

3.9. Testing, Inspection, and Debugging Options

These options can be useful for digging into PDF files or for use in automated test suites for software that uses the qpdf library. When any of the options in this section are specified, no output file should be given. The following options are available:

--deterministic-id

Causes generation of a deterministic value for /ID. This prevents use of timestamp and output file name information in the /ID generation. Instead, at some slight additional runtime cost, the /ID field is generated to include a digest of the significant parts of the content of the output PDF file. This means that a given qpdf operation should generate the same /ID each time it is run, which can be useful when caching results or for generation of some test data. Use of this flag is not compatible with creation of encrypted files.

--static-id

Causes generation of a fixed value for /ID. This is intended for testing only. Never use it for production files. If you are trying to get the same /ID each time for a given file and you are not generating encrypted files, consider using the **--deterministic-id** option.

--static-aes-iv

Causes use of a static initialization vector for AES-CBC. This is intended for testing only so that output files can be reproducible. Never use it for production files. This option in particular is not secure since it significantly weakens the encryption.

--no-original-object-ids

Suppresses inclusion of original object ID comments in QDF files. This can be useful when generating QDF files for test purposes, particularly when comparing them to determine whether two PDF files have identical content.

--show-encryption

Shows document encryption parameters. Also shows the document's user password if the owner password is given.

--show-encryption-key

When encryption information is being displayed, as when **--check** or **--show-encryption** is given, display the computed or retrieved encryption key as a hexadecimal string. This value is not ordinarily useful to users, but it can be used as the argument to **--password** if the **--password-is-hex-key** is specified. Note that, when PDF files are encrypted, passwords and other metadata are used only to compute an encryption key, and the encryption key is what is actually used for encryption. This enables retrieval of that key.

--check-linearization

Checks file integrity and linearization status.

--show-linearization

Checks and displays all data in the linearization hint tables.

--show-xref

Shows the contents of the cross-reference table in a human-readable form. This is especially useful for files with cross-reference streams which are stored in a binary format.