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Full Stack Web Developer, Graphic Designer & Collaborator.

Convert HTML/CSS Content to a Sleek Multiple Page PDF File Using jsPDF JavaScript library

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Html2Pdf

This demo uses Html2Canvas.js to render HTML. Instead of using an HTML canvas however, a canvas wrapper using jsPDF is substituted. The `context2d` provided by the wrapper calls native PDF rendering methods.

A PDF of this page will be inserted into the right margin.

Colors

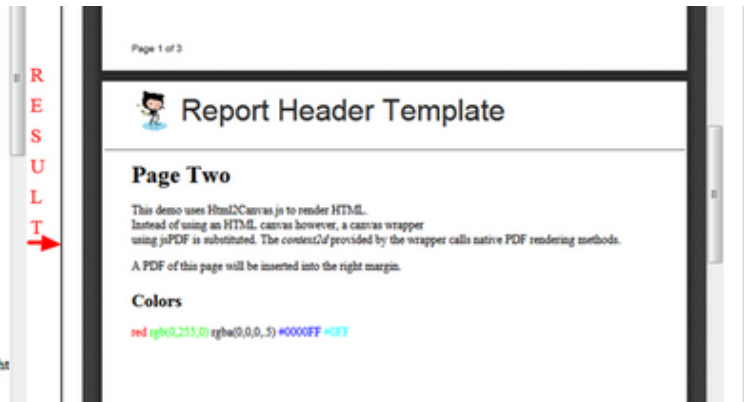
red `rgb(0,255,0)` `rgba(0,0,0,.5)` `#0000FF` `#0FF`

Text Alignment

left

center

right



Introduction

Generating PDF file format in client-side JavaScript is now trivial with a great library we have probably heard of.

The library allows you to select the DOM (Document Object Model) elements that you wish to publish as PDF content.



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Exporting generic HTML/CSS to PDF has been an open question without a definitive answer for quite a long time.

We have struggled with a variety of approaches and, in general, all of them have drawbacks. I have concrete research on the use of the jsPDF library and am going to walk you through the process of setting things up and creating a fairly simple, yet complex, design that you will need on your journey to making great PDF reporting templates.

Problem statement

Working with generic HTML/CSS content to PDF has been an open question without a definitive answer for quite a long time. We have struggled with a variety of approaches and, in general, all of them have drawbacks.

Popular questions you will see on the web are shown below:

- Is it possible to save an HTML page as a PDF using JavaScript or jQuery?
- How to export HTML pages as a PDF using pure JavaScript.
- How to create multiple pages.
- Generate PDF from HTML in div using JavaScript.
- Multiple pages with HTML to PDF converters.

The questions go on and on.

The Goal of this Tutorial

I will walk you through getting started and integrating jsPDF into your browser-based JavaScript web application.

At the end of this lesson, you will be able to do the following:

- Use the fromHtml API End Point to get our HTML content container wrapper



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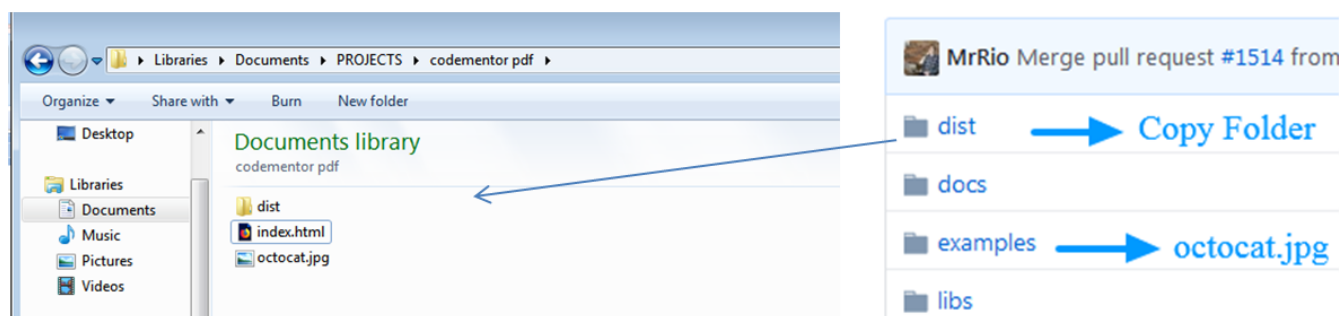
- Create a function to convert images to base64 image Uniform Resource Locator (URL) and use in our header.
- Add header and footer text (like page count) to every single generated jsPDF page.

Prerequisites

You can find the library here: [MrRio/jsPDF](#).

[Click to download octocat.jpg](#).

Download the jsPDF library and use the image as a guide for our project folder structure:



First, we will set up our folder structure as seen in the Figure above.

Open the jsPDF folder from the prerequisite and copy the dist folder to your project folder.

Create a new file and name it index.html.

Download or Copy the [Header Image](#) to the project folder.

Working with the index.html file

We will create the skeleton of our HTML with the standard HTML tags:



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Index.html

```
<!doctype>
<html>
<head>
  <title>Html to Multi Page PDF using jsPDF</title>
  <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=UTF-8" />
  <style>
    @CHARSET "UTF-8";
    .page-break {
      page-break-after: always;
      page-break-inside: avoid;
      clear: both;
    }
    .page-break-before {
      page-break-before: always;
      page-break-inside: avoid;
      clear: both;
    }
    #html-2-pdfwrapper{
      position: absolute;
      left: 20px;
      top: 50px;
      bottom: 0;
      overflow: auto;
      width: 600px;
    }
  </style>
</head>
<body>
  <button onclick="generate()">Generate PDF</button>
  <div id="html-2-pdfwrapper">
    <!-- html content goes here -->
  </div>
  <script src='dist/jspdf.min.js'></script>
</body>
</html>
```



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The head section holds the page title and the stylesheet for the page.

The HTML body section holds the following:

- Button: the generate PDF button on click will trigger the generate function which we have yet to create.

```
<button onclick="generate()">Generate PDF</button>
```

- The next section will hold all of our HTML content we want to convert to PDF.

```
<div id="html-2-pdfwrapper"> <!-- html content goes here --> </div>
```

Writing the JavaScript function to handle the HTML conversion.

Global Variables

```
<script>
//Global Variable Declaration
var base64Img = null;
margins = {
  top: 70,
  bottom: 40,
  left: 30,
  width: 550
};

/* append other function below: */

</script>
```

Generate PDF Function



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```
generate = function()
{
  var pdf = new jsPDF('p', 'pt', 'a4');
  pdf.setFontSize(18);
  pdf.fromHTML(document.getElementById('html-2-pdfwrapper'),
    margins.left, // x coord
    margins.top,
    {
      // y coord
      width: margins.width // max width of content on PDF
    }, function(dispose) {
      headerFooterFormatting(pdf)
    },
    margins);

  var iframe = document.createElement('iframe');
  iframe.setAttribute('style', 'position: absolute; right: 0; top: 0; bottom: 0; height: 100%;');
  document.body.appendChild(iframe);

  iframe.src = pdf.output('datauristring');
};
```

Code Explanation

Inside generate function, we instantiate the jsPDF Object as PDF. The jsPDF has an API Endpoint called fromHTML with the following parameters:

```
jsPDFAPI.fromHTML = function (HTML, x, y, settings, callback, margins)
```

The HTML is the HTML content you want to convert.

X is the horizontal distance from the x-coordinate of your PDF layout page.

Y is the vertical distance from the y-coordinate of your PDF layout page.



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Callback function is used to perform extra functionality on the pages generated. We are going to take advantage of the callback function to add page numbering and header to our pages later on.

We are also creating an iframe element to display our generated PDF.

Page and Footer Formatting Function

```
function headerFooterFormatting(doc)
{
    var totalPages = doc.internal.getNumberOfPages();

    for(var i = totalPages; i >= 1; i--)
    { //make this page, the current page we are currently working on.
        doc.setPage(i);

        header(doc);

        footer(doc, i, totalPages);
    }
};
```

Code Explanation

The function is used to add extra data to each page of the PDF and so it will be called on the fromPDF callback parameters. It takes a jsPDF object.

Header Function



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```
function header(doc)
{
    doc.setFontSize(30);
    doc.setTextColor(40);
    doc.setFontStyle('normal');

    if (base64Img) {
        doc.addImage(base64Img, 'JPEG', margins.left, 10, 40,40);
    }

    doc.text("Report Header Template", margins.left + 50, 40 );

    doc.line(3, 70, margins.width + 43,70); // horizontal line
};
```

Load the header image and convert to base64

```
imgToBase64('octocat.jpg', function(base64) {
    base64Img = base64;
});
```

Image Converter Function



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```
// You could either use a function similar to this or preconvert an image with,  
// http://stackoverflow.com/questions/6150289/how-to-convert-image-into-base64-  
function imgToBase64(url, callback, imgVariable) {  
  
    if (!window.FileReader) {  
        callback(null);  
        return;  
    }  
    var xhr = new XMLHttpRequest();  
    xhr.responseType = 'blob';  
    xhr.onload = function() {  
        var reader = new FileReader();  
        reader.onloadend = function() {  
            imgVariable = reader.result.replace('text/xml', 'image/jpeg');  
            callback(imgVariable);  
        };  
        reader.readAsDataURL(xhr.response);  
    };  
    xhr.open('GET', url);  
    xhr.send();  
};
```

Download complete project now: [Codementor HTML to PDF.zip](#)

Please, feel free to share your comments and help improve the code wherever possible.

JavaScript

HTML/CSS

Html2pdf

Pdf

Jspdf

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Ameh Joseph

Full Stack Web Developer, Graphic Designer & Collaborator.

I am a full stack web developer for an oil and gas software and engineering company in Nigeria, where I work with a diverse group of petroleum experts, project managers, editors, creative's, and developers, each individually p...

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Bharat Patel 3 hours ago



I tried your example, but it is not working for UTF characters. Can you please help me for this.

it looks like this when i use gujarati characters. પ્ય•ઞ®>ઞ . .



Reply



Ram pravin 10 days ago



Hi Ameh,

Thanks for the example ,may i know which version of jsPDF is used in this example ?



Reply



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Hi Ameh

I am using your code in my website for creating pdf from HTML Element but issue is when i click on generate button its created pdf but without contain and that same element used outside the website its working its fine.

Please help me for this

♡ Reply

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Jacob K.

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Documentation?... Documentation. Let's say for a second that you want to create a way to easily publish and read docs, err... documentation. By the end of this read you will be able to do just that, all with the power of Gatsby (a static site generator) and Cosmic JS (an easy to setup and use Content Management System). Grab some coffee, find a comfy chair and let's build



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