# Ghostscript reduce file size pdf

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I'll be honest. I'm not too worried about the size of the PDF file. Storage (both local and online) is relatively cheap. However, sometimes people ask me how to reduce the size of the PDF file, so this is clearly a topic of interest. There are many solutions out there, but more than the Asian effectiveness of Dojo, user Andrew pointed me to this AskUbuntu FOR thread and reported that it was a success with one of the tips. Since it's been quite a while since I got geeky here at DocumentSnap, I think that's a good excuse. A few notes before we started: As I mentioned, this board is extremely geeky and includes script and command shell (aka terminal on macOS). If you're not comfortable with that you can give this a pass and use something like Adobe Acrobat or macOS Preview. This tip uses an Unix tool called Ghostscript. I will be showing a review on the Mac, and the page I'm affiliated with above, for Linux. There is a version of Ghostscript on Windows, but I'm not sure if this tip will work with it. Install Ghostscript Chances, your computer may not have Ghostscript installed (my Mac didn't). The easiest way to get Ghostscript on Mac is to use Homebrew. If you don't already have Homebrew, follow the instructions on the site. Once you're Homebrew installed, install Ghostscript, step back to the terminal and typing: the brew set ghostscript Homebrew will do its magic and you should be good to go. Use Ghostscript to reduce the size of the PDF file in the AskUbuntu thread linked above, there are a number of suggestions. The one Andrew recommended is one. I tried to use the screen for PDFSETTINGS, but the result looked terrible. For me, the e-book did its job. There's a tiny (in my opinion) decline in quality, but for most of my scanned PDF files the file size has been reduced quite a bit. As a result, here's the scenario I use: gs -sDEVICE-pdfwrite -dCompatibilityLevel-1.4 - dPDFSETTINGS/ebook -dNOPAUSE -d'YET -dBATCH -sOutputFile-output.pdf.pdf PDF, PDF which is 1,501,178 bytes: I ran the script in the terminal window to compress it: Ghostscript Terminal Window You can see that it has reduced the 1.5MB file to 565KB: Ghostscript files Here is a link to the file, so you can take a look. You can see that this liiiiittle is more blurry, but not too bad. Automating Ghostscript with Hazel The good thing about using a script to reduce file size is that there is potential for automation. Here's a quick Hazel rule I used to look at the folder and automatically reduce the file size: Hazel Ghostscript rule You can see that I built the script above but made a few tweaks to his working with Hazel and going out in a folder called Exit. You can of course customize that to go to any folder. You don't need Ghostscript to reduce PDF files, but it's nice to know that you can, as I said earlier, you, you you need to get this geeky to make the PDF files smaller. You can scan in reduced resolution, you can use a tool like Acrobat or PDFpen, or you can use other specialized tools for your operating system. Sometimes it's an interesting bust from the terminal though, so that's what I did (I have a sad definition of fun, I know). Do you use a different method? Let us know in the comments how you do it. I'm looking for a way in Ubuntu to reduce the size of the PDF (by reducing the quality of the images). I know this can be done in Ghostscript by entering the following command in the terminal: gs -sDEVICE-pdfwrite -dCompatibilityLevel-1.4 -dPDFSETTINGS/screen -dNOPAUSE - d'YET -dBATCH -sOutputFile-output.pdf.pdf The -dPDFSETTINGS/screen option is the one that decides the quality; but the alternatives are pretty tough (for example, it can be done -dPDFSETTINGS/ebook for a little better quality). I'm looking for a way to reduce the size of the PDF in a way that allows me to specify the desired quality numerically. We often need to send PDF files that are too large for regular email services, such as a 40MB PDF file with a maximum shipment limit of 10MB. In such situations, quick and efficient PDF compression will come in handy, which does not reduce the quality to the level of the file becomes unusable. Under Linux and Unix-like systems GhostScript is one of the most powerful tools (probably the most powerful) to manipulate files like PDF, PS, etc. if you are on a Linux/Unix-like system and need to work with PDF files done check how to use GhostScript site. It's not unlikely that GhostScript already has a built-in solution to your problem. Consequently, it also has a way of effectively compressing PDF files with different options and settings. Effective PDF compression is possible with GhostScript with a single command (adapted here and here): gs -sDEVICE-pdfwrite -dCompatibilityLevel-1.4 -dPDFSETTINGS/screen-dNOPAUSE -d'YET -sOutputFile-outputfile.pdffile input.pdf.dPDFSETTINGS. This affects the built-in pixel chart (also adapts built-in color profiles) and is the main option for controlling the compression level, thus resulting in file size: -dPDFSETTINGS/screen (72 dpi images) -dPDFSETTINGS/ebook (150 dpi images) - dPDFSETTINGS/printer (300 dpi images) -dPDFSETTINGS color preservation) -dPDFSETTINGS/default Switches: Output is written as a pdf (-sDEVICE-pdfwrite), pdf compatibility level is set at 1.4 (-dCompatibilityLevel-1.4), the process does not require user interaction (-dNOPAUSE and -d'YET), and GhostScript misses the launch message (-d'YET). Published March 19, 2018, January 21, 2018 Instantly share the code, and fragments. Squeeze PDF files with ghostscript You Can't that action is now. You've signed up with another tab or window. Reboot to update the session. You subscribe to another tab or window. Reboot to update the session. We use additional third-party analytical cookies to understand how you use GitHub.com so we can create the best products. Learn more. We use additional third-party analytical cookies to understand how you use GitHub.com so we can create the best products. You can always update your choices by clicking on Cookie Preferences at the bottom of the page. For more information, see us that we use important cookies to perform the main functions of a website, such as logging in. Find out more Always Active We use analytical cookies to understand how you use our websites so we can make them better, for example, they are used to gather information about the pages you visit and how many clicks you need to accomplish the task. Find out more, use Ghostscript to compress PDF files on Linux. On August 18, 2020 Greg Pittman fed my wife tutoring students all year, and recently she wanted to assign homework by scanning some pages of the book to file and emailing them to her students. She asked me for help, so I used Simple Scan, an application to scan documents for GNOME. Simple Scan has two resolution settings, images and text, and stores files as PDFs. Unfortunately, the scan quality - words, numbers and graphics - doesn't fit with text settings, but the files are pretty large - up to 5MB in just a few pages, using image settings. I found the answer to this problem using the pdf2ps and ps2pdf commands that are part of the Ghostscript package. This solution reduces the size of pdf files, making it easier to access them via email. Human pages for these commands are multi-thousand, and it was hard to find good documentation for them and their settings. So I put together the following by combining information from various other bits of tips I found online. How to reduce PDF First, back up the original PDF file with a different name (in case you make a mistake somewhere). In this example, I'll show you how to reduce a file called Lesson5.pdf. 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