



Web



OCR



WEB &gt; GUIDES &gt; PSPDFKIT SERVER &gt; OCR

# Mastering OCR with Nutrient Document Engine



PSPDFKit Server 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](#).

This guide provides an overview of the OCR API and how to use it. For information on what OCR can do, please look [here](#).

## API overview

PSPDFKit Server allows you to perform OCR using the `performOcr` [document operation](#). This can be either applied directly on upload or used with existing documents.

## Running OCR on upload

You can run OCR when uploading your document by providing `performOcr` inside the `operations` parameter. For more information on running operations on document upload, see [here](#):

```
1 POST /api/documents
2 Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=customboundary
3 Authorization: Token token="<secret token>"
4
```



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```

5  --customboundary
6  Content-Disposition: form-data; name="operations"
7
8  {
9      operations: [
10         {
11             type: "performOcr",
12             language: "english",
13             pageIndexes: [0],
14         },
15     ],
16 }
17 --customboundary
18 Content-Disposition: form-data; name="file"; filename="Example Document.pdf"
19 Content-Type: application/pdf
20
21 <PDF data>
22 --customboundary--

```

## Applying OCR to existing documents

You can also run OCR on documents you have already uploaded by using the `apply_operations` endpoint:

```

1  POST /api/documents/:document_id/apply_operations
2  Content-Type: application/json
3  Authorization: Token token="<secret token>"
4
5  {
6      "operations": [
7          {
8              type: "performOcr",
9              language: "english",
10             pageIndexes: [0],
11          },
12      ]
13  }

```



## Performance considerations

Running OCR is a CPU-bound single-threaded operation. That means performing many parallel OCR operations on a single PSPDFKit Server instance can cause a high load for extended periods of time. We did some performance testing using our development hardware (2.4 GHz 8-core Intel Core i9

9980HK, 32 GB RAM, running a single OCR operation at a time), which should give you an idea of what kinds of speed you can expect given your server infrastructure:

- ✧ Running OCR on a 6-page document: ~35–40 seconds to run OCR on the entire document, ~6–11 seconds to run OCR on a single page.
- ✧ Running OCR on a 1-page document: ~3–4 seconds to run OCR on the page.

Things that affect how fast OCR will be performed:

- ✧ The amount of pages in the document.
- ✧ The amount of pages OCR will be performed on.
- ✧ The content of the pages OCR will be performed on.
- ✧ The single-threaded performance of your server hardware.

Was this helpful?

☒ YES

☐ NO

Questions? [Contact us](#)

