

Save a PDF file as an image

It's not unusual to save an image as a Adobe Acrobat PDF file, but the other way around? There are plenty of good reasons to do so—showing a PDF file as a design element in a page layout, for example. Here's how to convert a PDF file into TIFF, EPS, and other formats.

Often you save a PDF document in a text and image format—as HTML or as a Word document, for example. However, you can also save a PDF document as an image.

The spitting image of a PDF

Why would you want a PDF to be an uneditable image? Here are some of the reasons why:

- You want to use the content as part of another project or process.
- You want to create thumbnail images of pages for use in other documents.
- You need to protect the content in a page. Exporting as an image with security prevents text and other content changes.

1 Choose File > Save As to open the Save As dialog. Select an image export option from the Save As pull-down list (Figure 1).

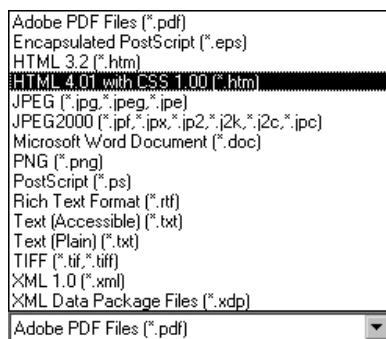


Figure 1: You can save a file in one of several image formats.

2 Click Settings to open the Settings dialog. The Save As JPEG Settings dialog is shown in Figure 2. Modify these options according to your requirements.

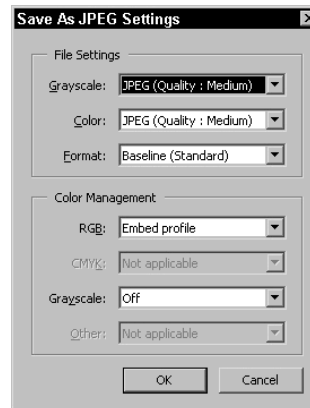


Figure 2: Each image format has customizable settings.

3 Click OK to close the Settings dialog and to return to the Save As dialog.

4 Click OK to convert the file. Acrobat converts each page of your document to an image. The image will be the same size as the document page (Figure 3).



Figure 3: The image is exported at the full-page size.

Note: An image of a document page makes a very nice link from another document. When you are building a large project incorporating several types of material, you typically link the documents together. You can use text links, but you can also use an image of the linked

document, as in Figure 4. I have a document that is linked to a slideshow. Instead of using text to link, I used a thumbnail-sized image of the first page of the slideshow. Be sure the outcome is worth the effort—don't use an image of an all-text page, for example.

Click [here](#) to see the slideshow.

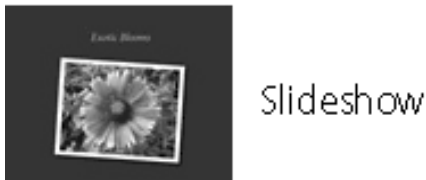


Figure 4: You can use an exported image as a visual link.

When choosing an image file format, consider how you want to use an image. I've exported an image in four different formats—JPEG, JPEG2000, TIF, and PNG—using the default settings.

Figure 5 shows the difference in file sizes for the various formats, and it is quite a difference! If you were exporting and reusing a number of images the file size would certainly build up quickly.

| Name | Size | Type |
|-------------------|--------|--------------------------|
| export test.pdf | 124 KB | Adobe Acrobat Document |
| yo_dtif.tif | 345 KB | TIF Image |
| yo_dpngexport.png | 201 KB | Macromedia Fireworks Doc |
| yo_djpeg2000.jpj | 27 KB | JPF File |
| yo_ipeg.jpg | 26 KB | JPEG Image |

Figure 5: Be aware of the file sizes of different formats when exporting images.

For Web purposes, I usually work with the JPEG files, and I use TIF files for printing. Visually, there is a substantial difference in quality between the image types, as you would expect.

Exporting EPS files

You can export images to applications, such as Adobe Illustrator, that use EPS (Encapsulated PostScript) files. Take care with the settings, however.

If the file is formatted using RGB color space, you won't be able to create an EPS file. Instead, you'll see a message telling you that an image uses a color format that won't separate (Figure 6). In this case, you can't export the images as EPS files. The only way to rectify the situation is to use a source image that uses a CMYK color space.

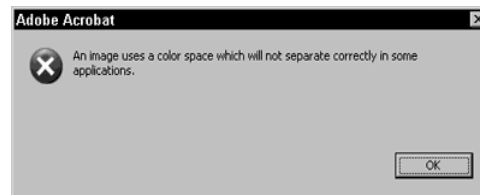


Figure 6: Don't try to export an RGB image to eps format.

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