The `npage` package*

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2025 06 18 (Wed)

Abstract

The `npage` package allows you to insert notebook references, to-do items, and notes in your document, intended to be inline with your main document text. Each of them have an included aggregated list of references, using `\listognpages`, `\listoftodos`, and `\listofnotes`.

Contents

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*This package corresponds to `npage v1.0.0`, dated 2025 01 15.

Todo list

1 Introduction

TODO Purpose of document

1.1 Story/My Notebook System

N12-P167

I enjoy writing things down. Since 2018[1] I've been using 200-page grid paper notebooks from Hilroy. Originally, I had just numbered pages and an index. As I used more and more of them, I started making little printouts[2];

TODO Hyperlink N01 cover to https://husseinesmail.xyz/notebooks [3]
TODO Write https://husseinesmail.xyz/notebooks [4]

to put on those covers with the start and end dates when I finish a notebook. When I started a notebook, I would also add vertical strips of electrical tape spanning the entire cover, overlapping right to left. I did this to

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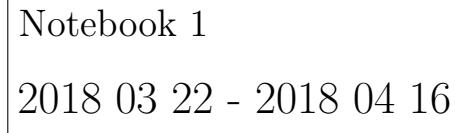
[1] Start year of N01
[2] Here is a picture of the cover of Notebook #1.
[3] https://husseinesmail.xyz/notebooks
[4] https://husseinesmail.xyz/notebooks

Figure 1: Notebook Cover Label

Notebook 1
2018 03 22 - 2018 04 16

add more gripiness than the smooth cover. I would do this process for every time I started a new notebook.

In 2022 while I was at York University, I had scanned every page of every notebook I had up to date. Around this time (January 2022), I had just started Notebook #8. I know this because the scan date of most of my pages were around this date in the metadata of the JPG files. That would mean I had scanned around 1400 pages (200 pages $\times$ 7 completed notebooks). Why? I would only carry one notebook at a time when I went out, so if I started a new notebook mid-semester, I wouldn't have any older notes with me. But I would still have my laptop.

`N12-P168`

In high school, when we ere given calculus, physics, and chemistry textbooks, I took pictures of every page at the beginning of the semester with my iPod Touch and kept them on my laptop, so that when I had homework from those pages, I didn't have to worry about carrying extra weight in my backpack, nor worry about taking pictures of the pages I needed to do the homework when I found out which pages those were. Later on, as Chromebooks were becoming more common among students, I just used my laptop with the textbook pages on it instead of bringing the books to class as well. Those textbooks stayed on the bottom shelf of my locker all semester. This was before I found out about websites where you could find textbook PDFs for free.[5]

`N12-P169`
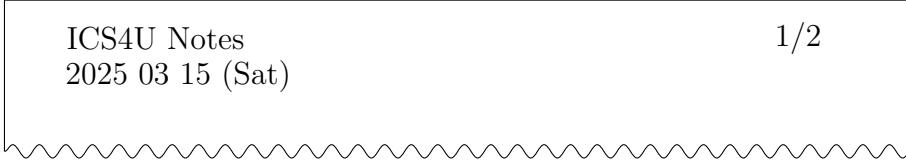
I tell this story about my textbooks in high school because this is what I remembered when coming up with solutions to keeping my notes with me when I finished a notebook. So, I scanned every page and organized them into folders by which notebook they're from, naming the image by its page number.

Each page has a title, and the date. If there are notes that last for multiple pages, it has the page number of just those notes, as well as the number of total pages there are for that topic.

and how many pages have that title (if there are multiple pages of notes for something, as an example):

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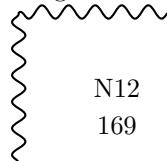
[5]Sidenote: When my school introduced Chromebooks, the first year of students that got them was the grade after mine, so having computers out in my grade wasn't too common. I checked with every teacher before using it in class.

Figure 2: Page Header Default Format

ICS4U Notes   1/2
2025 03 15 (Sat)

In 2023, I decided to change up the numbering system a bit. I also added the notebook number to each page number as well so I can know which notebook I am refering to (also for aesthetic purposes), in this format:
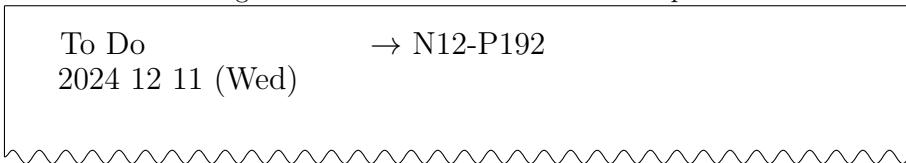
Figure 3: Page Number Format

N12
169

Now when I refer to a specific page in one of my notebooks, I use the format: "N12-P169". You may have noticed them popping up in this document as well. That's because I originally handwrote a draft of this before typing it up.

When I write To Do lists most of the time I write incomplete tasks from my last To Do list on the new one as well. On the old To Do list, I write the newer page at the top so I know that there's now a more up to date one, like so:

Figure 4: To Do List Linked List Example

To Do   → N12-P192
2024 12 11 (Wed)

`TODO` Write out remainder of notebook system

2 Usage

\npage{*N10-P001*}

This command takes 1 input parameter. The format could be for anything, but I use `N**-P***`. This command places the text inside a solid rectangle.

\todo{*Action that needs to get done*}

Figure 5: `\npage{}` command example

`N10-P001`

This command takes 1 input parameter. This command always starts the same way, with the text "TODO" in white, in a red box. Anything given in the parameter is added in the same font in red afterwards. Note that because of this command, this package conflicts with the `todonotes` package.

Figure 6: `\todo{}` command example

`TODO` `Action that needs to get done`

`\note{`*`Written note text`*`}`

This command takes 1 input parameter. This command always starts the same way, with the text "TODO" in white, in a red box. Anything given in the parameter is added in the same font in red afterwards.

Figure 7: `\todo{}` command example

`NOTE` `Written note text`

`\listofnpages`

This command generates a list of all instances of when `\npage{}` is called, similar to `\tableofcontents`.

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2.1 Package Options

2.1.1 bw Package Option

`\usepackage[bw]{npage}` To set all colours used in this package to black and white[6], you can give the `bw` option in the package definition.

2.1.2 firstfoot Package Option

`\usepackage[firstfoot]{npage}` This command automatically adds a footnote to the first `\npage` command. By default, the text is "For information about what this is, visit https://husseinesmail.xyz/notebooks".

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[6]In case you are printing your document in black and white

`TODO` Implement option before mentioning: Change URL in firstfoot by adding url=*URL* in package options.
`TODO` specific colour commands needs to be implemented globally. When I do, mention that it needs to be in xcolor format

2.2 Options for the `npage` command

`TODO` Write about bw option
`NOTE` bw command still needs to be implemented on a per-use basis, not globally
`NOTE` specific colour commands still needs to be implemented on a per-use basis, not globally. When I do, mention that it needs to be in xcolor format

2.3 Options for the `todo` command

`TODO` Write about bw option
`NOTE` bw command still needs to be implemented on a per-use basis, not globally
`NOTE` specific colour commands still needs to be implemented on a per-use basis, not globally. When I do, mention that it needs to be in xcolor format

2.4 Options for the `note` command

`TODO` Write about bw option
`NOTE` bw command still needs to be implemented on a per-use basis, not globally
`NOTE` specific colour commands still needs to be implemented on a per-use basis, not globally. When I do, mention that it needs to be in xcolor format

3 Known issues

3.1 Conflicts with the todonotes package

- At the moment, the \todo command conflicts with the todonotes package. I find that it uses the command that was imported most recently. If npage is imported before todonotes, the todonotes \todo command will be used.

4 Things to improve

Here is a list of things I plan to improve upon. If you end up having a solution, please feel free to submit a pull request on the GitHub repository this is stored at! The repository is at https://github.com/hussein-esmail7/npage.

- In the future, I plan to add an optional parameter to each of \npage, \todo, and \note so you can explicitly define a color for each instance of the command in case you want one to look different from the default.

- I want to add an `inline` parameter (both for the package globally, and individual commands that places commands inline to paragraph text.

5 Contact info for feedback, discovered issues, and suggestions

If you happen to figure out a solution to something I want to improve on, find an issue, or even have a suggestion for this package, please feel free to send me an email at HusseinEsmailContact@gmail.com.