PageCatcher

Reuse existing PDF files in flexible ways.

Features

Be Creative

- Allow editors and designers complete freedom to design covers and backgrounds
- Incorporate Logos, Illustrations, Letterheads

Form-filling

- Use PageCatcher as the engine for form-filling applications
- Volume form processing

High Performance

- Built-in compression features

Full Integration

- Use as part of an applications pipeline

Fully programmable

- Use scripts to manipulate PDF files in millions of different ways

Platform-independence

- Desktop, server or embedded
- Windows XP, 2000, NT, 95, 98
- Mac OS 8.x, OS 9.x, OS X 10.x
- most variants of Unix, including Solaris, AIX, Linux

PageCatcher is a breakthrough technology for creating new PDF documents using existing PDF files. It can be used for a wide variety of purposes, from incorporating page templates and backgrounds into existing PDF documents, to powering form completion applications. PageCatcher is fully programmable and can be used alongside existing report solutions or combined with other ReportLab solutions with truly impressive results.
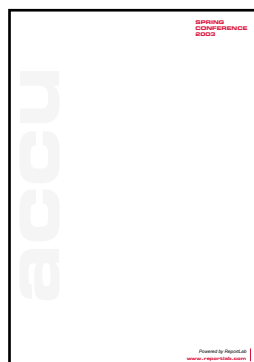
PageCatcher is available as part of the ReportLab Enterprise Solutions package and can also be licensed for integration into third-party products.

What can PageCatcher be used for?

PageCatcher allows you to re-use existing PDF files in any number of ways:

- Add covers, backgrounds and templates to PDF documents
- "Fill in" a form extracted from an existing PDF document, emitting the filled form as a stand alone PDF document
- Put new annotations on existing PDF pages, such as graphical logos, page numbers, or other text
- Select or reorder pages from PDF documents
- Append PDF documents and assemble document packs
- Reformat PDF documents for compact printing, 2 pages of input to each output page (2-up), or 4-up, or more
- Add thumbnails of other documents in your PDF
- Scale, rotate and control included templates, logos and annotations
- 'Stamp' Documents with comments such as "SAMPLE" and "DRAFT"

Example Use - Using background templates throughout your document

Step 1 - create a template   *Step 2 - produce content*   *Step 3 - pull them together*

To create these illustrations, we used PageCatcher to capture the pages and resize them - zoom in to take a closer look.

ReportLab

Features   Benefits

Be Creative

Allow editors and designers complete freedom to design covers and backgrounds	● Give stylistic control to designers ● Open up new possiblities for white labelling and personalizing PDF documents ● Separate design from content ● Re-use existing artwork and designs in creative ways
Incorporate Logos, Illustrations, Letterheads	● Use PageCatcher to import crisp, vector format graphics such as corporate logos into your reports and display them at any scale without loss of visual quality ● import engineering designs, cartoons, or other illustrations and artwork into your reports ● Create business letter templates, complete with carefully designed headers, footers and other graphical features, using any tool that emits PDF files, and use the templates in programs that automatically generate letters, memos, or other documents

Form-filling

Use PageCatcher as the engine for form-filling applications	● Public forms can be used exactly "as is", no need to re-draw them ● In-house forms can be designed in your favourite visual tool, exported to PDF and then PageCaught ● Optional use of form tags in Report Markup Language to mark up your forms making the process quick and easy
Volume form processing	● Can be used to generate hundreds of pages per hour in volume forms applications ● Put your forms and other documents into 'packs' complete with cover letters and other documents

High Performance

Built-in compression features	● Automatic compression to reduce file sizes ● Once Pagecaught, re-use multiple times with negligible impact on file size ● Supports "sharing" of repeated layout features between pages ● Repeated complex elements can be "stored" once and "reloaded" many times

Full Integration

Use as part of an applications pipeline	● Fully compatible with Report Markup Language (RML), ReportLab's encryption utility and our Open Source Toolkit ● Call PageCaught files simply and easily from RML ● Encrypt files containing PageCaught items

Fully programmable

Use scripts to manipulate PDF files in millions of different ways	● PageCatcher can be programmed to do batch processing on clients and servers ● Automate processes such as document assembly ● Create custom scripts to manipulate PDFs on the fly or as part of a batch process

Platform-independence

Desktop, server or embedded	● Deploy on all common server and desktop platforms
	● License as an embedded part for other applications
Windows XP, 2000, NT, 95, 98	● The same installation works seamlessly on all Win32 platforms
	● Unix and other installations share the same code base as Win32
	● Develop on a Windows Desktop and install on a Unix server
Mac OS 8.x, OS 9.x, OS X 10.x	● The Mac is the preferred platform of designers and publishers
	● Use the platform of your preference
	● Mix and match platforms for development testing and production
most variants of Unix, including Solaris, AIX, Linux	● No need for additional hardware purchases
	● No need for complicating your IT hardware landscape to add a reporting capability
	● Reduced training and administration costs

Who should use this?

- Web publishers creating rich, database-driven websites that are scalable, easy to maintain, and support multiple languages.
- Creative professionals developing asset management solutions and multimedia workflows.
- Businesses needing to rapidly develop flexible and scalable e-commerce solutions.

System Requirements

- There are no special hardware requirements.

The Making of...

These datasheets and white papers are, of course, generated from ReportLab's own software. Here's how we do it:

- we defined a little XML document type to hold the required information for product datasheets and white papers.
- we are then free to use many of the excellent XML editing tools such as XML Spy (www.xmlspy.com) to input the data. These check that the data complies with the required format as you type.
- we designed a template in a mixture of static RML and short dynamic expressions in our PREPPY preprocessor (much like JSP or ASP). This is compiled on first use (or whenever the design changes) into a program which can merge the dynamic input and create a "fully-expanded" RML document.

- drawings and charts come from our Diagra Charting and Graphics framework. As well as generating crisp vector drawings in PDF, Diagra can output EPS for professional publishing and bitmaps for the web.
- any "page miniatures" you see are brought in using our PageCatcher product, which lets us import existing content from other PDF documents. A single tag in the input tells it which page to load from which PDF. These are the exact pages from the sample application – zoom in and look! *(This does make the PDF files larger)*.
- RML2PDF then converts the fully expanded RML into a PDF document.

The program can be run on demand, but is also run on our web server each night to regenerate all the documents. And we could easily produce HTML versions from the original XML if we wished.

For More Information

For technical, sales or developer information, either contact the addresses below or send email to info@reportlab.com.

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