

PDF Book Generator

Introduction

For the purposes of “PDF Book Generator” a book has two pages arranged side-by-side on both sides of a sheet of paper, giving a total of four pages per sheet. Such sheets can be folded to produce a booklet. A number of folded and nested together sheets creates a signature. Signatures are stitched together to form a book block which can then have a cover attached to create a book.

“PDF Book Generator” takes a Source PDF document and generates an output PDF which can be printed, folded into signatures and bound together as desired.

Usage

“File Names” pane

To select a source PDF document either click on the “Load...” button or use the pull-down menu option “File -> Load...” which will launch a standard file chooser dialogue window. The read-only “Source Document” text field displays the document selected.

The editable “Output File Name” text field allows for the output file name to be specified. This will automatically have the “.pdf” extension added and, by default, uses the same directory as the Source document. The read-only “Generate Document” text field displays the full output document file path. Clicking the “Generate” button at the bottom of the window will generate the output document using the options selected. Alternatively use the pull-down menu option “File -> Generate Booklet”.

If a different output directory is needed, use the pull-down menu option “File -> Generate Booklet As...” which will launch a standard file save dialogue window.

“Output Content” pane

The “Output Paper Size” selector allows the paper size of the output document to be selected.

The “First Page” and “Last Page” spinners allow for sub-sections of the source document to be selected if the whole document is not required. The “Total page count” is calculated from these spinners.

Typically the two pages on the reverse side of the sheet need to be rotated relative to those on the front if the output document is being displayed on a full-duplex printer. However, if printing a test sheet shows that the inner 2 pages are up-side-down relative to the outer 2 pages, then this setting needs to be changed.

“Signature State” pane

For a “Signature Size” of 1 the source document is processed in groups of 4 pages for each sheet of paper. The 4th page is rotated anti-clockwise and scaled to fit on the bottom half of one side of the sheet. The 1st page is rotated anti-clockwise and scaled to fit on the top half of the same side of the sheet. On the reverse side, the 2nd page is rotated clockwise and scaled to fit on the top half and the 3rd page is rotated clockwise and scaled to fit on the bottom half. This process is repeated for all groups of 4 pages in the source document.

For a “Signature Size” of more than 1 sheet, more pages are grouped in multiples of 4 and arranged in a similar, but more complex manner. The “Signature Size” specifies the number of folded sheets of paper to nest for each signature.

The rest of this pane simply displays useful information calculated from the “Signature Size”, the “First Page” and the “Last Page” selections.