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Convert PDF to JPG or PNG using C# or Command Line

I need to convert a PDF file to images. I used for testing purposes "Total PDF Converter" which offers a command line, but it's shareware and I need to find a free alternative.

Does anyone knows such a tool or maybe even a free C# library?

[c#](#) [pdf](#)

asked Jan 14 '11 at 20:38



[Martin](#)

746 1 12 37

6 Answers

The `convert` tool (or `magick` [since version 7](#)) from the [ImageMagick](#) bundle can do this (and a whole lot more).

In its simplest form, it's just

```
convert myfile.pdf myfile.png
```

or

```
magick myfile.pdf myfile.png
```

[edited May 15 '16 at 9:33](#)

answered Jan 14 '11 at 20:40



[Thomas](#)

91.5k 26 212 322

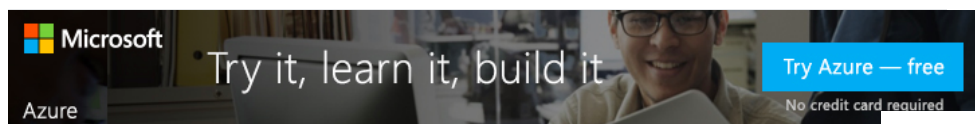
1 To expand on this answer, you would use the [csharp-station.com/HowTo/ProcessStart.aspx](#) – delete Jan 14 '11 at 20:43

1 I have tried ImageMagick and it works very well in image conversion. To work with pdf you will need to install GhostScript also. [sourceforge.net/projects/ghostscript](#) – Sameh Deabes Jan 14 '11 at 21:06

I tried this but for some reason I only get a white page with a black line in the middle and some random text on the side.. – [Martin](#) Jan 15 '11 at 15:00

2 and I'm also a bit confused because of the licensing system here. ImageMagick is licensed under the Apache license which is fine but ghostscript is GPL. What does this mean for me when my program is shipped with a commercial program? – [Martin](#) Jan 15 '11 at 15:27

1 @Martin It probably means that you need to purchase a [commercial license from Artifex](#) or use something else – [yms](#) Feb 13 '12 at 18:22



This is an old question, but as a GhostScript answer is missing and there is no hint for **multipage** PDF export yet I think adding another variant is ok.

```
gs -dBATCH -dNOPAUSE -sDEVICE=pnggray -r300 -dUseCropBox -sOutputFile=item-%03d.png
examples.pdf
```

Options description:

- `dBATCH` and `dNOPAUSE` just tell gs to run in batch mode, which means more or less it will not ask any questions. Those parameters are also important if you want to run the command in a bash script.
- `sDEVICE` tells gs what output format to produce. `pnggray` is for grayscale, `png16m` for 24-bit RGB color. If you insist on creating Jpegs use `-sDEVICE=jpeg` to produce color JPEG files. Use the `-dJPEGQ=N` (N is an integer from 0 to 100, default 75) parameter to control the Jpeg quality.
- `-r300` sets the scan resolution to 300dpi. If you prefer a smaller output sizes use `-r70` or if you input pdf has a high resolution use `-r600`. If you have a PDF with 300dpi and specify `-r600` your images will be upscaled.
- `-dUseCropBox` tell gs to use a CropBox if defined. A CropBox specifies an area of interest on a page. If you have a pdf with a large white margin and you don't want this margin on your output this option *might* help.
- `-sOutputFile` defines the name(s) of the output file. The `%03d.png` part tells gs to include a counter for multiple files. A two page pdf would result in two files named `item-001.png` and `item-002.png`.
- The last (unnamed) parameter is the input file.)

Availability: The convert command of imagemagick does use the gs command internally. If you can convert a pdf with imagemagick, you already have gs installed.

Install ghostscript:

RHEL:

```
yum install ghostscript
```

SLES:

```
zypper install ghostscript
```

Debian/Ubuntu:

```
sudo apt-get install ghostscript
```

Windows:

You can find Windows binaries under <http://www.ghostscript.com/download/gsdnld.html>

edited Jun 14 '16 at 13:00

answered Jun 14 '16 at 12:54



tobltdbs

1,260 11 21

Question is quite old, but recently I have found this solution which worked for me:

<https://github.com/jhabjan/Ghostscript.NET>. It is also available as an nuget download.

Here is the sample code for converting all pdf pages into png images:

```
private static void Test()
{
    var localGhostscriptDll = Path.Combine(Environment.CurrentDirectory,
"gsdll64.dll");
    var localDllInfo = new GhostscriptVersionInfo(localGhostscriptDll);

    int desired_x_dpi = 96;
    int desired_y_dpi = 96;

    string inputPdfPath = "test.pdf";

    string outputPath = Environment.CurrentDirectory;

    GhostscriptRasterizer _rasterizer = new GhostscriptRasterizer();
    _rasterizer.Open(inputPdfPath, localDllInfo, false);

    for (int pageNumber = 1; pageNumber <= _rasterizer.PageCount; pageNumber++)
    {
        string pageFilePath = Path.Combine(outputPath, "Page-" +
pageNumber.ToString() + ".png");

        Image img = _rasterizer.GetPage(desired_x_dpi, desired_y_dpi,
pageNumber);
        img.Save(pageFilePath, ImageFormat.Png);
    }

    _rasterizer.Close();
}
```

edited Jan 14 '16 at 8:15

answered Jul 28 '14 at 9:45



Grzegorz Wróblewski

71 1 5

1 Warning: Don't forget to call the `_rasterizer.Close()` at the end. (It's important and avoid having exception in case you would use this code in a loop for example). – [bau](#) Dec 12 '14 at 15:46

is there an alternative to 'GetPage' that will get the entire document that you know of? – [rogerdeuce](#) May 13 '15 at 19:08

You may want to check this free solution

<http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/32274/How-To-Convert-PDF-to-Image-Using-Ghostscript-API>

It easily convert PDF to images (single file or multiple files) is open source, and use ghostscript (free download)

Example of its use:

```
converter = new PDFConverter();
converter.JPEGQuality = 90;
converter.OutputFormat = "jpg";
string output = "output.jpg";
converter.Convert("input.pdf", output);
```

answered Feb 13 '12 at 11:24



You should use iText sharp. Its a part of an open source java project for manipulating PDFs.

<http://sourceforge.net/projects/itextsharp/>

answered Jan 14 '11 at 20:41



4 I cant use this because of the GPL license... – [Martin](#) Jan 15 '11 at 15:10

2JPEGE command line tool can do it, like:

2jpeg.exe -src "C:\In*.pdf" -dst "C:\Out"

edited May 17 '16 at 5:19

answered Sep 18 '15 at 8:45



Sorry, but it doesn't work with a lot of errors. – [Turtle](#) May 15 '16 at 3:26

Hi Turtle, Could you please tell me more info about 2JPEG errors you have? – [Mikhael Bolgov](#) May 17 '16 at 5:21
