

**--suppress-recovery**

Prevents qpdf from attempting to recover damaged files.

**--ignore-xref-streams**

Tells qpdf to ignore any cross-reference streams.

Ordinarily, qpdf will attempt to recover from certain types of errors in PDF files. These include errors in the cross-reference table, certain types of object numbering errors, and certain types of stream length errors. Sometimes, qpdf may think it has recovered but may not have actually recovered, so care should be taken when using this option as some data loss is possible. The **--suppress-recovery** option will prevent qpdf from attempting recovery. In this case, it will fail on the first error that it encounters.

Ordinarily, qpdf reads cross-reference streams when they are present in a PDF file. If **--ignore-xref-streams** is specified, qpdf will ignore any cross-reference streams for hybrid PDF files. The purpose of hybrid files is to make some content available to viewers that are not aware of cross-reference streams. It is almost never desirable to ignore them. The only time when you might want to use this feature is if you are testing creation of hybrid PDF files and wish to see how a PDF consumer that doesn't understand object and cross-reference streams would interpret such a file.

## 3.8. Advanced Transformation Options

These transformation options control fine points of how qpdf creates the output file. Mostly these are of use only to people who are very familiar with the PDF file format or who are PDF developers. The following options are available:

**--compress-streams=[yn]**

By default, or with **--compress-streams=y**, qpdf will compress any stream with no other filters applied to it with the `/FlateDecode` filter when it writes it. To suppress this behavior and preserve uncompressed streams as uncompressed, use **--compress-streams=n**.

**--decode-level=option**

Controls which streams qpdf tries to decode. The default is **generalized**. The following options are available:

- **none**: do not attempt to decode any streams
- **generalized**: decode streams filtered with supported generalized filters: `/LZWDecode`, `/FlateDecode`, `/ASCII85Decode`, and `/ASCIIHexDecode`. We define generalized filters as those to be used for general-purpose compression or encoding, as opposed to filters specifically designed for image data.
- **specialized**: in addition to generalized, decode streams with supported non-lossy specialized filters; currently this is just `/RunLengthDecode`
- **all**: in addition to generalized and specialized, decode streams with supported lossy filters; currently this is just `/DCTDecode` (JPEG)

**--stream-data=option**

Controls transformation of stream data. This option predates the **--compress-streams** and **--decode-level** options. Those options can be used to achieve the same affect with more control. The value of **option** may be one of the following:

- **compress**: recompress stream data when possible (default); equivalent to **--compress-streams=y --decode-level=generalized**
- **preserve**: leave all stream data as is; equivalent to **--compress-streams=n --decode-level=none**