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Tutorial T-1

User Manuel

PDF2MZ3 Tools

Converting a PDF File into a MegaZine3 Flipbook

Download Tutorial 1

Document Draft: 1-3-2
MZ3-Version: **V2.0.x**
Date: **APR 24, 2010**

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Preparation

Overview

This tutorial shows the use of the pdf2mz3 tools, a set o f command files supporting in an easy and fast creation of MegaZine3 Flipbooks out of PDF files

Three command files work together:

1. _set_version — Inputs are book name, version name, number of pages
   If a version name is given, a version specific configuration file is created (first time) or used (if already present) present
   Calls _set_param, followed by _pdf2mz3
   Optimal you can suppress the (repeated) conversion of PDF pages and define, what kind of book should be created (server version or preparation for media like CD, DVD, download or Memory Stick

2. _set_param.bat — this is the core configuration file. Many parameters can be set; all are commented.

3. _pdf2mz3.bat — this command file does all the work: creation of the directory structure, conversion of the swf pages out of the PDF file, building of the megazine.mz3 and index files.

For the conversion of the PDF data into swf pages the tool **pdf2sfw** is used and must be installed on your computer.

As preparation the following steps are needed:

1. Download of the complete pdf2mz3 demo package and the pdf2swf software
2. Creation of a folder to hold all future books and the MegaZine3 software (the base folder, named as you like it)
3. Unzip the pdf2mz3 demo package into that folder. This provides everything needed:
   the 3 pdf2mz3 Tool files and a complete MegaZine3 version (Binaries)
4. Install pdf2swf tools into the default folder
5. Copy the PDF files you want to convert into the base folder
6. Optional: modify the parameters in _set_param.bat
7. Call _set_version and enter all 5 requested parameters:
   a. book name (identical with your PDF name
   b. version name
   c. page count
   d. Flags to suppress conversion of pages and defining what book to build
8. Adjust FLASH security settings
9. For an online presence:
   Upload the base folder (without PDF files and Media-Folders “book_CD” to your server

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Important: Avoid special characters in your PDF file and book name
Use letters, digits and "_" only
No space within the name or the command files will not work!

All pages of the PDF file must have the same size and aspect ratio
The PDF file must not be password protected.

You can follow a brief FaceBook video to see how fast a setup and conversion can be:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpVxrp52t1w

Downloads

The safest way is to download the complete pdf2mz3 demo package, containing the pdf2mz3 tools, a complete MegaZine3 version, a demo PDF file (license overview) and this tutorial.

Full ldf2mz3 demo

pdf2mz3 tools only
(download link)

Please download the needed 3rd party tool pdf2swf here:

pdf2swf Tools
(download link)

How to install
pdf2swf
Online Video

The installation of pdf2swf is shown in a short video you can also download as multimedia PDF file (Acrobat Reader version 9 needed!).

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First Test

After the download of the complete package (see green button on Downloads page 4) please follow these steps to prove everything is working:

- Unzip the package into a new folder, named at will. This folder will take all future books and the MegaZine3 software. You might have several of such folders, with different versions of the MegaZine3 Software, different projects of your publications, newspapers by year, …

  All books in one base folder share the same version of MegaZine3
- Install pdf2swf in the default folder (see Downloads: pdf2swf package, link on previous page).
- Start „**_set_version.bat**“ with a double click.
- Accept all proposed default values
- Check the information in the black DOS-like window that opens and then click any key to see the converted book

The demo book first opens in full screen. It is the media version, ready to be copied “as is” onto a CD, DVD or stick. Or as offered for download.

Leave full screen mode in hitting <ESC>. Go back to the command window and hit any key again to start the book as „server version „ in your browser

Most probably you now do not see any content but only empty, grey pages.
Please follow the steps explained in this tutorial in chapterSolving the “FLASH sandbox“ProblemSolving the “FLASH sandbox“Problem on page 10 to exclude your base folder from those checks...

After doing so in pointing to your base folder refresh your browser and the book now should work.

Now everything is prepared and you can start mass production of MegaZine3 books out of all your PDF files. All pages of a PDF book should be in one file and must have the same dimension.

The next chapter provides more details on the conversion, describing some additional options and provides background information. At the end of this paper you’ll find some hints for Common Problems and Solutions**.**

Directory Structure

The name of your base folder can be freely defined. In this package we used mz3-demo as name.
You can have several of such base folders to hold different projects or Software and configuration versions. But all such base folders must include the pdf2mz3 tool files and a complete MegaZine3 Software

With the first start of pdf2mz3 a standard directory structure is created to hodl all your future files..
Thais is realized by pdf2mz3.bat, which is called last

_set_version - _set_param - pdf2mz3 .

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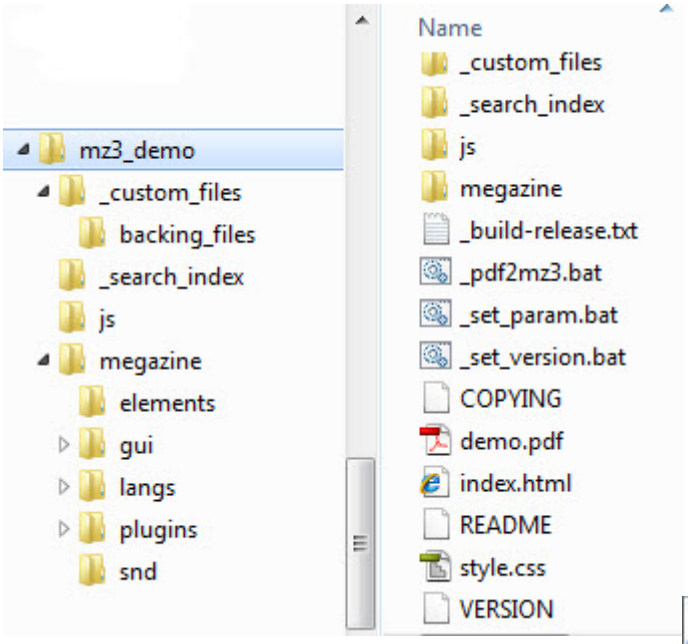


The pdf2mz3 tools are located in the base folder together with the Megazine3 software, and, after the first conversion process, the _search folder for the search index files and the index file, which will start the related MZ3 book.

The folder _custom_files is the place for your customized data: company logo, special preloader, modified pagebackground.

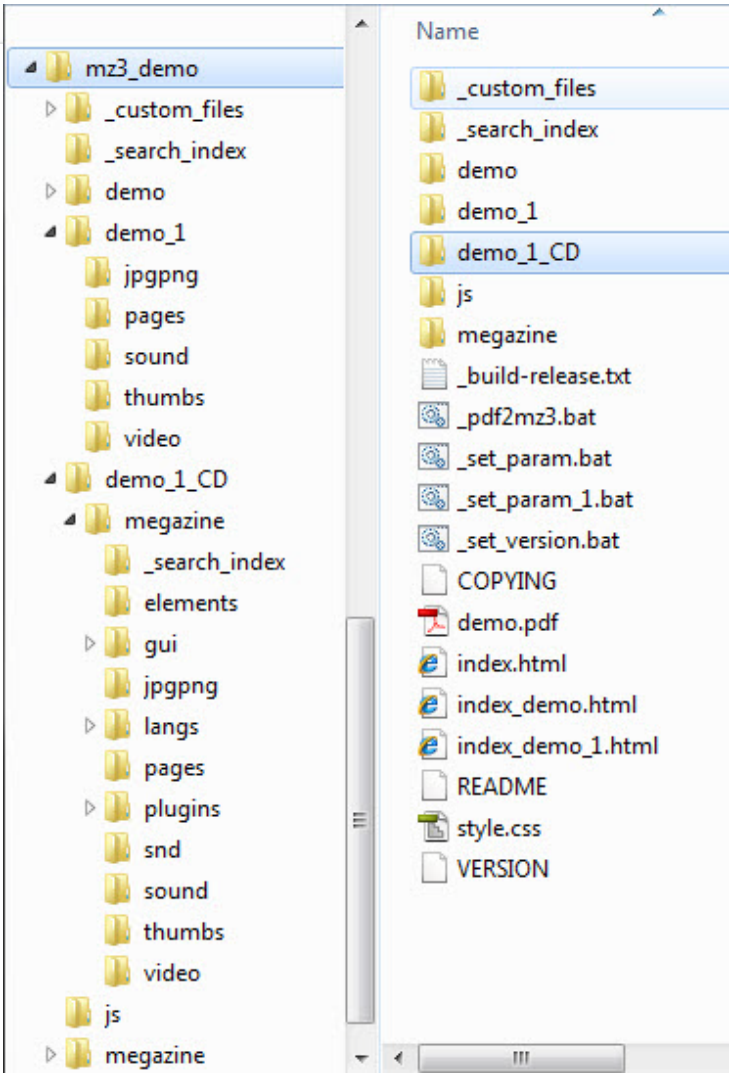
In absence of such files the standard and default logo and preloader will be used.

Use **_set_version** to start every conversion. You can enter the following parameters:

- Name of book
- Name of version
- Page count
- Do PDF conversion: yes/no
- Select what kind of book should be built: server version or media version or both or none

After providing the last parameter, the folders and files are created and the conversion performed, depending on what you selected.

After the conversion and when all files are created, first the “CD book” is shown, and with the next click in the command window the server version is output in your browser (if you had the tools create both versions).



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MegaZine3 Framework

A complete MegaZine3 software binary package must be located in the base folder. You should use the version that comes with the demo package (highly suggested, because with that the file **megazine.exe** is provided, which is needed to build the media books!).

The pdf2mz3 tools manage everything for you and enable the use of one MegaZine3 version for all books in the base folder. This makes maintenance easy. Because of the separation of custom specific files (like logo, preloader) and the megazine software, later updates are easy.

Durch diese automatische Verwaltung sind Änderungen schnell gemacht.

Summary

- Every book needs to have a unique name without any special characters
- The book must be named after the PDF file (without extension)
- That book name is used for all derivative names and folders created automatically by the pdf2mz3 tools
- The folder _custom_files can be used to personalize your books with own logo and preloader. With future tools (no more batch file based but with a GUI) we plan to support management of customized ASUL files also.
- The book folder contains the megazine.mz3 file and data folders and files (pages, images, video, sound). The related index file is located in the base folder.
- Books prepared for media are collected in folder named bookname_CD. Those books are either started automatically by the autostart file provided or in calling bookname_CD\megazine\megazine.exe
- If you define a version name (anything else but „n2 which tells the tools that now version should be created), the same pdf file is used but a different _set_param file and book folder are created.
  Example: version name: 1,
  A folder demo_1\ will be created for pages converted out of the demo.pdf file.
  A _set_param_1.bat will be created as copy of the standard _set_param.bat file where you can do all modifications needed for the new version 1...
  With the next call of _set_version.bat, providing the same book and version name, All modified parameters of _set_param_1.bat will be used to create the MZ3 book demo_1.
- If in _custom_files a custom_logo, custom_pagebackground custom_preloader.swf are found, those files will be used instead of the default file, the MegaZine3 Logo and MegaZine3-Preloader. Fort he logo pagebackground .png, .jpg or.swf filescan be used.

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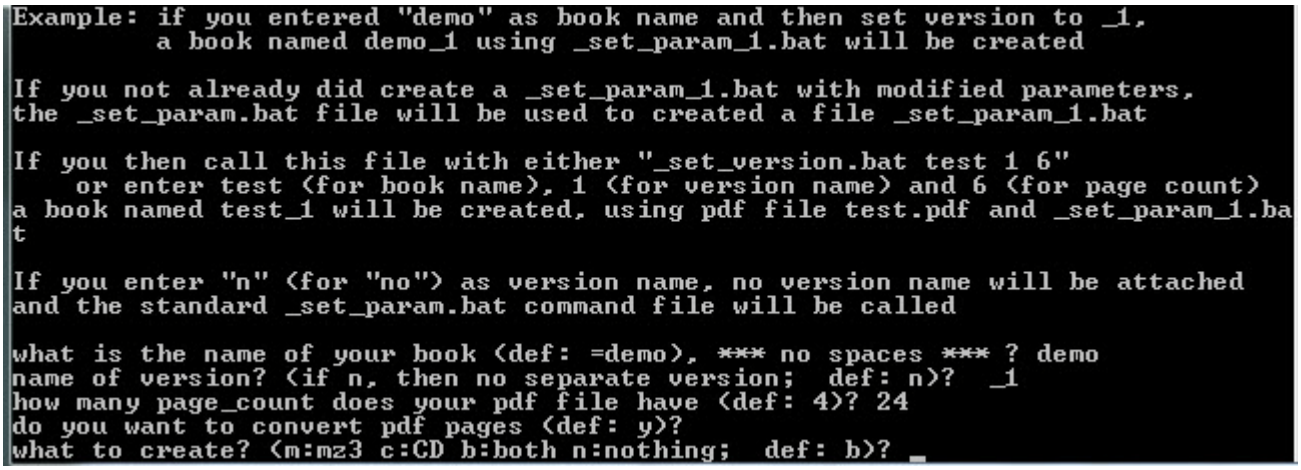
Converting a PDF File into a MegaZine3 Flipbook

The next chapters explain the conversion process and options in more detail.

Step 1: calling _set_version

If you already copied your PDF file into the base folder, you immediately can start in calling _set_version with s double click.

You have to enter book and version name, page count and the control flags; or take the defaults.



Default name for book name is “demo”. Enter the name of your PDF file; without the .pdf extension.
And remember: rename your pdf file if you used special characters: a space will not work!

Next you can enter a version name, which will be appended to the book name with a „_“ separating both. If you use that version name the first time, a _set_param file with that version name will not yet exist and created for you automatically as copy of the standard _set_param file. You then can modify that file to do the configuration for your version. This helps in testing different sets of parameters for the same book; like quality settings, books size, zoom scales …

After entering the page count you can control how the pdf2mz3 tools behave:
You can skip conversion, whish is useful, if you already did a conversion already and only want to test a new set of parameters, especially with big books. You can save a lot of time with that...

With the last parameter you decide what kind of book will be created:

- Server version
  Only the MegaZine3 file megazine.mz3, the related index_bookname.html file, the book specific folders pages, jpgpng, sound and video are built.
  If you want to go online with your book, you upload the complete base folder (avoid uploading the pdf files and the *_CD folders; not needed on the server side). If you built a new MZ3 book you after that only upload the index file and the book folder.
- Book on Media version
  everything needed will be put into one folder called bookname_CD, including the complete MegaZine3 software, the customized files and the megazine executable. No index file needed but an autoexec file provided. Advantage: no FLASH security problems. Disadvantage: no preloader, complete copy of MegaZine3 needed.

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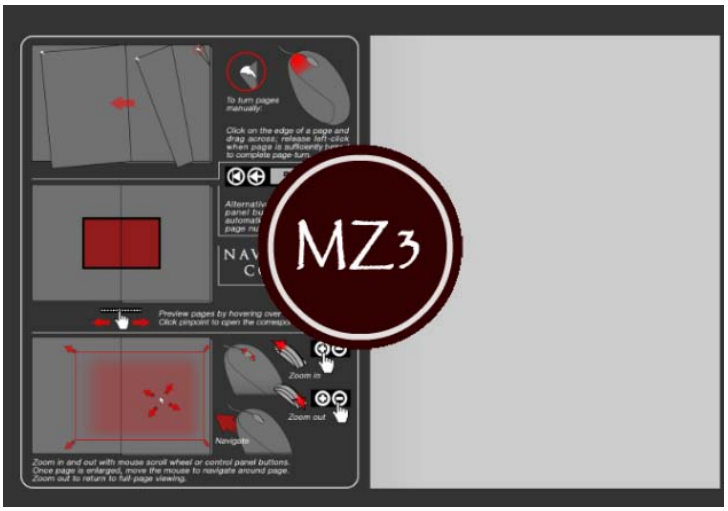
Second Step: Presenting the built Book

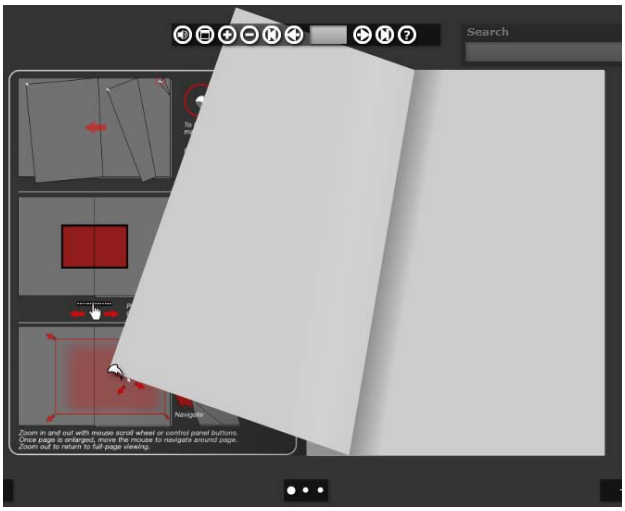
The final book can be admired in your default browser after you read the information provided in the command window, and after a click of whatever key

In case you built a media version, that book will show up immediately in full screen.

After checking of the book on how it behaves (the „look and feel“), including verification of additional features as search (did you provide the book.txt file in _search_files?!) and customized logo/preloader/pagebackground, you can start the server version with a next hit of any key in the command window.

In case you see empty, grey pages as shown below, you did not do your FLASH security settings, the PDF file is protected or the pages have not been convert yet (no page_lqx.swf files present).
Or something else went wrong…





The above screenshot shows:

- A modified Preloader, because a custom_preloader.swf file was located in the _custom_files folder (not part of the demo package!)
- A modified page background, because a file custom_pagebackground.png was located in folder _custom_files
- In case you provided your web address in _set_param.bat, a click on the logo will call that site.

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Solving the “FLASH sandbox“Problem

Flash is pretty picky regarding security, what in general is a good thing. But can drive you nuts ;-)

Flash does not allow moving deliberately across folder margins what is necessary if several books should share one MageZine3 software installation.

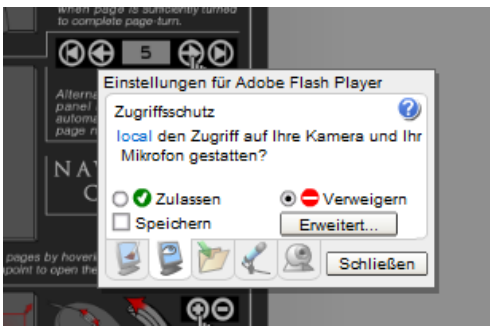
Remark:
To have several different books sharing one MegaZine3 installation, the path and pointing to the pages and images must be defined as relative path. Like “../book_1/pages/page_l1.swf
With „..“ telling the OS to go one folder up in the directory tree. Since all relative paths are based on the location of the megazine/megazine.swf file, such relative path names are necessary.

To allow FLASH to move freely within a certain folder, that name of the folder must be added to the list of folders accepted. This checking and security encapsulation also is known as “sandbox problem”. Try to google for that and you’ll get several hits!

Fortunately there is an easy way to overcome that problem, which only exists on your local PC. On the server side this is not requested.

The link needed to adjust the settings can be found in right clicking inside the books; or to be more precise: within the container of the book (close to the book edge will do it). Flash has to have the focus also, so probably you have to left click into the book first.

With the right click the Adobe “about window” opens:



And after a clicking on the question mark (this is a new behavior with the latest version!) an Adobe window opens where you can do your setting.

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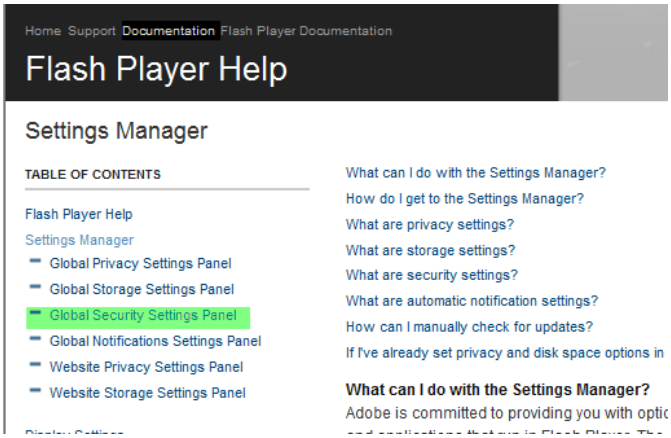
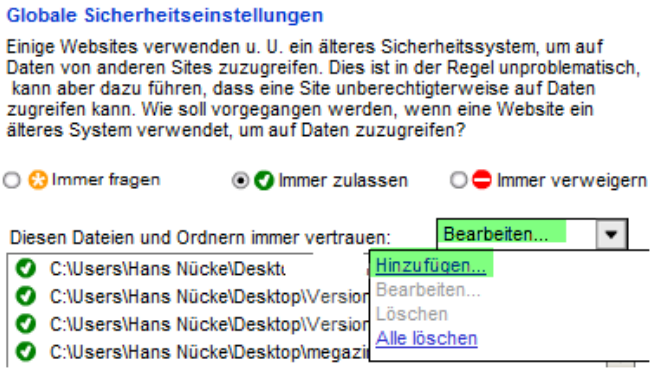
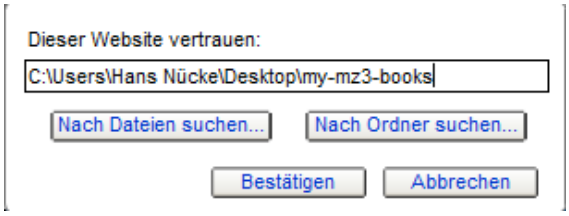
Click on „global security settings“so a new page opens where you can with setting add“ can add your folder to the list.







After that FLASH allows free access within that folder. If you create a new folder, you have to add that folder to the list also… same procedure.

Please keep in mind:
If you run into enpty, grey pages, this whould ring a the „FLASH security setting bell“!

Another possibility is that the pages cannot be found or the path is incorrect. If you use the pdf2mz2 tools and carefully read the information presented, that usually is not the point. If you modify the index and megazine.mz3 files directly (what is a common thing once you’re more experienced), this might become your main problem. Then the console (hit the „#“ key when Flash has the focus) will give you some hints; if it is enabled. What is the case if you use the pdf2mz3 tools ;-)
Also using http://validome.org can be very helpful to valiate your megazine.mz3 file. Again: ldf2mz3 should avoid those problems and create working files.

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Directory Structure

These folders are created for you:

- ***_custom_*files**: folder to provide your modified custom files like:
    - **custom_preloader.swf**
      Will be used when file with that name it is present
    - **logo** as png, jpg or swf file
      Will be used when file with that name it is present
    - **pagebackground**, as png, jpg or swf file
      Placed behind the book and only visible if the front or back cover are opened (and the book is closed, consuming only one page on stage). In that case the book gives room for the pagebackground
- ***_search_*index**
  The folder all your search index files go, you can create out of your PDF files with Acrobat using <file – save text – text (available)>; or similar
- **Demo**
  The folder your books is located in: here the megazine.mz3 file goes and all the folders for the content like pages/, jpgpng/, sound, video
- **demo/pages**
  Used to save the converted pages, named page_ln.swf and page_hn.swf, with „n“ being the page number. The –l stands for lower quality and is used for monitor output, the _h is for the higher quality files, used for prints.
  Changing the zoomscale parameter you also can use the higher resolution pages for output on screen when the actual zoom scale becomes higher than the defined trigger level for zoomscale.
  Then for higher zoom levels the higher quality pages can be reloaded.
- **demo/jpgpng**
  Folder prepared to hold images in jpg or png format; for individually designed pages
- **demo/thumbs**
  This folder is for jpg images of pages, that can be used as thumbnails. To work like that the images must be named 0.jpg, 1.jpg, 2.jpg, … and have the correct dimension/size. Which is 25% of a book's pagesize by default. Those thumbnails will be used by MegaZine3 at start up, as long as thumbnails are not yet built our of the real, dynamic pages. If you have users with low performance computers but good internet connection, this can speed up the availability of thumbnails.
- Thumbnails werden zur Seitenvorschau in der Übersicht verwendet und auch zur Darstelllung einer

Generated Files:

- **Megazine.mz3**: The mz3 key file, defining the book
- **Index_demo.html**: The related index file, named after the book: index_book.html

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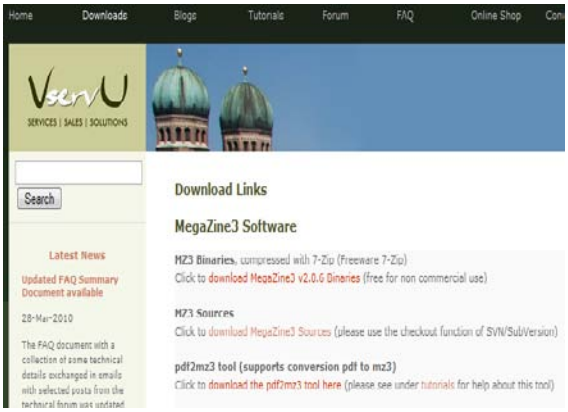
Updates/Upgrades

The MegaZine3 Framework can be accessed for future updates and upgrades via www.vservu.com or www.megazine3.de, where download links are presented:

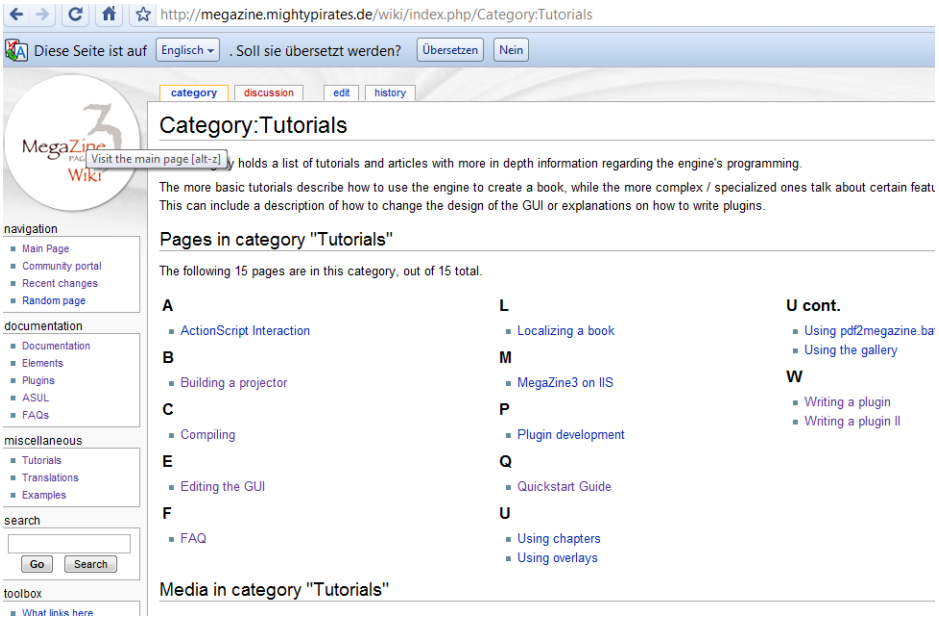


You can simply copy a complete set of MegaZine3 Binaries into your base folder. All customized data is kept separate and will be copied into the megazine structure with the first call of pdf2mz3 tools (_set_version in most cased) again.

Links

To learn more on how to configure the MegaZine3 system and more about all possible options and parameters can be found in the Wiki. We might provide additional sources from time to time.

The Wiki lists all parameters and provides many details. Also more tutorials can be found.



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Common Problems and Solutions

Due to our worldwide presence, we encounter many different setups. We cannot test every possible configuration, but this list of potential problems hopefully helps:

Effekt	**Potential problem**	**Hints for solutions**
No book, monitor shows a completely grey window	Preloader file not found, not called due to wrong configuration of index.html or defect	Is there a file named preloader.swf in folder megazine/? If not: run _set_version again and monitor the messages output in the window. If there is a custom_preloader.sfw file, please rename or take out, so MegaZine3 is using the default file. Is another index.html working with MegaZine3?
No PDF conversion	Pdf2swf not installed correctly, path to pdf2swf incorrect	Re-install pdf2swf (see **Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden.**). Adjust path to pdf2swf.exe in _set_param.bat. .
Book can be opened and flipped, but pages are empty/grey	Access denied by FLASH security settings PDF file password protected? No swf pages converted yet; no data available. Wrong path to data	Click right into a grey page to have the Adobe „about window“ opened. Change security settings to allows access to your book folder.Solving the “FLASH sandbox“Problem Take out pass word protection in PDF file Are pdf pages present?? Check parameters you enter in _set_version. Check information presented in command window.
Search plugin not working	You need a special, separate text file as index file fort he search	Create such text file using Adobe Acrobat and save the text file into the folder _search_index. Creation in Acrobat is similar to <File – save as text– Text (available)>
The message „install Flash Player“ pops up	No Flash Player available or version outdated... No MegaZine3 SW present	Install Flash Player and/or update to latest revision.. Check if folder megazine\ is existent in your base folder. Did you download the latest version of MegaZine3 and unzipped into the base directory?

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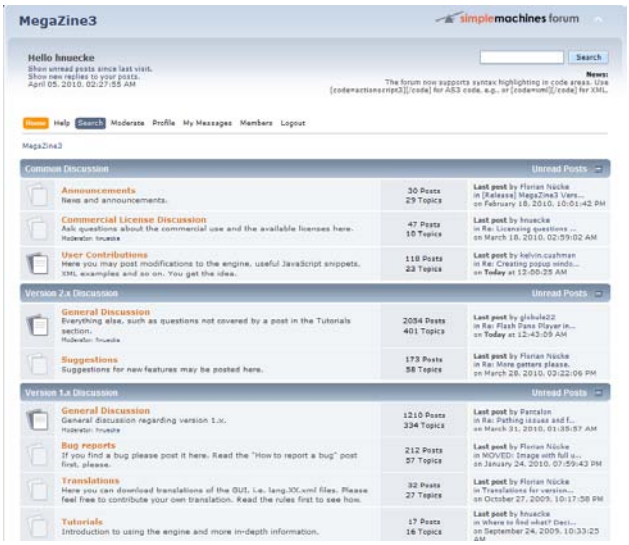
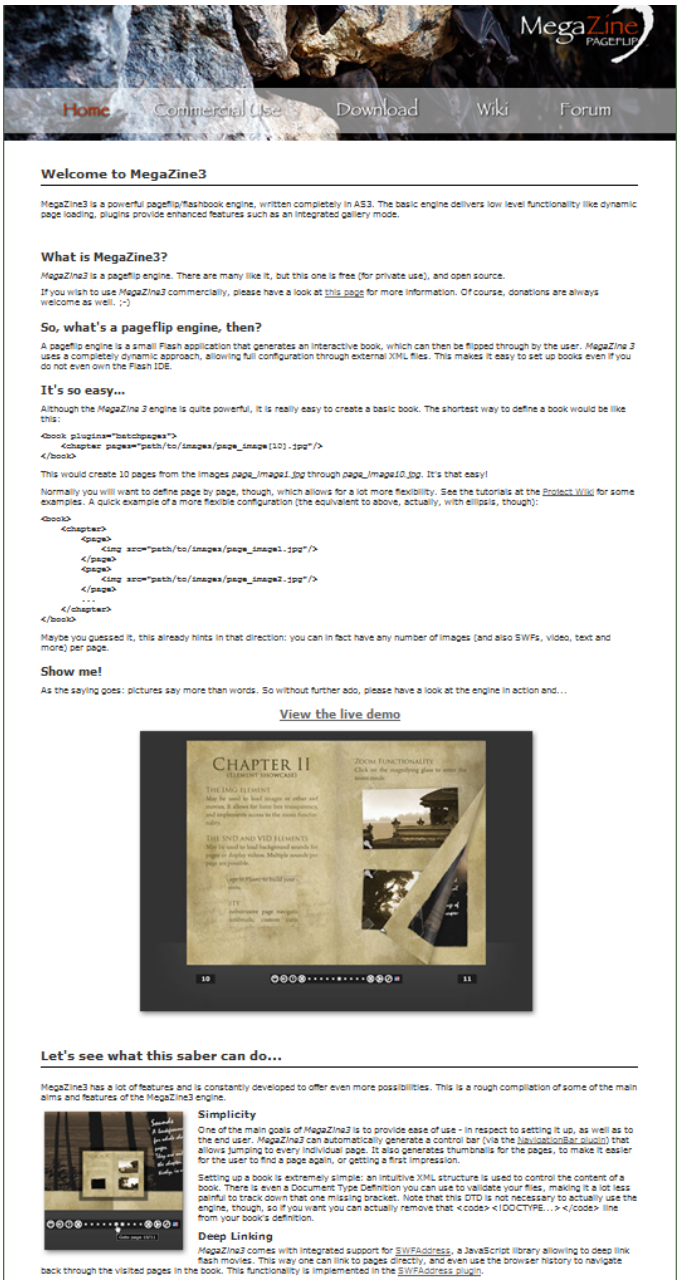
Many more details are discussed in our forum:





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Enjoy using MegaZine3 and many happy customers/user!

If you are happy with MegaZine2:
Please let others know!

To not miss any news, update or tutorial we suggest you register our RSS feed at „New “ and or Blogs:

http://www.vservu.com/News.htm
http://www.vservu.com/blogs

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