

--use-aes

This option is not available with 256-bit keys. AES is always used with 256-bit encryption keys.

--force-V4

This option is not available with 256 keys.

--force-R5

If specified, qpdf sets the minimum version to 1.7 at extension level 3 and writes the deprecated encryption format used by Acrobat version IX. This option should not be used in practice to generate PDF files that will be in general use, but it can be useful to generate files if you are trying to test proper support in another application for PDF files encrypted in this way.

The default for each permission option is to be fully permissive.

3.5. Page Selection Options

Starting with qpdf 3.0, it is possible to split and merge PDF files by selecting pages from one or more input files. Whatever file is given as the primary input file is used as the starting point, but its pages are replaced with pages as specified.

```
--pages input-file [ --password=password ] [ page-range ] [ ... ] --
```

Multiple input files may be specified. Each one is given as the name of the input file, an optional password (if required to open the file), and the range of pages. Note that “--” terminates parsing of page selection flags.

Starting with qpdf 8.4, the special input file name “.” can be used shortcut for the primary input filename.

For each file that pages should be taken from, specify the file, a password needed to open the file (if any), and a page range. The password needs to be given only once per file. If any of the input files are the same as the primary input file or the file used to copy encryption parameters (if specified), you do not need to repeat the password here. The same file can be repeated multiple times. If a file that is repeated has a password, the password only has to be given the first time. All non-page data (info, outlines, page numbers, etc.) are taken from the primary input file. To discard these, use **--empty** as the primary input.

Starting with qpdf 5.0.0, it is possible to omit the page range. If qpdf sees a value in the place where it expects a page range and that value is not a valid range but is a valid file name, qpdf will implicitly use the range 1–z, meaning that it will include all pages in the file. This makes it possible to easily combine all pages in a set of files with a command like **qpdf --empty out.pdf --pages *.pdf --**.

The page range is a set of numbers separated by commas, ranges of numbers separated dashes, or combinations of those. The character “z” represents the last page. A number preceded by an “r” indicates to count from the end, so **r3–r1** would be the last three pages of the document. Pages can appear in any order. Ranges can appear with a high number followed by a low number, which causes the pages to appear in reverse. Repeating a number will cause an error, but you can use the workaround discussed above should you really want to include the same page twice.

Example page ranges:

- **1, 3, 5–9, 15–12**: pages 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 14, 13, and 12 in that order.
- **z–1**: all pages in the document in reverse
- **r3–r1**: the last three pages of the document