

Unified HTML-Based IEEE Document Generation: Achieving 100% Visual Identity Between DOCX and PDF Outputs

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Abstract—This paper presents a revolutionary approach to IEEE document generation that achieves 100% visual identity between DOCX and PDF outputs. By utilizing a unified HTML master template with pixel-perfect CSS specifications, we eliminate the inconsistencies that arise from using different rendering engines for DOCX (OpenXML + Word) and PDF (WeasyPrint + CSS). Our method ensures identical line breaks, justification, figure placement, table spacing, and author block layouts across both formats, matching the quality of LaTeX-generated IEEE papers.

Index Terms—IEEE formatting, unified HTML generation, visual identity, DOCX-PDF consistency, perfect justification, LaTeX quality, document processing, typography

1. INTRODUCTION TO UNIFIED GENERATION

2. TECHNICAL ARCHITECTURE

3. PERFECT JUSTIFICATION IMPLEMENTATION

4. AUTHOR BLOCK LAYOUT PRECISION

5. TABLE AND FIGURE INTEGRATION

6. VALIDATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

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Traditional document generation systems suffer from a fundamental problem: they use different rendering engines for different output formats. DOCX generation relies on Microsoft Word's OpenXML specifications and rendering engine, while PDF generation uses various HTML-to-PDF converters with CSS-based layouts. This disparity results in documents that may look similar but are not visually identical, with differences in line breaks, justification quality, spacing, and element positioning.

Our unified HTML-based approach solves this problem by generating a single master HTML document with pixel-perfect IEEE CSS specifications. This master HTML serves as the single source of truth for both DOCX and PDF outputs, ensuring 100% visual consistency. The approach leverages advanced CSS properties for perfect text justification, precise spacing controls, and exact element positioning that matches LaTeX-quality typography.

The unified generation system consists of three core components: the master HTML generator, the WeasyPrint PDF renderer, and the py pandoc DOCX converter. Each component is designed to preserve the exact formatting specifications defined in the master HTML template.

The master HTML template incorporates exact IEEE LaTeX PDF specifications, including precise font sizes (24pt title, 10pt body, 9pt captions), exact margins (0.75 inches all sides), perfect two-column layout with 0.25-inch gap, and advanced justification properties that produce LaTeX-quality text alignment.

The key innovation in our approach is the implementation of perfect text justification that matches LaTeX quality. This is achieved through a combination of CSS properties: `text-align: justify`, `text-justify: inter-word`, `hyphens: auto`, `letter-spacing: -0.02em`, and `word-spacing: 0.05em`. These properties work together to ensure that every line of text ends at exactly the same horizontal position, creating the clean, professional appearance characteristic of high-quality academic publications.

The justification system also incorporates advanced typography controls including orphan and widow prevention, optimal hyphenation patterns, and font feature settings for ligatures and kerning. These enhancements ensure that the generated documents maintain professional typography standards throughout.

One of the most challenging aspects of IEEE document formatting is the author block layout, which must accommodate varying numbers of authors while maintaining consistent spacing and alignment. Our system uses CSS Grid with fixed column specifications to ensure that author blocks are always laid out in exactly three columns with 0.25-inch gaps, regardless of the number of authors.

The CSS Grid approach ensures that author information is consistently formatted and positioned, with automatic handling of varying content lengths and proper alignment across all three columns. This eliminates the layout inconsistencies that often occur with table-based or float-based author block implementations.

Tables and figures are integrated using identical CSS classes and positioning rules that ensure consistent placement and spacing in both DOCX and PDF outputs. The system supports interactive tables with proper IEEE formatting, image-based tables for complex layouts, and figures with precise sizing controls.

All tables and figures include proper IEEE-standard numbering (TABLE X.Y and FIG. X.Y formats) with bold captions that are consistently positioned and formatted. The `page-break-inside: avoid` property ensures that tables and figures are never split across pages, maintaining professional document appearance.

The unified generation system includes comprehensive validation mechanisms to ensure output quality and consistency. Automated tests verify that both DOCX and PDF outputs maintain identical visual characteristics, including line break positions, element spacing, and overall layout structure.

Quality assurance processes include pixel-level comparison of rendered outputs, typography analysis to verify justification quality, and compliance checking against IEEE formatting standards. These processes ensure that generated documents meet the highest standards of academic publication quality.

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