

Java and PDF with iText. This article demonstrate how to create PDF files with Java and the iText library. In this tutorial iText version 5.0.x is used

1. Overview

iText is a Java library originally created by Bruno Lowagie which allows to create PDF, read PDF and manipulate them. The following tutorial will show how to create PDF files with iText. This tutorial assumes that you have basis [Java](#) and [Eclipse](#) knowledge.

iText has a hierarchical structure. The smallest text unit is a "Chunk" which is a String with a pre-defined font. A "Phrase" combines several Chunks and allows to define line spacing. "Paragraph" is a subclass of "Phrase" and allows to define more layout attributes, e.g. margins. The class "Anchor" is a subclass of "Paragraph" and serves as the basis for hyperlinks in the generated PDF.

2. Installation

Download the iText core binary from the webpage <http://sourceforge.net/projects/itext/>. The download contains one jar which is required if you want to use iText.

3. Create a PDF

Create a new Java project "de.vogella.itext.write" with the package "de.vogella.itext.write". Create a folder "lib" and put the iText library (jar file) into this folder. [Add the jar to your classpath](#).

Create the following class "FirstPdf.java". I assume that the code is pretty much self-explaining. I tried to add lots of comments to make it easier to understand. For more complex examples have a look at the [iText Homepage](#).

4. Formatting your output

Paragraph allows to set the alignment and the indentation. For this example create project "de.vogella.itext.position" similar to the previously created ones. Create the following class "PositionPdf.java".

5. Read an existing pdf

iText allows to read existing pdf's and include them into your own pdf. The following example will create page 2 of the previous example and create a new document with this page.

Create a new Java project "de.vogella.itext.readpdf" with the package "de.vogella.itext.read". Create a folder "lib" and put the iText library (jar file) into this folder. [Add the jar to your classpath](#). Create the following class "ReadAndUsePdf.java".

6. Links and Literature

6.1. iText Resources

[iText Homepage](#)

<http://itextdocs.lowagie.com/tutorial/> Tutorial from iText homepage, lots of specific examples

If you need more assistance we offer [Online Training](#) and [Onsite training](#) as well as [consulting](#)

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