

When reading streams, create a series of **Pipeline** objects. The **Pipeline** abstract base requires implementation *write()* and *finish()* and provides an implementation of *getNext()*. Each pipeline object, upon receiving data, does whatever it is going to do and then writes the data (possibly modified) to its successor. Alternatively, a pipeline may be an end-of-the-line pipeline that does something like store its output to a file or a memory buffer ignoring a successor. For additional details, look at *Pipeline.hh*.

QPDF can read raw or filtered streams. When reading a filtered stream, the **QPDF** class creates a **Pipeline** object for one of each appropriate filter object and chains them together. The last filter should write to whatever type of output is required. The **QPDF** class has an interface to write raw or filtered stream contents to a given pipeline.