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How do I convert a DjVu document to PDF in Linux using only command line tools?

Asked 14 years, 3 months ago Modified 24 days ago Viewed 98k times



I've got some documents in DjVu which I'll like convert to PDF. Is there a way to do this using command line OSS tools?

86

[linux](#) [pdf](#) [conversion](#) [djvu](#)



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edited Jul 19, 2011 at 2:38



[studiohack](#)
13.5k 19 88 118

asked Jan 26, 2010 at 3:20



[GeneQ](#)
4,997 2 36 53

8 Answers

Sorted by: [Highest score \(default\)](#)



[djvu2pdf](#) should fit the bill, it's a small script that makes use of the [djvulibre](#) toolset. If not, there are [other methods](#) that require multiple command-line tools.

65

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edited May 23, 2020 at 19:05



[Ramhound](#)
42.9k 35 106 136

answered Jan 26, 2010 at 3:25

[user1931](#)

What's a pity that, currently there is not `djvu2pdf` tool in [Arch repo](#) and old ver in [Arch User repo](#) – Grzegorz Wierzowiecki Nov 2, 2011 at 17:42

3 Installing `djvulibre-bin` using `apt-get` and then installing the deb file in that link did the trick. – thameera Apr 21, 2014 at 10:27

1 On mac you `djvu2pdf` is available via [MacPorts](#) . – 0 _ Jul 2, 2014 at 7:59

6 Mac users can also run `brew install djvu2pdf` to install the program and `djvu2pdf file.djvu` to convert. Homebrew takes care of downloading all its dependencies – Lxrd-AJ Apr 24, 2020 at 11:26

1 `djvu2pdf` works although it produces a slightly bigger file than `ddjvu` with compression enabled. Other issue is that it doesn't copy the table of contents of the source document. – Grwlf May 1, 2022 at 11:00



The `ddjvu` program (which is part of the standard `djvulibre` package) will do this:

49

```
$ ddjvu -format=pdf -quality=85 -verbose a.djvu a.pdf
```



Warning: this produces large files (but PDF files made by Christoph Sieghart's script are of the same size).



I also wrote the following small shell script some years ago. It does the same automatically. (Save this as `djvu2pdf.sh`.)

```
#!/bin/sh

# convert DjVu -> PDF
# usage: djvu2pdf.sh <file.djvu>

i="$1"
echo "----- converting $i to PDF -----";
o="$(basename "$i" .djvu).pdf"
echo "[ writing output to $o ] "

ddjvu -format=pdf -quality=85 -verbose "$i" "$o"
```

The `djvu2pdf` script by Christoph Sieghart does essentially the same.

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edited Sep 26, 2021 at 18:39

 **Scott - Слава Україні**
21.8k 46 64 123

answered May 16, 2013 at 4:56

 **Maxim**
1,616 13 13

5 Is there a way to make OCR layer of the DjVu come through into the PDF? – Geremia Feb 25, 2017 at 4:09

2 using `ddjvu` turned my 6.3 mb djvu file into a 1.7 gig pdf file. – xdauidliu Jun 10, 2020 at 12:52

something is wrong. this should not happen. you can post here the link to the file. – Maxim Jun 11, 2020 at 1:03



\$ `djvups input.djvu | ps2pdf - output.pdf`

27

In my case the output file was **10x smaller** than with `ddjvu`. Both `djvups` and `ps2pdf` present in ubuntu repository.



\$ `sudo apt-get install djvulibre-bin ghostscript`




I've found this method in `man ddjvu`, so always read manuals ;)

An alternate way to produce PDF file consists in first using `djvups(1)` and convert the resulting PostScript file to PDF. Which method gives better results depends on the contents of the DJVU file and on the capabilities of the PS to PDF converter.

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answered Apr 2, 2017 at 11:55

 **raacer**
563 5 11

6 +1 for preserving any text layer in the djvu file – Plasma Apr 1, 2018 at 18:29

1 +1 for that apt command XD – Kokizzu Sep 20, 2020 at 4:47

This is the only one preserving the text layer. But increases filesize 10-fold for me. – user313032 Nov 10, 2021 at 2:05

Did not preserve the text layer for me, instead produced garbled characters and indeed increased the file size by a factor of ten. – Stefan Schmidt Aug 31, 2023 at 8:36

My file went from 5,5MB to 65MB, didn't preserve text and some pages were upside down. – Carcamano Nov 14, 2023 at 15:01



23


What about simply using DJView and export as PDF?

1. Goto Synaptic Package Manager (System - Administration - Synaptic Package Manager)
2. Install DJview4
3. Run DJview (Applications - Graphics - DJView4)
4. Open your .djvu document
5. Menu - Export As: PDF

Look at <http://art.ubuntuforums.org/showthread.php?t=1232038>

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edited Feb 11, 2011 at 11:39

 **DMA57361**
18.7k 7 73 99

answered Feb 11, 2011 at 9:39

 **toto**
247 2 2

4 The question was about using command line only, so this can be automated. – [Maxim](#) May 19, 2019 at 17:40

I tested with a book of 1.4Mb. The output was 8Mb (much larger but still decent). However, the text is not searchable anymore – [Carlos Pinzón](#) Feb 16 at 18:56



If you don't care about colors and images you can get much smaller files if you drop the colors and use instead:

12

```
ddjvu -format=pdf -mode=black input.djvu output.pdf
```



Texts, codes and formulas looks perfectly, but most of the images are gone



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answered Sep 6, 2013 at 15:15



[Marcello](#)

121 1 2



I've changed the @Maxim script a little ...

3

```
#!/bin/bash
# convert DjVu -> PDF
# usage: djvu2pdf.sh [-q quality | -b] <infile.djvu> [outfile.pdf]

mode='color'
quality=80

aparse() {
    while [ $# != 0 ] ; do
        case "$1" in
            -q|--quality)
                quality=${2}
                shift
                ;;
            -b|--black)
                mode='black'
                ;;
            esac
            shift
        done
    aparse "$@"

    i="$1"
    o=${2:-$(basename $i .djvu).pdf}
    if [ -f "$o" ]; then
        echo "file $o exists, override [Y/n]?"
        read ans
        case "$ans" in
            n|N) exit 1;;
            esac
    fi
    echo "[ converting $i to $o ] "

    cmd="ddjvu -format=pdf -quality=$quality -mode=$mode -verbose $i $o "

    echo "[ executing $cmd ] "
    $cmd
```



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answered Apr 9, 2016 at 13:31



[hute37](#)

101 1 6



For macOS users you can install `djvu2pdf` like this:

3

```
$ brew install djvu2pdf
```



How to use it(works for any Xnix like system):



```
$ djvu2pdf nameBook.djvu nameBookToCreate.pdf
```

Share Improve this answer Follow

edited Apr 14 at 12:53



[kenorb](#)

answered May 1, 2018 at 12:47



[andreskwan](#)

-
- ▲
- 1
- For an approach that preserves the text layer¹ one can use [djvu2pdf](#) described in this [answer](#). The general approach is described [here](#) or [here](#). For macOS a minor tweak is required.
- ▼
- BSD `readlink -f` behaviour differs from GNU `readlink`. This can be fixed by installing [GNU coreutils](#) and changing `readlink -f` to `greadlink -f`.
- 🔖
- 🕒
1. According to the description the table of contents will also be preserved, but I haven't tested that.

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answered Aug 31, 2023 at 11:40



[Stefan Schmidt](#)

673 5 13