activePDF
DocConverter

Version 3.5
Documentation

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Overview

activePDF DocConverter works with the activePDF Server in converting documents of various types to PDF. It operates in both a batch mode via directory scanning and in direct mode via a COM component.

DocConverter runs the conversion "out of process" so that crashing of the host conversion application (e.g. Microsoft Word) does not necessarily affect the continued processing of documents. Additionally, the main conversion service detects process stoppage and relaunches upon such a detection.

Multiple types of converters are supported and determination as to which application is used is by document "signature".

Signatures

A document signature can be one of three types :

Binary – This is a sequence or sequence of binary numbers within the document that uniquely identifies it. For example, a Word Perfect document always begins with the binary digits FF 57 50 43.

Text – This is an aribitray sequence of textual information that is within a certain distance of the beginning of the document. For example, HTML files typically begin with <HTML someplace in the beginning of the document.

Extension – This is a last resort option that is determined purely by the last 3 letters of the document.

Signatures are processed in the order presented above since binary is very exact, text a little more exact and extension relying solely on the name of the file.

Filters

A filter permits you to narrow down the scope of conversion within a directory. Any type of signature (or signatures) can be set for a filter as well as file extensions, and up to 9 filters can be specified for a single directory.

Extended processing capabilities

Certain applications offer extended processing capabilities that enhance the generated PDF document. For example, the Word 2000 and Word 97 conversion routines support "Intelligent" PDF documents where headings are converted to bookmarks and table of content entries are converted to links within the document. There can be, however, certain performance penalties for usage of these capabilities and those are typically outlined in the documentation accompanying the converter.

Server Installation

Security

The DocConverter service **must** run under the context of a user account. If for some reason DocConverter was installed under the local system account, you must go into the Services Control Panel and modify the "Startup" to run under a user account. This user account must also have Logon as a Service rights.

Applications

After you have installed the DocConverter and activePDF server, you will also need to install the pre requisite applications (e.g. Word 2000) to actually process the documents. DocConverter itself does not have any formatting or document reading capabilities.

DCOM Configuration

Once you've installed the applications, you will need to set up the DCOM launching and access capabilities of the user account that the service is running under (See "Security" above). To set those rights, do the following :

1. Launch DCOMCNFG
2. Select the "Default Security" tab
3. Under "Default Access Permissions", click on Edit Default…
4. If the user name is on the list, verify that they have "Allow Access" permissions. If they do not have those permissions, change the drop down to "Allow Access" and click on OK
5. If the user name is not on the list, click on Add. Click on Show Users and then find the user account. Once you have it, double-click on the name. Make sure "Allow Access" is in the combo box and then click on OK.
6. Under "Default Launch Permissions", click on Edit Default…
7. If the user name is on the list, verify that they have "Allow Launch" permissions. If they do not have those permissions, change the drop down to "Allow Launch " and click on OK
8. If the user name is not on the list, click on Add. Click on Show Users and then find the user account. Once you have it, double-click on the name. Make sure "Allow Launch "is in the combo box and then click on OK.
9. If the activePDF DocConverter service is started then open the Services Control Panel, stop and then restart the activePDF DocConverter.
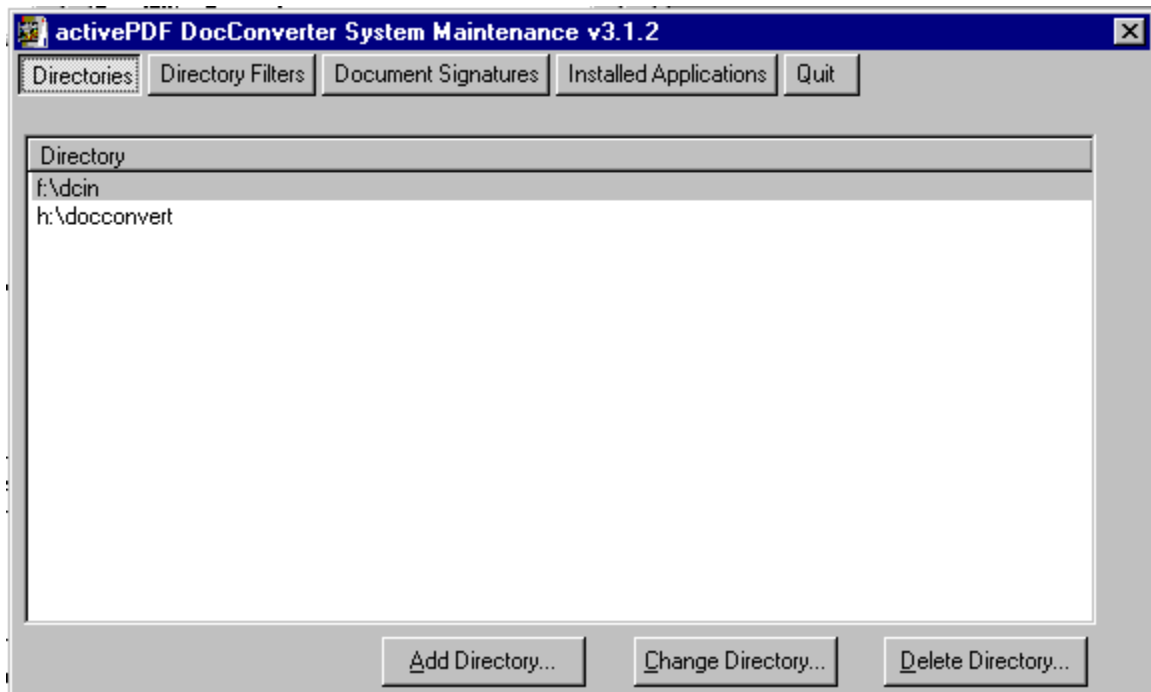
DocConverter Maintenance

In order for DocConverter to work properly, you need to indicate to the service which directories need to be processed, which signatures to process and per application configuration options. To do that you will need to use the DocConverter Maintenance program.

To access the DocConverter Maintenance program, go to the Start Menu->Programs->activePDF->DocConverter->Maintenance Program.

Main Screen

When you first start up DocConverter, you will see the following screen :

You'll notice at the top of the screen that there are 5 choices :

Directories – Specify which directories are scanned by DocConverter
Directory Filters – Define filters to DocConverter
Document Signatures – Modify document signatures and link to applications
Installed Applications – Set application-specific properties
Quit – Quits the application

Directories

The Directories button lets you specify the directories that DocConverter will scan. When you click on the directories button, you will see the list of directories currently specified and 3 choices on the bottom of the screen :

Add Directory – Add a directory to DocConverter
Change Directory – Change characteristics of an existing directory
Delete Directory – Deletes a directory from DocConverter

Any changes are automatically picked up by DocConverter so here is no need to stop and restart the service. If you select Add or Change directory you will see the following screen :

Directory to scan – This is the path to the directory that DocConverter will scan for documents. You cannot change this directory once it has been entered. If you need to do that, you will need to add a new directory and delete the old one. Network paths (UNC names) are now supported by DocConverter.

Where to place converted files – Enter the path where converted files should go to. This cannot be the same name as the scanned directory.

Where to place files that cannot be converted – Enter the path where error documents go to. This cannot be the same name as the scanned directory. If you **do not** specify a path, the document being converted will be **deleted**.

Where to place original files after conversion – Enter the path where original documents go to. This cannot be the same name as the scanned directory. If you **do not** specify a path, the original document being converted will be **deleted**.

Script to execute upon completion – Enter the full path to the VBScript or JScript scriptlet you want to execute upon completion. Please read the section entitled "Scripting" for more information.

Scripting Language – Select the scripting language you want to use for your scriptlet.

Unresolved to Errors – If a document cannot be resolved to a signature, setting this checkbox will move the file to the errors directory you specify. Otherwise the file just sits in the tobe converted directory.

Support unzipping of files – Select this checkbox if you want to support unzipping of files in the directory to scan.

Filters – You can select up to 9 filters for this directory. They will be processed in the order selected.

PROFESSIONAL VERSION OPTIONS

The following values are only valid with the Professional Version of activePDF Server and Portfolio

Linearize Document – If checked, activePDF will prepare the document for byteserving.

User Password – The password required to open the document. Limited to 32 characters and should not contain any "control" characters

Owner Password - The password required to modify or print the document. Limited to 32 characters and should not contain any "control" characters. If left blank, it will default to the UserPassword

Permit Printing – Select this checkbox to permit printing of the final document

Permit Changing - Select this checkbox to enable editing and saving an edited document

Permit Selecting - Select this checkbox to enable selecting and copying of text and images

Permit Modifying Forms - Select this checkbox to enable modifying forms
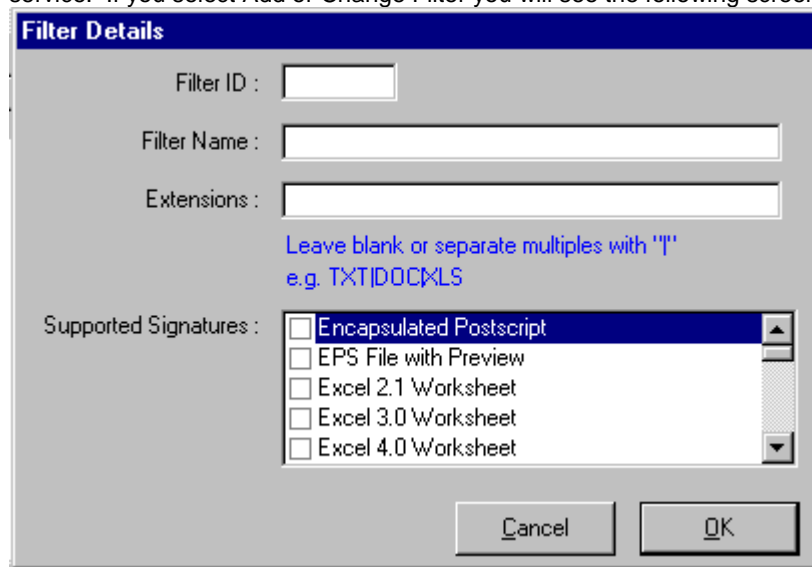
Directory Filters

By default, DocConverter will attempt to process any file in a specified directory that matches any of the installed signatures. There are occasions, however, where you want to control the documents being converted and to enforce some sort of naming convention with the file extensions. Directory Filters can be specified with one or more extensions and one or more signatures. If DocConverter detects a filter for a directory, it will process all filters and then "fail" the document if the filters do not match. If there are no filters, then processing proceeds as normal. When you click on the filters button, you will see the list of signatures currently specified and 3 choices on the bottom of the screen :

Add Filter– Add a filter to DocConverter
Change Filter – Change characteristics of an existing filter
Delete Filter – Deletes a Filter from DocConverter

Any changes are automatically picked up by DocConverter so there is no need to stop and restart the service. If you select Add or Change Filter you will see the following screen :

Filter ID – A unique identifier for a signature. Cannot be changed once entered.

Filter Name – A descriptive name for the signature

Extensions – Valid extensions for this filter. You can leave this blank or enter multiple, separated by a pipe ("|") character. Do not enter the period before the extension. (e.g. DOC|TXT|RTF)

Supported Signatures – Select the signatures you want this filter to support.

Document Signatures

The Document Signatures button lets you specify the document signatures that DocConverter will support. Most of the time activePDF Technical Support will supply you with this information, but you may need to, at certain times, update this information. When you click on the signatures button, you will see the list of signatures currently specified and 4 choices on the bottom of the screen :
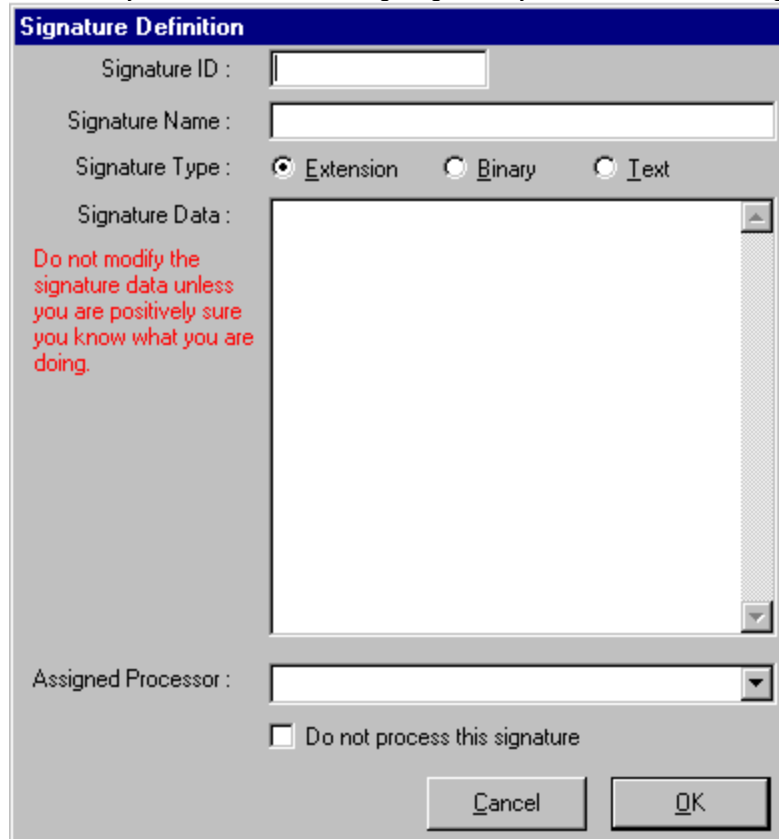
Import Signature – If you are supplied a signature file by activePDF you will use this button to load the signature into DocConverter.
Add Signature – Add a signature to DocConverter
Change Signature – Change characteristics of an existing signature
Delete Signature – Deletes a signature from DocConverter

Any changes are automatically picked up by DocConverter so there is no need to stop and restart the service. If you select Add or Change signature you will see the following screen :

Signature Definition

Signature ID :

Signature Name :

Signature Type : ⦿ Extension ○ Binary ○ Text

Signature Data :

Do not modify the signature data unless you are positively sure you know what you are doing.

Assigned Processor :

☐ Do not process this signature

Cancel   OK

Signature ID – A unique identifier for a signature. Cannot be changed once entered.

Signature Name – A descriptive name for the signature

Signature Type – One of the following (described in the Overview section) :
> Extension
> Binary
> Text

Signature Data – The data required for the signature. You will be told by activePDF Technical Support how to fill in this field.
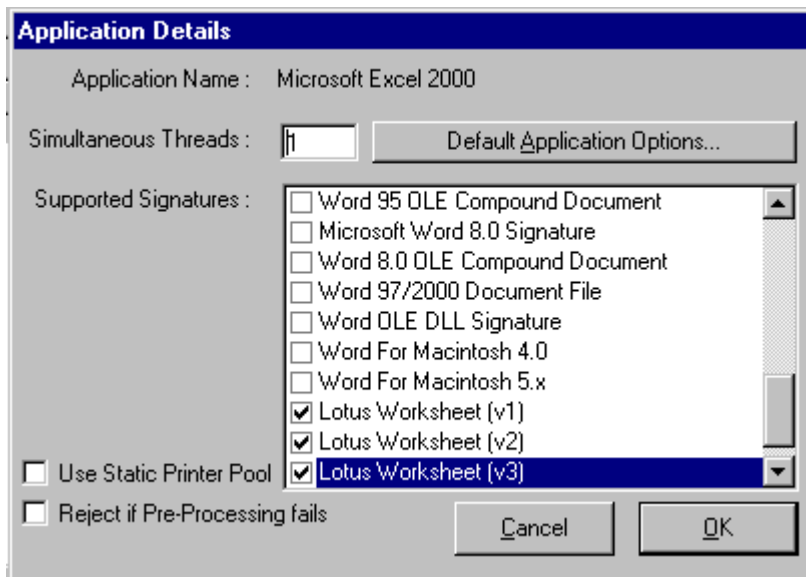
Assigned Processor – Select the application that will process the signature. Only one application at a time can support a signature.

Installed Applications

The Installed Applications button lets you specify the characteristics for applications installed by you and supported by DocConverter. The individual characteristics are on an application by application basis and documented in the application manual provided when you install that processor. When you click on the installed applications button, you will see the list of applications currently specified and 1 choice1 on the bottom of the screen :

Change App Info – Change the characteristics of this application.

Any changes are automatically picked up by DocConverter so there is no need to stop and restart the service. If you select Change App Info you will see the following screen :

Simultaneous Threads – The number of simultaneous conversions this application will support. Please note that not all applications support concurrent thread execution or that performance will multiple threads is poor. The performance characteristics with multiple threads is documented in the appropriate application manual provided when you installed that processor.

Default Application Options – If that processor supports additional processing, you can click on this button to enter the default options.

Supported Signatures – You can enter the signatures each application supports by selecting all of the applicable document signatures.

Use Static Printer Pool – If you continually receive "Error writing to LPT1:" while using a particular processor (e.g. Excel) click on this check box. Make sure that you set up Static printers in the activePDF Server Configuration Editor.

Reject if Pre-Processing fails – If you are receiving "Pre-processing errors" and want to insure that the document is not converted, click on this check box. The document will be moved to the errors directory.

DocConverter COM Object

DocConverter supports conversion through a COM object. It also supports transmitting and receiving converted files from a remote DocConverter through an FTP-like transmission protocol.

Class ID

APDocConv.Object

Example :

Set APDocConv = Server.CreateObject("APDocConv.Object")

Properties

ConverterType

After calling Submit, returns the type of converter used. Read Only

Syntax

X = APDocConv.ConverterType

Remarks

If X = "" then no converter type was selected and the file will not be processed.

StatusTimeout

Sets the number of seconds that APDocConv should wait before returning. Write Only

Syntax

APDocConv.StatusTimeout = 30

Remarks

Defaults to 0 or no wait.

Methods

CheckStatus

Checks the status of a current conversion

Syntax

RetVal = APDocConv.CheckStatus(IPAddress$, PortNumber&, FileToConvert$, ConvertedDirectory$, ErrorsDirectory$)

Parameters

IPAddress$ TCP/IP Address of the DocConverter in question
PortNumber&   The TCP/IP Port of the DocConverter in question. Set to zero (0) for the default
FileToConvert$ The full path **that the DocConverter server understands** to the file that is being converted.
ConvertedDirectory$ The path **that the DocConverter server understands** to where the converted file is to go (without the filename)
ErrorsDirectory$ The path **that the DocConverter server understands** to where the error files go (without the filename)

Remarks
When referring to documents on a remote DocConverter server, you must use a path structure that the remote server understands, not what the local machine understands. For example, if you are dealing with a file on the local server, but the DocConverter is on a remote server, you must use a file path that the remote server will understand. To illustrate

Local Server – The file is on C:\Docs\Test.doc

Remote Server – The file is understood to be on \\server1\cdrive\docs\test.doc

In your call you would use the second form not the first, otherwise the DocConverter service would look on its local C:\ drive for the document.   The correct syntax in this case is (assuming DocConverter service is on 200.200.200.200 and the local server is defined as "server1") :

RetVal = APDocConv.CheckStatus("200.200.200.200", 0, _
                "\\server1\cdrive\docs\test.doc",_
                "\\server1\cdrive\converted",_
                "\\server1\cdrive\errors")

Possible Return Values :

1   Converted Successfully
2   In Errors Directory
0   Unknown Status
-99   Timeout

SetFilterOptions

Permits the developer to enforce up to 9 filters that the document must go through before being submitted to the engine. **Must be called prior to Submit.**

Syntax

APDocConv.SetFilterOptions moveUnResolved%, Filter1$, Filter2$, Filter3$, Filter4$, Filter5$, Filter6$, Filter7$, Filter8$, Filter9$

Parameters

moveUnResolved% -   Boolean If the file cannot be resolved to a signature, it will move it to the errors directory specified in the submit command OR delete it if a errors directory is not passed.

Filter1$ -	String	A filter id as defined in the DocConverter maintenance screen
Filter2$ -	String	A filter id as defined in the DocConverter maintenance screen
Filter3$ -	String	A filter id as defined in the DocConverter maintenance screen
Filter4$ -	String	A filter id as defined in the DocConverter maintenance screen
Filter5$ -	String	A filter id as defined in the DocConverter maintenance screen
Filter6$ -	String	A filter id as defined in the DocConverter maintenance screen
Filter7$ -	String	A filter id as defined in the DocConverter maintenance screen
Filter8$ -	String	A filter id as defined in the DocConverter maintenance screen
Filter9$ -	String	A filter id as defined in the DocConverter maintenance screen

SetLinearize

PROFESSIONAL VERSION ONLY

Sets whether or not Linearization (aka byte serving) is enabled for the document. **Must be called prior to Submit.**

<u>Syntax</u>

APDocConv.SetLinearize onoffFlag%

<u>Parameters</u>

OnOffFlag% - Boolean   Set to True to enable byte-serving

SetSecurityOptions

PROFESSIONAL VERSION ONLY

Sets optional security on the document to be submitted. **Must be called prior to Submit.**

<u>Syntax</u>

APDocConv.SetSecurityOptions UserPassword, OwnerPassword, CanPrint, CanEdit, CanCopy, CanModify

<u>Parameters</u>

UserPassword   String   The password required to open the document. Limited to 32 characters and should not contain any "control" characters

OwnerPassword   String   The password required to modify or print the document. Limited to 32 characters and should not contain any "control" characters. If left blank, it will default to the UserPassword

CanPrint   Boolean   Set to 1 to enable printing, 0 to disable

CanEdit   Boolean   Set to 1 to enable editing and saving an edited document. 0 to disable

CanCopy   Boolean   Set to 1 to enable selecting and copying of text and images. 0 to disable

CanModify   Boolean   Set to 1 to enable modifying forms, 0 to disable.

Example :

APDocConv.SetSecurityOptions "testuser", "testowner", True, False, True, False

Remarks
The password is **case sensitive** and once set, it cannot be retrieved.

Submit

Submits a document for conversion

Syntax

RetVal = APDocConv.Submit(IPAddress$, PortNumber&, FileToConvert$, OutputDirectory$, ErrorsDirectory$, OriginalsDirectory$, ScriptName$, ScriptLang$, SupportsZip%, ProcessorOptions$

Parameters

IPAddress$	TCP/IP Address of the DocConverter in question
PortNumber&	The TCP/IP Port of the DocConverter in question. Set to zero (0) for the default
FileToConvert$	The full path **that the DocConverter server understands** to the file that is being converted.
OutputDirectory$	The path **that the DocConverter server understands** to where the converted file is to go (without the filename)
ErrorsDirectory$	The path **that the DocConverter server understands** to where the error files go (without the filename). If you leave this blank, the original will be deleted if an error occurs.
OriginalsDirectory$	The path **that the DocConverter server understands** to where the original file is to go (without the filename). If you leave this blank, the original will be deleted upon conversion. You can also set this equal to the same path that the FileToConvert$ resides in for "inplace" conversion
ScriptName$	The full path to the script to be executed.
ScriptLang$	The scripting language to use ("VBScript","JScript")
SupportsZip (Boolean)	True if a Zip file is to be processed, False if not. Note that if you specify True, DocConverter **will not** tell you which files were processed and which were not. Also there is no way to currently run "CheckStatus" with Zip files.
ProcessorOptions$	Application processor specific options, documented in the appropriate application processor manual.

Remarks

When referring to documents on a remote DocConverter server, you must use a path structure that the remote server understands, not what the local machine understands. For example, if you are dealing with a file on the local server, but the DocConverter is on a remote server, you must use a file path that the remote server will understand. To illustrate

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Remote Server – The file is understood to be on \\server1\cdrive\docs\test.doc

In your call you would use the second form not the first, otherwise the DocConverter service would look on its local C:\ drive for the document.   The correct syntax in this case is (assuming DocConverter service is on 200.200.200.200 and the local server is defined as "server1") :

```
RetVal = APDocConv.Submit("200.200.200.200", 0, _
                "\\server1\cdrive\docs\test.doc",_
                "\\server1\cdrive\converted",_
                "\\server1\cdrive\errors",_
                "\\server1\cdrive\docs",_
                "C:\Scripts\AfterRun.vbs",_
                "VBScript",_
                False, "")
```

Possible Return Values :

0	Successfully submitted
-99	Timeout

TransmitFile

Transmits a file to a remote DocConverter server

<u>Syntax</u>

RetVal = APDocConv.TransmitFile(IPAddress$, PortNumber&, FileToTransmit$, DestinationFilePath$)

<u>Parameters</u>

IPAddress$　　　　　　TCP/IP Address of the DocConverter in question
PortNumber&　　　　　The TCP/IP Port of the DocConverter in question. Set to zero (0) for the default
FileToTransmit$　　　　The local filename to transmit
DestinationFilePath$　　The remote filename to be received

<u>Example</u>

RetVal = APDocConv.TransmitFile("200.200.200.200",0,"C:\Docs\TestDoc.doc","D:\Files\TestDoc.Doc")

<u>Return Codes</u>

0　　　　OK anything else is an error

RetrieveFile

Retrieves a file from a remote DocConverter server

Syntax

RetVal = APDocConv.RetrieveFile(IPAddress$, PortNumber&, RemoteFilePath$, DestinationFilePath$)

Parameters

IPAddress$	TCP/IP Address of the DocConverter in question
PortNumber&	The TCP/IP Port of the DocConverter in question. Set to zero (0) for the default
RemoteFilePath$	The filename on the remote server to retrieve
DestinationFilePath$	The local filename to be created

Example

RetVal = APDocConv.RetrieveFile("200.200.200.200",0, "D:\Output\TestDoc.PDF", "C:\Output\TestDoc.pdf")

Return Codes

0   OK anything else is an error

Example

```
Set APDocConv = Server.CreateObject("APDocConv.Object")

RetVal = APDocConv.TransmitFile("200.200.200.200",0,"C:\Docs\TestDoc.Doc"," C:\Input\TestDoc.Doc")

RetVal = APDocConv.Submit("200.200.200.200",0,"C:\Input\TestDoc.Doc","C:\Output","C:\Errors","C:\Save",
"","",False,"")

RetVal = 0

While RetVal = 0
   RetVal = APDocConv.CheckStatus("200.200.200.200",0,"C:\Input\TestDoc.Doc","C:\Output","C:\Errors")
Wend

If RetVal = 1 then
   RetVal =
APDocConv.RetrieveFile("200.200.200.200",0,"C:\Output\TestDoc.PDF","C:\PDFFiles\TestDoc.PDF")
End if
```

Scripting

DocConverter now supports scripting upon document completion or error. You can use any scripting language you like (and can even mix and match between directories). If a ZIP file is processed, only the resultant files are "scripted".

The following "Intrinisic" variables are exposed :

APDCSourceFileName – This is the name of the source document being converted.

APDCDestFileName – This is the name of the final document (whether in errors or converted)

APDCProcessorType – This is the application processor type (e.g. "WD2K") used to convert this document

APDCStatus – The status of this conversion. Either "ERROR" or "OK"

Example

Mytest.vbs

```
If APDCStatus = "OK" then
    ' send an email with the PDF document contained in APDCDestFileName to whoever
Else
    ' send an email to an Administrator with the document named in APDCDestFileName
End If
```

Creating a document signature

There are 3 types of document signatures that activePDF DocConverter supports :

Binary
Extension
Text

Basic steps to creating a document signature

1)   Launch the activePDF DocConverter Maintenance program
2)   Select Document Signatures
3)   Click on "Add Signature"
4)   For the first field, enter a unique ID for the signature
5)   For the second field, enter a name for the signature

This next step is where the process differs between each type of signature :

Next you will select the type of signature you want to process. The type you select depends upon the type of file you are looking at and the type of data within that file. For example, MS Word documents have distinct bytes in certain locations in its files, while text files are only distinguishable by their extension. Additionally, you may want to exclude certain binary signatures so they are not processed by DocConverter.

Binary – Has bytes in set locations within the file
Text – Has repeatable text (e.g. %!PS for postscript) within the first 2048 bytes of the file.
Extension – Has the same extension regardless of the file type

Once you have selected the file type, you will need to enter the processing data. How you enter that again depends upon the actual type you are working with :

Binary
```
Startbyte-numberbytes:bytesinhex[|Startbyte-numberbytes:bytesinhex]
```

For example :

```
A Microsoft Word document has the bytes D0 CF 11 E0 in the first 4 bytes and EC A5 C1 00
starting at position 512.  The binary signature would then be :
0-4:D0CF11E0|512-4:ECA5C100
```

Text
```
TextToFind[|TextToFind]
```

For example :

```
A Postscript document will typically have the following within the first 2K of
information : %!PS.  An HTML document will typically have in the first 2K <html . The
information is case-insensitive.
```

Extension
```
.extension;[.extension;]
```

For example :

```
A text file would have .TXT as the extension while an html file could have ".HTM;.HTML".
```
ALWAYS end the last entry with a semi-colon.

Once you've entered the signature data, you need to optionally select the processor you want to use. If you actually want to process this file, you will need to select a processor from the drop down list.

Finally, if you do not want to process this file, you need to select the "Do Not Process This Signature" checkbox. Selecting this will make DocConverter preface the file with $DNP so it does not get processed again.

EXAMPLES :

A text file signature

SIGNATURE ID : TEXT
SIGNATURE NAME : Text Files
SIGNATURE TYPE : Extension
SIGNATURE DATA : .TXT;
ASSIGNED PROCESSOR : Microsoft Word 2000 (or 97)
DO NOT PROCESS THIS SIGNATURE : Not selected

An HTML file signature

SIGNATURE ID : HTML
SIGNATURE NAME : HTML files
SIGNATURE TYPE : Extension
SIGNATURE DATA : .HTM; .HTML;
ASSIGNED PROCESSOR : Microsoft Word 2000 (or 97)
DO NOT PROCESS THIS SIGNATURE : Not selected

An exe file signature for exclusion

SIGNATURE ID : EXE
SIGNATURE NAME : Executable Files
SIGNATURE TYPE : Binary
SIGNATURE DATA : .0-2:4D5A|128-2:5045
ASSIGNED PROCESSOR : (none)
DO NOT PROCESS THIS SIGNATURE : Selected

An eps file information signature

SIGNATURE ID : EPS
SIGNATURE NAME : EPS Files
SIGNATURE TYPE : Text
SIGNATURE DATA : EPSF-1
ASSIGNED PROCESSOR : Postscript
DO NOT PROCESS THIS SIGNATURE : Not selected

Debugging DocConverter

Sometimes documents just won't convert, and often times it is because the driving application (e.g. Microsoft Word) has popped up a dialog box.

Fortunately there is a way to deal with those types of scenarios.

1) Stop the activePDF DocConverter Service
2) In the registry locate the following key :
    a. HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\activePDF\DocConvert
    b. Create a string value called "DoNotLaunch" and set the value to "1"
3) Restart the activePDF DocConverter Service
4) Wait one minute
5) Drop in a file into the folder.
6) From a command prompt, enter the processor you need to test :
    a. APDCWD2K   Word 2000
    b. APDCEX2K   Excel 2000
    c. APDCPP2K   PowerPoint 2000
    d. APDCDFLT   Default ("Generic") Processor
    e. APDCWD97   Word 97
    f. APDCEX97   Excel 97
    g. APDCPP97   PowerPoint 97
    h. APDCPOST   Postscript
    i. APDCWP90   Wordperfect 9.0
7) If the application is displaying a dialog box, you should see it here. Don't forget the reset the registry value above to 0!