



Processor



Annotations



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Flatten Annotations in Linux



PSPDFKit Processor has been deprecated and replaced by [Document Engine](#). To migrate to Document Engine and unlock advanced document processing capabilities, refer to our migration guide. Learn more about these enhancements on our [blog](#).

Flattening is the process of embedding annotations in a PDF so that they can no longer be edited or removed. This leaves the visual representation of the annotations intact, but the annotations themselves are removed from the document.

Before you get started, make sure [Processor is up and running](#).

You can download and use either of the following sample documents for the examples in this guide:

- ✧ [Example eight-page PDF](#)
- ✧ [Example four-page PDF](#)

You'll be sending [multipart POST requests](#) with [instructions](#) to Processor's `/build` endpoint. To learn more about multipart requests, refer to our blog post on the topic, [A Brief Tour of Multipart Requests](#).

Check out the [API Reference](#) to learn more about the `/build` endpoint and all the actions you can perform on PDFs with PSPDFKit Processor.

To flatten a PDF document, apply the `flatten` action to the PDF part in the `/build` endpoint's instructions. This request merges the `document1` and `document2` files before flattening the annotations in the final output PDF.



ASK AI

```
1 curl -X POST http://localhost:5000/api/build \  
2   -F document1=@/path/to/example-document1.pdf \  
3   -F document2=@/path/to/example-document2.pdf \  
4   -F instructions='{  
5     "parts": [  
6       {  
7         "file": "document1"  
8       },  
9       {  
10        "file": "document2"  
11      }  
12    ],  
13    "actions": [  
14      {  
15        "type": "flatten"  
16      }  
17    ]  
18  }' \  
19    -o result.pdf
```



Flattening Specific Pages of a Document

Flattening is applied to all parts when it's specified in the outermost `actions` field. To flatten only a section of a document, split the document into multiple parts and flatten each part separately.

A part can be restricted to certain pages of a document. This way, you can flatten annotations only on the specified pages. The request below will flatten the first two pages of a four-page document with indexes from zero to four.

```
1 curl -X POST http://localhost:5000/api/build \  
2   -F document=@/path/to/example-document.pdf \  
3   -F instructions='{  
4     "parts": [  
5       {  
6         "file": "document",  
7         "pages": {  
8           "start": 0,  
9           "end": 1  
10        },  
11        "actions": [  
12          {  
13            "type": "flatten"
```



```
14     }
15   ]
16 },
17 {
18   "file": "document",
19   "pages": {
20     "start": 2,
21     "end": 3
22   }
23 }
24 ]
25 }' \
26 -o result.pdf
```

Was this helpful?

✓ YES

✗ NO

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