PDF tools

Viewers

As PDF viewers, we offer Adobe Reader, Evince, Atril document viewer and okular. There is also qpdfview.

Although Adobe Reader is the official viewer for the format, it is not always the best, especially since Linux development is almost non-existent at Adobe these days, and the version is falling behind its Windows and Mac OS counterparts.

The free viewers work best with the desktop environment for which they were made: `okular` for KDE, `evince` for Gnome, and `atril` for Mate and Cinnamon (and probably a good default for other desktops as well). But feel free to use whatever tool you like best.

Creating PDF files

Many programs have a way to export a document as PDF file. In addition, the standard print dialog has an option to `print to file`, which creates PDF or PostScript files.

For TeX and LaTeX, there are separate processors `pdftex` and `pdflatex` which produce PDF directly (but they require figures to be in PDF format as well), or `dvipdf` to convert a DVI file to PDF.

Tools to modify PDF files

- pdfedit - Editor for PDF files
- pdfshuffler - Application for PDF Merging, Rearranging, and Splitting
- Poppler utils - Converters and other utilities: pdfdetach to extract internal attachments from the pdf file; pdfimages to extract images; pdfseparate to convert to separate pages; pdftops, pdftohtml, pdftotext converters.
- pdfposter: convert a pdf file to multiple pages, to be glued together as a big poster

Note: `pdftk` is no longer working on current versions of Linux. For the moment, it is still available on a few RedHat 6 machines.

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