API Documentation

pdflayer API

The pdflayer API was built to provide a quick and seamless way to automate HTML to PDF conversion in any application. Its lightweight RESTful infrastructure is based on an efficient combination of the most powerful PDF rendering engines available, making it the most cost-effective and reliable option for anyone looking to process small or large numbers of documents within short time windows.

The pdflayer API comes with a full set of customization functionalities, including document configuration, a series of layout adjustment options, authentication and security, design and branding tweaks, and much more.

The following documentation intends to outline in detail the pdflayer API's specification, access and use of any features and parameters currently available.

Access & Specification

API Access Key & Authentication

After signing up, every user is assigned a personal API Access Key - a unique "password" used to make requests to the pdflayer API.

To authenticate with the pdflayer API, simply attach your `access_key` to the base endpoint URL:

```
http://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert?access_key=YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
```

Get your free API Access Key

HTTP GET & POST

The pdflayer API and its functionalities are primarily configured to be used via HTTP POST. For customers looking to make API requests via HTTP GET the pdflayer API is also capable of handling GET API requests using its straightforward URL structure.

However, some API functionalities are not supported using HTTP GET. Throughout this documentation you will occasionally come across `HTTP POST only` tags, indicating that the respective API feature or parameter is only supported via HTTP POST.

3-Step Quickstart Guide

For maximum compatibility with any existing programming language the pdflayer API is based on simple URL-based HTTP requests. The next three steps will outline in the most basic fashion how an API request is built.

Step 1: Base URL

Each API request is based at the following URL:

```
http://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
```

Step 2: Required parameters

Simply authenticate with the API by appending your `access_key` and providing either a URL using the `document_url` parameter or raw HTML code using the `document_html` parameter.

Parameter	Description
`access_key`	Key used to authenticate with the API - find it in your Account Dashboard
`document_url`	The full URL (including the **HTTP Protocol**) of the website you want to convert to a PDF document, e.g. `http://example.com/invoice.html`
`document_html`	HTTP POST only - raw HTML code you would like to convert to a PDF document.

Step 3: Optional parameters

Configuration

In addition to the few required parameters, there is a series of functionalities and parameters that can be used to fully configure and customize your PDF document. Find below a summary:

Parameter	Description	Default
`document_name`	specify a PDF name of up to 180 characters.	`pdflayer.pdf`
`custom_unit`	set to `px` (Pixels), `pt` (Points), `in` (Inches) or `mm` (Millimeters)	`px`
`user_agent`	set to your preferred User-Agent header string	See below
`accept_lang`	set to your preferred Accept-Language header string	`en-US`
`text_encoding`	set to your preferred text encoding string	`utf-8`
`ttl`	the time (in seconds) a generated PDF is cached	`2,592,000`
`force`	set to `1` to force new PDF	-
`inline`	set to `1` to display PDF document inline	Attachment, triggers download
`auth_user`	specify username used to access password-protected site	-
`auth_pass`	specify password used to access password-protected site	-
`encryption`	set to `40` (40-bit) or `128` (128-bit)	-
`owner_password`	specify owner password to password protect PDF	-

Parameter	Description	Default
user_password	specify user password to password protect PDF	-
Misc Options	a series of configuration options [Learn more]	-
Permissions	a series of permission options [Learn more]	-

Sample API request:

The following API request makes use of some of the above optional parameters in order to convert a standard HTML invoice to a PDF document.

```
http://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = https://pdflayer.com/downloads/invoice.html
```

URL Encoding

Strictly speaking, it is always a safer method to URL encode URL before passing it into any of the API's parameters. However, URL encoding is **required** in case your the respective URL contains the special character `&`.

Example URLs:

Find below an example `url` that is required to be URL encoded in order to be processed correctly.

```
http://website.com?parameter=example&file=invoice.html
```

Example query:

This is how the example URL above has to be passed into an API request:

```
http://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http%3A%2F%2Fwebsite.com%3Fparameter%3Dexample%26file%3Dinvoice.html
    [...]
```

Not sure about URL encoding? Have a look at this reference page »

256-bit HTTPS Encryption

Customers subscribed to the Basic Plan and upwards may establish a secure connection (industry-standard SSL) to the pdflayer API, simply by attaching an `s` to the HTTP Protocol.

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
```

Important: Please be advised that when processing sensitive data through third party services it is highly recommended to always connect securely via `https`.

Rate Limits

Requests to the API are rate limited based on your current subscription plan:

Subscription Plan	Rate Limit
Free	2 Requests / Minute
Basic	30 Requests / Minute
Professional	45 Requests / Minute
Enterprise	45 Requests / Minute

Important: In order to ensure maximum API performance, we recommend Basic, Professional and Enterprise Plan users to limit their usage to a maximum of 1 API request per 2 seconds.

If your rate limit for a given minute has been exceeded, the API will return an error carrying the type `rate_limit_reached`. This error is listed in the API Error Codes section below.

API Error Codes

If your query fails, the pdflayer API will return `"success": false`, along with a 3-digit error-code, an internal error type and a plain text "info" object containing suggestions for the user.

Find below an example error - triggered when no URL was specified:

```
{
  "success": false,
  "error": {
    "code": 311,
    "type": "invalid_document_url",
    "info": "You have specified an invalid document URL. [Make sure to include the HTTP prot
  }
}
```

Common API errors:

Type	Message	Description
404	"404_not_found"	User requested a resource which does not exist.
101	"missing_access_key"	User did not supply an Access Key.
101	"invalid_access_key"	User entered an invalid Access Key.
103	"invalid_api_function"	User requested a non-existent API endpoint or function.
311	"invalid_document_url"	User did not provide a syntactically valid document URL.

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Important: This list of errors is not conclusive. If you come across an error message you are not sure about, please contact support at support@apilayer.com »

Sandbox Mode

For document testing and debugging the pdflayer API offers a Sandbox (testing) mode, enabling users to make API requests that do not count towards their monthly API request volume. To enter Sandbox mode, simply append the API's `test` parameter and set it to `1`.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & test = 1
    [...]
```

Please note: Sandbox API requests always come with a red "Sample" watermark image.

Secret Key

For users intending to expose API request URLs on their website, it is highly recommended to make use of the pdflayer API's URL encryption method, which lets you generate a unique **Secret Key** for every API request and simply append it to the respective API request URL.

In order to prevent your publicly displayed API request URL from being abused, please follow the steps below:

Step 1: Define your document URL

First of all, define the URL of the website you want to generate a PDF from.

In our example we will use the following URL:

```
http://example.com/document.html
```

Step 2: Define your Secret Keyword

A Secret Keyword can be any secret word or phrase of your choice. As the next step, please make sure you have defined it in your account dashboard. If not, you can simply add a secret keyword here.

In our example we will use the following Secret Keyword:

```
mysecretkeyword
```

Step 3: Combine

Now you will need to combine these two parts (URL & secret keyword) into one, resulting in:

```
http://example.com/document.htmlmysecretkeyword
```

Step 4: Generate your md5 Secret Key

Finally, create an md5 hash of the combined parts. (this will be your `secret_key`)

```
2fc63a2144965d3695bf370011cdc9fb
```

Now that you have your Secret Key, you can simply append to your API request URL using the API's `secret_key` parameter and rest assured that your API access is - as long as you'll keep your Secret Keyword secret - safe from abuse.

Sample API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & secret_key = 2fc63a2144965d3695bf370011cdc9fb
    [...]
```

Important: Please note that as long a Secret Keyword is specified in your Account Dashboard it the use of the `document_html` parameter is not possible.

Document Configuration

Document Name

By default, PDF documents generated by the pdflayer API are named `pdflayer.pdf`. Using the API's `document_name` parameter you can specify a custom name for your final PDF document.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & document_name = MyPDF
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Condition	Default
`document_name`	Max. 180 characters	pdflayer.pdf

Document Units

The default document unit is `px`. A custom unit can be specified by appending the API's `custom_unit` parameter and setting it to one of the four supported document units.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & custom_unit = mm
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Supported Units	Default
`custom_unit`	mm, in, px, pt	px

HTTP User-Agent Header

The API's `user_agent` parameter is used to adjust the final PDF document to a certain device setting. In many cases this parameter is used to ensure more consistent functionality of the Viewport Control feature.

In order to specify a custom HTTP User-Agent header, simply append the respective User-Agent string to the `user_agent` parameter.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & user_agent = Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko
    [...]
```

Common HTTP User-Agent Headers:

System	UA String
Chrome Generic Win7 64-bit	Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/42.0.2311.135 Safari/537.36
Chrome Generic MacOSX	Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10_10_3) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/42.0.2311.135 Safari/537.36
Safari 8.0 MacOSX	Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10_10_3) AppleWebKit/600.6.3 (KHTML, like Gecko) Version/8.0.6 Safari/600.6.3
Firefox Generic Win7 64-bit	Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; rv:37.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/37.0

Find a detailed list of HTTP User-Agent headers here »

HTTP Accept-Language Header

By default, PDF documents processed by the pdflayer API don't come with a specific HTTP Accept-Language header. An Accept-Language header can be specified by appending the respective string to the API's `accept_lang` parameter.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & accept_lang = en-US
    [...]
```

Common HTTP Accept-Language Headers:

Language	Accept-Language String
English (general)	`en`
German	`de`
Spanish	`es`

Language	Accept-Language String
Italian	`it`
English (US)	`en-US`
English (UK)	`en-GR`
Spanish (Spain)	`es-ES`
Spanish (Mexico)	`es-MX`

You can find a comprehensive list of accept-language strings here.

Text Encoding

By default, pdflayer API requests come with a standard `UTF-8` text encoding header. A custom text encoding header can be specified simply by appending the respective text encoding string to the API's `text_encoding` parameter.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & text_encoding = utf-16
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Condition	Default
`text_encoding`	-	UTF-8

TTL (Caching Time)

By default, generated PDFs are cached for a period of 30 days (2,592,000 seconds). Using the API's `ttl` parameter you can specify a custom caching time (in seconds) lower than the default setting.

The example API query below requests the final PDF to be cached for 259,200 seconds (3 days).

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & ttl = 259200
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Condition	Default

Parameter	Condition	Default
ttl	Maximum value: 2592000	2592000

Force New PDF

As mentioned earlier, by default PDF documents are cached for 30 days upon creation. (Learn more about TTL - Caching Time)

By setting the pdflayer API's `force` parameter to `1` the API will be requested to generate a new PDF each time the API request URL is called.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & force = 1
    [...]
```

Please note: Each call of an API request URL including the `force` functionality counts towards your monthly API request volume.

Inline/Attachment Parameter

By default, accessing a pdflayer API request URL in a browser will trigger the download of the generated PDF (attachment behaviour). By setting the API's `inline` parameter to `1` the API will be requested to display the PDF in the browser instead (inline behaviour).

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & inline = 1
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Condition	Default
inline	-	Deactivated - Attachment, triggering download

Password-Protected Sites

The pdflayer API is also capable of generating PDFs from password-protected websites. The parameters `auth_user` and `auth_pass` are used to authenticate with a password-protected website.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & auth_user = myUsername
    & auth_pass = myPassword
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Condition	Default
auth_user	Maximum: 1000 characters	-
auth_pass	Maximum: 1000 characters	-

PDF Encryption

There are two encryption levels available for PDFs generated by the pdflayer API:40-bit and 128-bit. In order to activate encryption, set the API's `encryption` parameter to `40` or `128`.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & encryption = 128
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Supported Encryption Levels	Default
encryption	40, 128	-

PDF Authentication

The pdflayer API offers two levels of PDF password protection:owner password and user password. These can be specified by appending the `owner_password` and/or `user_password` parameter(s) and setting them to their respective password value.

Supplying an owner password grants unlimited access to the PDF including changing the passwords and Permission Options. A user password, on the other hand, must be supplied in order to view the document and to perform operations allowed by the Permission Options.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & owner_password = myOwnerPassword
    & user_password = myUserPassword
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Supported Encryption Levels	Default
owner_password	Maximum: 32 characters	-
user_password	Maximum: 32 characters	-

Misc Options

In addition to the above mentioned document configuration parameters, there is a series of extra settings that can be specified for final PDF document. Please find them in the table below:

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & no_hyperlinks = 1
    & grayscale = 1
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Description	Default
no_images	Set to 1 in order to disable images	-
no_hyperlinks	Set to 1 in order to disable hyperlinks	-
no_backgrounds	Set to 1 in order to disable CSS backgrounds	-
no_javascript	Set to 1 in order to disable JavaScript	-
use_print_media	Set to 1 in order to activate CSS @media print declarations	-
grayscale	Set to 1 in order to remove all colours	-
low_quality	Set to 1 in order to generate low quality PDF	-
forms	Set to 1 in order to enable forms on your PDF	-

Permission Options

There is a number of permission options that can be configured prior to generating a PDF using the pdflayer API. After creating the PDF, these options can only be altered or disabled by a user supplying an owner password. Learn more about PDF Authentication »

Please note that the specification of at least one of the following parameters is required in order to be able to configure permission options: owner_password, user_password or encryption

Example API request using permission options:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & encryption = 128
    & no_print = 1
    & no_modify = 1
    & no_copy = 1
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Description	Default
`no_print`	Set to `1` in order to disable printing of the final PDF document	-
`no_modify`	Set to `1` in order to disable modification of the final PDF document	-
`no_copy`	Set to `1` in order to disable the possibility to copy any text of the final PDF document	-

Layout

Preconfigured Page Sizes

By default, a PDF's page size is set to `A4`. Using the API's `page_size` parameter a custom page size can be specified. Please find in the table below all page sizes supported by the pdflayer API.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & page_size = A5
    [...]
```

Supported page sizes:

Type	Sizes
A	`A0`, `A1`, `A2`, `A3`, `A4`, `A5`, `A6`, `A7`, `A8`, `A9`
B	`B0`, `B1`, `B2`, `B3`, `B4`, `B5`, `B6`, `B7`, `B8`, `B9`
Other	`C5E`, `Comm10E`, `DLE`, `Executive`, `Folio`, `Ledger`, `Legal`, `Letter`, `Tabloid`

Dimensions

Instead of specifying a preconfigured Page Size the pdflayer API also accepts two page dimension parameters. `page_width` and `page_height`.

Please be aware that specifying these dimension parameters will override any specified preconfigured Page Sizes.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & page_width = 200
    & page_height = 500
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Condition	Default
page_width	numeric	-
page_height	numeric	-

Orientation

By default, a PDF's orientation is set to `portrait`. Using the API's `orientation` parameter the PDF document's orientation can be set to either `portrait` or `landscape`.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & orientation = landscape
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Supported Orientation Modes	Default
orientation	portrait, landscape	portrait

Margins

A PDF's default margin is set to 10 millimeters on each side. Using the parameters `margin_top`, `margin_bottom`, `margin_left` and `margin_right` vertical and horizontal margins (in the selected Document Unit) can be specified.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & margin_top = 0
    & margin_bottom = 0
    & margin_left = 0
    & margin_right = 0
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Condition	Default
margin_top	numeric	10mm
margin_bottom	numeric	10mm
margin_left	numeric	10mm
margin_right	numeric	10mm

Header

There are two different types of custom header elements that can be included in a PDF document: A header text or a custom header HTTP URL or raw HTML element.

Header Text

A simple header text can be specified by appending the pdflayer API's header_text parameter to your API request URL and setting it to your preferred header text. By default, this header text is aligned at the center of the document. The API's header_align parameter enables you to specify a custom header alignment, choosing from left, right or center.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & header_text = myHeaderText
    & header_align = left
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Condition	Default
header_text	-	-
header_align	center, left or right	center

Header URL or Raw HTML Element

As an alternative to specifying a header text, the pdflayer API is also capable of including the HTML contents of an external HTTP URL or raw HTML code as a header element in your final PDF document.

Example API Request using a HTTP header URL:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & header_url = http://example.com/myHeader.html
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Condition	Default

Parameter	Condition	Default
header_url	HTTP GET & or HTTP POST	-
header_html	HTTP POST only	-

Header Spacing

By default, there is no extra space between a header element and the PDF document content. A header spacing can be specified by appending your preferred numeric value to the API's header_spacing parameter.

Example API Request using a HTTP header URL:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & header_text = myHeaderText
    & header_spacing = 15
    [...]
```

Footer

Just like with the PDF Header, there are two different types of custom footer elements that can be included in a PDF document: A footer text or a custom footer HTTP URL or raw HTML element.

Footer Text

A simple footer text can be specified by appending the pdflayer API's footer_text parameter to your API request URL and setting it to your preferred footer text. By default, this footer text is aligned at the center of the document. The API's footer_align parameter enables you to specify a custom footer alignment, choosing from left, right or center.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & footer_text = myFooterText
    & footer_align = left
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Condition	Default
footer_text	-	-
footer_align	center, left or right	center

Footer URL or Raw HTML Element

As an alternative to specifying a footer text, the pdflayer API is also capable of including the HTML contents of an external HTTP URL or raw HTML code as a footer element in your final PDF document.

Example API Request using a HTTP footer URL:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & footer_url = http://example.com/myFooter.html
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Condition	Default
footer_url	HTTP GET & or HTTP POST	-
footer_html	HTTP POST only	-

Footer Spacing

By default, there is no extra space between a footer element and the PDF document content. A footer spacing can be specified by appending your preferred numeric value to the API's footer_spacing parameter.

Example API Request using a HTTP footer URL:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & footer_text = myFooterText
    & footer_spacing = 15
    [...]
```

Viewport Control

The pdflayer API's default viewport setting is 1440x900. You can specify a custom viewport size by setting the viewport parameter to your desired dimensions. (format: width x height, in pixels)

Important: When requesting mobile-sized viewports, it is highly recommended to also specify a user_agent parameter, as certain websites tend to ignore mobile viewports that come without specified HTTP User-Agent headers (See User-Agent parameter).

Example API request using permission options:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & viewport = 320x480
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Device	Viewport
iPhone 4 (s)	320x480
iPhone 5 (c/s)	320x568
iPhone 6	375x667

Device	Viewport
iPhone 6 Plus	`414x736`
iPad (2/Mini/Retina)	`1024x768`
Samsung Galaxy S3, S4, S5	`360x640`
Macbook 13"	`1440x900`
iMac 27"	`2560x1440`

Customization

CSS Injection

By appending an HTTP URL containing valid CSS code to the API's `css_url` parameter custom styles can be injected into the target URL/HTML before a PDF conversion is performed.

The sample API request below contains a link to an example CSS StyleSheet containing the following declaration:

```
body {
 background: #00ff00 !important;
}
```

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & css_url = https://pdflayer.com/downloads/css_inject.css
    [...]
```

Delay

The pdflayer API's `delay` parameter enables you to specify a custom delay time (in milliseconds) before the PDF is generated. This feature may be useful if certain contents of the target website appear after the initial page load. (e.g. CSS animations, JavaScript effects, etc.)

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & delay = 1000
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Supported Delay Range	Default

Parameter	Supported Delay Range	Default
`delay`	10 < 20000 (0.01 seconds < 20 seconds)	-

DPI Resolution

By default, PDFs are generated with an overall DPI (Dots Per Inch) of `96`. A custom overall DPI resolution can be specified by appending the API's `dpi` parameter and setting it to your preferred numerical DPI value.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & dpi = 1000
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Supported DPI Range	Default
`dpi`	10 < 10000	96

Zoom Factor

By default, PDF document content is generated according to the size and dimensions of the original URL/HTML content. Using the API's `zoom` parameter a custom HTML zoom factor between `0` and `50` can be specified.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & zoom = 1
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Supported Zoom Range	Default
`zoom`	0 < 50	-

Page Numbering

The pdflayer API offers a series of pre-composed page numbering tags that can be used to compile custom header or footer numbering texts. Each of the page numberng tags listed in the table below can be used in combination with the `header_text` or `footer_text` parameters.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & header_text = This is page number [page] of [sitepages]
    [...]
```

Supported page numbering tags:

Tag	Description
[page]	Number of the page currently being printed
[frompage]	Number of the first page to be printed
[topage]	Number of the last page to be printed
[webpage]	URL of the webpage being printed
[date]	Current date in system local format
[isodate]	Current date in ISO 8601 extended format
[time]	Current time in system local format
[title]	Title of the current page object
[doctitle]	Title of the output document
[sitepage]	Number of the page in the current site being converted
[sitepages]	Number of pages in the current site being converted

Page Numbering Offset

By default, the pdflayer API's page numbering offset is set to `0`, which means that page numbering starts on the first printed page of the PDF document.

A custom page numbering offset can be specified by appending the API's `page_numbering_offset` and setting it to the number of pages to be skipped before page numbering begins.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & page_numbering_offset = 1
    [...]
```

Watermark

The pdflayer API offers the possibility to use an HTTP URL to add a customizable watermark image to the final PDF document. Using the API's `watermark_url` parameter an HTTP URL containing a PNG (recommended) or JPG can be specified.

Watermark Opacity

A watermark's default opacity is set to `20` (20%). Using the API's `watermark_opacity` parameter a custom numeric opacity value can be configured.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & watermark_url = http://example.com/watermark.png
    & watermark_opacity = 25
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Condition	Default
watermark_url	Supported image formats: PNG, JPG	-
watermark_opacity	numeric	20 (20%)

Watermark Positioning

By default, watermark images are aligned at the top left of the page. Two parameters are offered that can be used to horizontally and vertically align a watermark image: watermark_offset_x and watermark_offset_y.

Watermark Placement

By default, watermark images are placed in front of the PDF document's content (texts, images, etc.). By setting the API's watermark_in_background to 1 watermark images will be placed in the PDF document's background.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & watermark_url = http://example.com/watermark.png
    & watermark_offset_x = 15
    & watermark_offset_y = 30
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Condition	Default
watermark_offset_x	numeric	-
watermark_offset_y	numeric	-
watermark_in_background	Set to 1 to activate	-

Document Details

Document Title

A PDF document title can be specified by appending the API's title parameter and setting it to your preferred title.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & title = MyTitle
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Condition	Default
title	Maximum: 150 characters	-

Subject

A PDF document subject can be specified by appending the API's `subject` parameter and setting it to your preferred subject.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & subject = MySubject
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Condition	Default
subject	Maximum: 150 characters	-

Document Creator

By default, PDFs generated by the pdflayer API will carry the creator name `pdflayer.com`. A custom PDF document creator name can be specified by appending the API's `creator` parameter and setting it to your preferred creator name.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & creator = MyCreatorName
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Condition	Default
creator	Maximum: 150 characters	pdflayer.com

Document Author

A PDF document author name can be specified by appending the API's `author` parameter and setting it to your preferred author name.

Example API Request:

```
https://api.pdflayer.com/api/convert
    ? access_key = YOUR_ACCESS_KEY
    & document_url = http://example.com/document.html
    & author = MyAuthorName
    [...]
```

Parameter specification:

Parameter	Condition	Default
`author`	Maximum: 150 characters	-

Language Examples

PHP

This is an integration guide for a PHPcURL-based PHP class built to simplify the use the pdflayer API in PHP. In order to get started as quickly as possible, please follow the steps below:

Installation:

1. Click here to download the compressed PHP class ("pdflayer.class.php.zip").

2. Upload the contained PHP class file ("pdflayer.class.php") to a web accessible location on your server (e.g. "public_html").

Configuration:

3. In the PHP class, set the variable `access_key` to your API access key and (optional; only if you are using a Secret Key) the variable `secret_keyword` to your Secret Keyword.

Usage:

URL to PDF (Inline-Behaviour)

Find below the most basic use of the pdflayer PHP class. All available methods are listed in the table below.

```php
include('../pdflayer.class.php');

//Instantiate the class
$html2pdf = new pdflayer();

//set the URL to convert
$html2pdf->set_param('document_url','https://pdflayer.com/downloads/invoice.html');

//start the conversion
$html2pdf->convert();

//display the PDF file
$html2pdf->display_pdf();
```

Methods:

Method	Description	Syntax
`display_pdf`	Display the PDF (inline-behaviour)	`display_pdf();`
`download_pdf`	Download the PDF (attachment-behaviour)	`download_pdf('file_name.pdf');`
`set_param`	Specify any pdflayer API parameter	`set_param(string key, string value);`

Help / Support

Any issues with API Integration? Be sure to take a look at ourFrequently Asked Questions to see if your question has already been answered.

If there is still something you need assistance with, please get in touch with our support team at support@apilayer.com.