

How to create pdf files in Python using Pdokit



MicroPyramid [Follow](#)

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Generating PDF files using pdokit:

There are many approaches for generating PDF in python. pdokit is one of the better approaches as, it renders HTML into PDF with various image formats, HTML forms, and other complex printable documents.

Install pdokit: You can install it with pip using the following command.

```
pip install pdokit
```

To make pdfkit work perfectly we have to install wkhtmltopdf which deals with images and other complex things, To know more about wkhtmltopdf please go through <http://wkhtmltopdf.org/>.

Basic Usage of pdfkit:

We can create a PDF document with pdfkit in 3 ways. They are 1. from URL, 2. from a html file and 3. from the string.

1. Generate PDF from URL: The following script gives us the pdf file from a website URL.

```
import pdfkit
pdfkit.from_url('http://micropyramid.com', 'micro.pdf')
```

2. Generate PDF from file: The following script gives us the pdf file from a HTML file.

```
import pdfkit
pdfkit.from_file('micropyramid.html', 'micro.pdf')
```

3. Generate PDF from the string: The following script gives us the pdf file from string.



```
import pdftk
pdftk.from_string('MicroPyramid', 'micro.pdf')
```

Advanced Usage of pdftk:

We can pass some options to pdftk pdf file generation function that controls the page size, margins, and many others. Here is an example of how we pass the options.

```
options = {
    'page-size': 'A4',
    'margin-top': '0.75in',
    'margin-right': '0.75in',
    'margin-bottom': '0.75in',
    'margin-left': '0.75in',
}
pdftk.from_url('http://micropyramid.com', 'micro.pdf',
options=options)
```

Please go through <http://wkhtmltopdf.org/usage/wkhtmltopdf.txt>, to know of many other options.

Django's way of using pdftk: We can use the pdftk to generate the pdf files in Django also. The following is the sample script to generate the pdf file from HTML in Django.

```
from django.template.loader import get_template
from django.template import Context
import pdftk

template = get_template("output_pdf.html")
context = Context({"data": data}) # data is the context data that
is sent to the html file to render the output.
html = template.render(context) # Renders the template with the
context data.
pdftk.from_string(html, 'out.pdf')
pdf = open("out.pdf")
response = HttpResponse(pdf.read(), content_type='application/pdf')
# Generates the response as pdf response.
response['Content-Disposition'] = 'attachment; filename=output.pdf'
pdf.close()
os.remove("out.pdf") # remove the locally created pdf file.
return response # returns the response.
```

Some time on the server we might get an issue **wkhtmltopdf: cannot connect to X server**. This is because of the standard installation of

wkhtmltopdf, requires a xserver. You should download a precompiled version. If you execute the following lines on your shell it will be fixed.

```
wget http://wkhtmltopdf.googlecode.com/files/wkhtmltopdf-0.9.9-static-amd64.tar.bz2
tar xvjf wkhtmltopdf-0.9.9-static-amd64.tar.bz2
sudo mv wkhtmltopdf-amd64 /usr/local/bin/wkhtmltopdf
sudo chmod +x /usr/local/bin/wkhtmltopdf
```

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