



Web



Import and export



WEB &gt; GUIDES &gt; PSPDFKIT SERVER &gt; IMPORT AND EXPORT

# How to import and export instant JSON annotations



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](#).

You can import and export annotations from documents you've uploaded to PSPDFKit Server. One of the supported formats for this is [Instant JSON](#). This guide explains how to import and export annotations in the Instant JSON format.

## Exporting Instant JSON

You can export the current annotations of a document as an Instant JSON file via a `GET` request to `/api/documents/:document_id/document.json`. To get the current annotations of a layer, send a `GET` request to `/api/documents/:document_id/layers/:layer_name/document.json`:

### Request

```
1 GET /api/documents/:document_id/document.json
2 Authorization: Token token="<secret token>"
```



ASK AI

```
1 $ curl "http://localhost:5000/api/documents/abc/document.json" \  
2 -H "Authorization: Token token=<secret token>"
```



## Response

```
1 HTTP/1.1 200 OK  
2 Content-Type: application/json  
3  
4 <JSON data>
```



# Importing Instant JSON

PSPDFKit Server supports importing annotations from an Instant JSON file when uploading a document via the `/api/documents` endpoint. Send a `multipart/form-data` `POST` request, including the PDF and the Instant JSON file, to import the annotations in the given PDF file. This will replace all existing annotations in the uploaded PDF with the annotations from the uploaded Instant JSON file. If you want to add annotations to already existing ones instead of replacing them, you can set

`keep_current_annotations` to `true`:

## Request

```
1 POST /api/documents  
2 Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=customboundary  
3 Authorization: Token token="<secret token>"  
4  
5 --customboundary  
6 Content-Disposition: form-data; name="file"; filename="Example Document.pdf"  
7 Content-Type: application/pdf  
8  
9 <PDF data>  
10 --customboundary  
11 Content-Disposition: form-data; name="attachment"; filename="attachment.json"  
12 Content-Type: application/json  
13  
14 <annotations data>  
15 --customboundary
```



# Importing Instant JSON on existing documents

PSPDFKit Server supports importing annotations from an Instant JSON file on an existing document via three different endpoints:

- ❖ `POST /apply_instant_json` receives an `instant.json` file and updates the document in place using the `instant.json` file.
- ❖ `POST /pdf_with_instant_json` receives an `instant.json` file and responds with the resulting PDF of the document/layer and the imported `instant.json`.
- ❖ `POST /copy_with_instant_json` can optionally receive an `instant.json` file and will persist the resulting PDF of the document/layer and the imported `instant.json` file as a new document. The JSON response will include the `document_id` of the document.

Was this helpful?

☒ YES

☐ NO

Questions? [Contact us](#)

