantine removal command above (Step 1)

If the OCR app crashes:
 Make sure OCRmyPDF is installed and working (Step 4)

If the redaction doesn't work as expected:
 Double-check the spelling and DOB format. The app checks many variants, but it can't guess completely.

If the NoOCR app doesn't redact anything:
 Try the OCR version — your file may be scanned and not text-based.

Final Notes

This app is a small project built to solve a real-world problem. I hope it can help improve efficiency and security in your work.
 Feel free to email me at stonej@go.oes.edu with any questions!
 Built with care (and some caffeine)
 — Jake Stone
 (^_^)