

# PDF Press for ExpressionEngine® User Guide

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*URL:* [http://www.anecka.com/pdf\\_press](http://www.anecka.com/pdf_press)

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Thank you for your purchase! If you have any questions about the module, please email us at [contact@anecka.com](mailto:contact@anecka.com)

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## 1. Prerequisites

Make sure your system meets the following requirements:

- PHP 5.0+
- DOMDocument extension
- PCRE
- Zlib
- MBString extension

- GD
  - ExpressionEngine 2.6 or later
  - **allow\_url\_fopen enabled in php.ini is recommended for images & CSS but not required (see Tips & Troubleshooting 'Images or CSS stylesheet files not loading')**
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## 2. Installation & Upgrade

### Installation

#### ExpressionEngine 3

1. Copy the `ee3/system/user/addons/pdf_press` folder to `system/user/addons/`
2. Install the module by going to the Add-On Manager, look for PDF Press and click `Install`
3. That's it! Go to the PDF Press module's Control Panel (`Add-Ons > Modules > PDF Press > Configuration`) and verify that your environment is configured to generate PDFs.

#### ExpressionEngine 2

1. Copy the `ee2/system/expressionengine/third_party/pdf_press` folder to `system/expressionengine/third_party/`
2. Copy the `ee2/themes/third_party/pdf_press` folder to `themes/third_party/`
3. Install the module by going to `Add-Ons > Modules`, look for PDF Press and click `Install`
4. That's it! Go to the PDF Press module's Control Panel (`Add-Ons > Modules > PDF Press > Configuration`) and verify that your environment is configured to generate PDFs.

### Upgrade

To upgrade PDF Press from a previous version, overwrite the files as specified in the installation instructions. For EE2, to `Add-Ons > Modules` and click on the `Run Module Updates` button. For EE3, Go to Add-On Manager and click the Update link.

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## 3. Module Tags

PDF Press has two tags, each will generate a PDF from an ExpressionEngine template.

## Tag `{exp:pdf_press:save_to_pdf}`

The `save_to_pdf` tag generates a link to download the template as a PDF, it contains the following parameters:

- **path** (optional): accepts an ExpressionEngine template path in the form `template_group/template` (ex. `site/pdf`), if no path is given then the current page will be used.
- **filename** (optional): sets the filename for the downloaded PDF
- **size** (optional): sets the paper size for the PDF (ex. `letter`, `legal`, `a5`, etc). You can view all of the available sizes by checking under the `Size` dropdown of the PDF Preview tab
- **orientation** (optional): sets the orientation of the page, either `portrait` (**default**) or `landscape`
- **attachment** (optional): if left blank or set to `1`, the PDF will be downloaded, if the attachment parameter is set to `0` the PDF will be opened in the browser
- **key** : this is the setting preset shortcode, see **5. Settings Presets** for more information

### Example:

```
<a href="{exp:pdf_press:save_to_pdf path='site/projects' attachment='0' filename='projects.pdf'}">Download Project Case Studies</a>
```

This will create a link to open a PDF titled "projects.pdf" in the browser using the `site/projects` template

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## Tag `{exp:pdf_press:parse_pdf}`

Sometimes you'll want to create a PDF with a member only or logged in page. For this you want to use `parse_pdf`

```

{exp:pdf_press:parse_pdf}
  <html>
  <head>
    <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8"/>
    <title>Parse Test</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    {if logged_in}
      {exp:channel:entries channel="Projects"}
        <p><strong>{title}</strong></p>
      {/exp:channel:entries}
    {if:else}
      <p>Not logged in</p>
    {/if}
  </body>
</html>
{/exp:pdf_press:parse_pdf}

```

As you can guess, this tag, instead of creating a link to download/open a PDF, will create a PDF using whatever HTML & EE tags that are inside the `parse_pdf` tag-pair. It has all of the same parameters as `save_to_pdf` (except for `path`)

**Note: Remember to put the `parse_pdf` tag before and after the HTML tag (and DOCTYPE) otherwise PDF Press won't render your complete page)**

## 4. Formatting the PDF File

Formatting the PDF file is as simple as creating a special CSS file and referencing it in the `<head>` tag in your template. Use the `media` attribute and set it to **"pdf"**. This will cause the PDF Press to use the stylesheet (and it will be ignored in your browser)

```
<link href="{site_url}css/pdf.css" rel="stylesheet" media="pdf">
```

If you want to hide your main stylesheet from PDF Press (which is very useful, CSS frameworks such as Bootstrap or Foundation can drastically slow down PDF Press), just set the `media` attribute to **"screen."**

```
<link href="{site_url}css/site_only.css" rel="stylesheet" media="screen">
<link href="{site_url}css/pdf.css" rel="stylesheet" media="pdf">
```

## 5. Setting Presets

Setting Presets are a new feature in 2.0. Presets are a great way to save time, they allow you to set all of the options passed as parameters in the `save_to_pdf` & `parse_pdf` tags in the Control Panel. You can then re-use those settings in your template by just passing the short code into the "key" parameter.

```
{exp:save_to_pdf key="product_settings"}
```

Presets also let you securely set a variety of security settings for your PDFs. You can enable encryption, set a owner password, user password and then control if users can save, print, or modify PDFs.

**NEW! MSM Support** - Setting Presents are now compatible w/ Multi-Site Manager, each site can have it's own unique preset keys.

You can access the Setting Presets by going to `Add-Ons > Modules > PDF Press > Setting Presets`

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## 6. Caching PDF files

You can control if generated PDF files are cached using the "Cache" and "Cache Duration" settings in Setting Presets. PDF Press look at the `path=` parameter to build a unqiue hash and hold onto the generated file for set period of time (the default is 3600 seconds or one hour).

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## 7. PDF Preview

A helpful tool you can use to develop your PDF templates is the PDF Preview tab. You can find it under `Add-Ons > Modules > PDF Press > PDF Preview`

Specify the size, orientation and an ExpressionEngine template path (ex. `site/test`) and click **Submit**. The PDF (or other output if there's an error) will be displayed below in an iframe. In order for the PDF Preview to work, you **MUST** have the JQuery Module installed.

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## 8. Overriding the DOMPDF Settings

PDF Press uses the DOMPDF library (<https://github.com/dompdf/dompdf>) to generate the PDF file. Sometimes the default settings that ship with DOMPDF aren't right for your needs. Fortunately it's very easy to override the default settings by modifying the following file:

```
third_party\pdf_press\dompdf_config.custom.inc.php
```

## 9. Unicode

PDF Press uses the DOMPDF library, which supports a wide variety of unicode character sets. In order to properly render unicode in your PDF, there are a few configuration steps you'll need to do.

To start, you'll need to install a font for your unicode charset. Log into your Control Panel and go to **Add-Ons > Modules > PDF Press > Fonts**.

Under **Install New Fonts** upload any **.ttf** file that contains characters for your language. I found a set called **fireflysung** for this example. Give the font a name, select the .ttf file from your computer can click **Install it**.

In a few seconds the page should refresh and you should see your font in the installed fonts list.

**NOTE: If the font isn't in the installed fonts list, make sure the following file has write permissions on your server**

```
/third_party/pdf_press/dompdf/lib/fonts/dompdf_font_family_cache.dist.php
```

Unicode should already be set by default, but you can double check the following configuration file in

```
/third_party/pdf_press/dompdf_config.custom.inc.php
```

Open the file and make sure the following line is uncommented and set to TRUE

```
define("DOMPDF_UNICODE_ENABLED", true);
```

Finally all you need to do now is setup your template. Any Unicode characters you want to render should have the font-family set to the font you've uploaded in Step 1. Here's an example using "fireflysung."

```
{exp:pdf_press:parse_pdf}
<html>
  <head>
    <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8"/>
    <title>Unicode Test</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <p style="font-family:fireflysung">螢火飛字型</p>
  </body>
</html>
{/exp:pdf_press:parse_pdf}
```

Also make sure you've set the "Content-Type" to "utf-8" in your html template's `<head>` tag.

### Note about Right to Left support

Some languages are formatted right to left, to enabled this support we've added a new CSS attribute: "direction: rtl" just include this attribute in your template

### Example:

```
{exp:pdf_press:parse_pdf}
<html>
  <head>
    <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8"/>
    <title>Unicode Test</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <p style="font-family:fireflysung;direction: rtl;">螢火飛字型</p>
  </body>
</html>
{/exp:pdf_press:parse_pdf}
```

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## 10. Calling PDF Press from other add-ons

As of PDF Press 2.2.4 you can now call PDF Press from other add-ons or modules to create PDFs by calling the `pdf_press_generate_pdf` extension hook. Here are the parameters for the hook:

- **path** (required): path to the ExpressionEngine template for the PDF layout
- **settings** (array, required): settings for how the pdf is generated, matches the parameters described in Section 3: Module Tags of this document

- **key** (optional): this is an option parameter for the setting preset

Here's an example of how you'd use the hook to create a pdf and save it to a file.

### Example:

```
if ($this->EE->extensions->active_hook('pdf_press_generate_pdf') === TRUE)
{
    $path = "pdf/" . $entry_id; /* example of passing a channel entry to the pdf
template */
    $settings = array(
        'orientation' => 'portrait',
        'size'         => 'letter',
        'compress'    => '1',
        'encrypt'     => false,
    );

    $pdf_output = $this->EE->extensions->call('pdf_press_generate_pdf', $path,
    $settings);

    $pdf_filename = APPPATH.'cache/entry_' . $entry->form_entry_id . '.pdf';
    file_put_contents($pdf_filename, $pdf_output);
}
```

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## 11. Tips & Troubleshooting

### PHP Errors

The DOMPDF library is **VERY STRICT** when it parses the HTML & CSS of your template. If you are having trouble getting your PDF to generate and you're getting PDF errors, run your HTML & CSS through a validator, such as the W3C Validation Service (<http://validator.w3.org>). **We recommend starting with very basic HTML template & CSS first, then add only the styles you need for your PDF.**

### Uploaded Font not appearing in installed fonts list

If the font you've uploaded isn't in the installed fonts list, make sure the following php file has write permissions on your server.

```
/third_party/pdf_press/dompdf/lib/fonts/dompdf_font_family_cache.dist.php
```

You can manually edit the file yourself. Fonts you upload will have a long alphanumeric filename, for example: `8d34359dfffb27c104662e956b1d36686.ttf`. If we wanted to add this font we add it to the file like so:

```
'my_uploaded_font' =>
    array (
        'normal' => DOMPDF_FONT_DIR . '8d34359dfffb27c104662e956b1d36686',
    ),
```

Now in our template code we refer to the font-family as **my\_uploaded\_font**:

```
<p style="font-family:my_uploaded_font;">Yay its my font!</p>
```

## Setting the resolution (dots per inch) of the PDF

The default size of the DPI is **96**. This can be changed in `third_party/pdf_press/dompdf_config.custom.inc.php`.

```
define("DOMPDF_DPI", 72);
```

## Adding new paper sizes

You can add paper sizes to PDF Press by editing the `$PAPER_SIZES` array in the following files:

```
third_party\pdf_press\dompdf\include\cpdf_adapter.cls.php, line 37
third_party\pdf_press\mcp.pdf_press.php, line 536
```

Adding new paper size is as simple as adding a new row to the array (sizes are in pixels).

```
$PAPER_SIZES = array(
    ...
    "dl" => array(0,0,283.47,595.28),
    ...
);
```

## PDF Preview

You can troubleshoot your template using the PDF Preview tab in the Control Panel. Just go to

Add-Ons > Modules > PDF Press > PDF Preview

## Debug Settings

You can troubleshoot the PDF document by setting the following settings in `third_party\pdf_press\dompdf_config.custom.inc.php`:

```
define("DEBUG_LAYOUT", true);
define("DEBUG_LAYOUT_LINES", true);
define("DEBUG_LAYOUT_BLOCKS", true);
define("DEBUG_LAYOUT_INLINE", true);
```

## Images or CSS stylesheet files not loading

If you're getting "image not found" errors or external stylesheet files not loading in your PDF document, first check to see if `allow_url_fopen` is enabled. You can do a quick check if you go to the **Configuration** page in the PDF Press control panel, look for the **DOMPDF\_ENABLE\_REMOTE** line and verify that it's set to "true" and the status is "allow\_url\_fopen\_enabled."

If "allow\_url\_fopen" is disabled you can enable it in your server's php.ini file. However if you can't enable "allow\_url\_fopen" because your hosting provider has it disabled or you can't access the php.ini you'll have to modify your PDF template to use physical file paths for images & CSS.

PDF Press comes with a tag `{exp:pdf_press:physical_path}` which will output the physical path to the public folder of your website. Using this tag you should be able to tell PDF Press where your images are. Here's an example.

Say your template has the following image : 

Instead of using `{site_url}` you'll want to replace it with our physical path tag:

```

```

If you leave out the `to=` parameter, the tag will just return the physical path to the website's public folder.

## A Blank White Screen

If you're using an `.htaccess` file to strip out `index.php` from the url, make sure your rewrite settings in `.htaccess` are correct and don't strip out the `?ACT=` parameter. We recommend using the following settings.

```
RewriteEngine On
RewriteBase /

# Remove the trailing slash to paths without an extension
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_METHOD} !=POST
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} /$
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-d
RewriteRule ^(.+)/$ $1 [L,R=301]

# Removes index.php from ExpressionEngine URLs
RewriteCond %{QUERY_STRING} !^(ACT=.*)$ [NC]
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} !(\.[a-zA-Z0-9]{1,5})$
RewriteCond $1 !\.(gif|jpe?g|png)$ [NC]
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-f
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-d
RewriteRule ^(.*)$ /index.php/$1 [L]
```

If your .htaccess file has rewrite conditions like the following, then PDF Press will not work.

```
# Removes index.php from ExpressionEngine URLs
RewriteCond %{THE_REQUEST} ^GET.*index\.php [NC]
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} !/systemname/. * [NC]
RewriteRule (.*)index\.php/*(.*) /$1$2 [R=301,NE,L]
```

## Custom/Web Fonts With Encryption

We currently do not support web fonts or custom upload fonts with encryption. Any element with a the custom/web font style applied will not render in the pdf.

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## 11. Support

If you have any questions or concerns visit our [official support forum on Devot-ee](#)

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## 13. Changelog

See changelog.md for the release notes/changelog