Convert HTML or URL to PDF in Node using RotativaHQ API

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Creating PDF files in Node.js using RotativaHQ is simple. You can either pass the service a URL or a HTML document. Making the call, using the `request` npm package, is this simple:

```
var request = require('request');
var fs = require('fs');

request({
    url: 'https://eunorth.rotativahq.com',
    method: "POST",
    json: { htmlUrl: "http://www.vodafone.it" },
    followAllRedirects: true,
    encoding: null,
    headers: { "X-ApiKey": "<YOUR_APIKEY>" }
  },
  function (error, response, body) {
    if (!error && response.statusCode == 200) {
      fs.writeFile('testdoc.pdf', body);
    }
  }
);
```

The `followAllRedirects` option set to true is required because the response will redirect to a temporary file on cloud storage. This file is available for 2 minutes.

Setting `encoding` to null makes the `body` parameter of the response a buffer that you can stream back to a web user. The sample simply writes a PDF file to disk.

JSON payload can contain a URL or a HTML string, in the `htmlUrl` and `html` properties.

You should add a header with the `ApiKey` you can get on the preferences page. You can sign up for a **_free account here (https://rotativahq.com/register)_**.

A template engine can be used to build the HTML string to pass to RotativaHQ. The following code uses Pug (formerly Jade) as a template engine.

```javascript
var request = require('request');
var fs = require('fs');
var pug = require('pug');

var htmlString = pug.renderFile('index.pug', {
  name: 'Giorgio'
});

request({
    url: 'https://eunorth.rotativahq.com',
    method: "POST",
    json: { html: htmlString },
    followAllRedirects: true,
    encoding: null,
    headers: { "X-ApiKey": "<YOUR_APIKEY>" }
  },
  function (error, response, body) {
    if (!error && response.statusCode == 200) {
      fs.writeFile('testdoc.pdf', body);
    }
  }
);
```

You might want to consider managing yourself the temporary link to the PDF. If you add the `returnLink` option set to true, it will return a json containing the URL of the PDF file.

```javascript
var request = require('request');
var fs = require('fs');
var pug = require('pug');

var htmlString = pug.renderFile('index.pug', {
  name: 'Giorgio'
});

request({
    url: 'https://eunorth.rotativahq.com',
    method: "POST",
    json: {
      html: htmlString,
      filename: 'mytest.pdf',
      returnLink: true
    },
    followAllRedirects: true,
    encoding: null,
    headers: { "X-ApiKey": "<YOUR_APIKEY>" }
  },
  function (error, response, body) {
    if (!error && response.statusCode == 200) {
      console.log(body);
    }
  }
);
```

The `filename` option sets the name of the file that will be downloaded from the URL.
Resulting JSON is:

```json
{
  "pdfUrl": "https://rhqeuno2.blob.core.windows.net/temppdf/983ace5d51c3
46cbae5c9dc7cfa4673d.pdf?sv=2015-04-05&sr=b&si=twominutepolicy&sig=yCVpS
DWteeU6Rc7%2Fx7rwI311atP76j2zwiExwmb0UD8%3D"
}
```

Redirecting the user yourself will spare a roundtrip and this could shorten download times.

The following code is a sample express route that redirects to a PDF generated by RotativaHQ:

```javascript
app.get('/', function (req, res) {
  request({
      url: 'https://eunorth.rotativahq.com',
      method: "POST",
      json: { htmlUrl: "http://www.vodafone.it", returnLink: true },
      followAllRedirects: true,
      encoding: null,
      headers: { "X-ApiKey": "<YOUR_APIKEY>" }
    },
    function (error, response, body) {
      if (!error && response.statusCode == 200) {
        res.redirect(body.pdfUrl);
      }
    }
  );
});
```

In this way the PDF doc doesn't have to be transferred first from RotativaHQ endpoint to your server and then from your server to the user. The user directly downloads the file from RotativaHQ (as a temporary file with a 2 minutes lifetime).

The complete list of options for the request JSON:

```json
{
  "htmlUrl": "",
  "html": ""
  "filename": "",
  "returnLink": true,
  "pageMargins": {
    "bottom": null,
    "left": null,
    "right": null,
    "top": null
  },
  "pageSize": null,
  "pageWidth": null,
  "pageHeight": null,
  "pageOrientation": "portrait",
  "isJavaScriptDisabled": false,
  "isLowQuality": false,
  "isBackgroundDisabled": false,
  "minimumFontSize": null,
  "copies": null,
  "isGrayScale": false,
  "customSwitches": null
}
```

Those parameters will be converted to wkhtmltopdf parameters (http://wkhtmltopdf.org/usage/wkhtmltopdf.txt). If any are missing, you can manually add them in the `customSwitches` property.

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Rotativa HQ Headquarters is a cloud
service based in Microsoft Azure that
creates PDF documents.