PDF2DTP® for QuarkXPress® Manual

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PDF2DTP® for QuarkXPress® Manual

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PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress System Requirements

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Mac System Requirements

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Mac is available in two versions, each version being sold separately:
1. PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress 9 Mac
2. PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress 8 Mac

In order to run your version of PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress you will need at least the minimum specifications Quark requires to run that version of QuarkXPress.

In addition, Markzware products are only officially supported in Mac OS X 10.6 and higher. While PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress may run in older versions of the Mac OS, Markzware's development environment will no longer support these older operating systems and bugs specifically related to these older Operating Systems will not be fixed.

System Requirements Summary:
- **Mac OS X 10.6 or higher**
- **A valid license for QuarkXPress®**
- **Internet connection to activate and register PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress**
- **Quark recommended hardware requirements to run your version of QuarkXPress**

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Win System Requirements

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Win is available in two versions, each version being sold separately:
1. PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress 9 Win
2. PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress 8 Win

In order to run your version of PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress you will need at least the minimum specifications Quark requires to run that version of QuarkXPress. Please note that Markzware does not support Windows versions before Win XP SP/3.

System Requirements Summary:
- **Win XP SP/3 or Win 7**
- **A valid license for QuarkXPress®**
- **Internet connection to activate and register PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress**
- **Quark recommended hardware requirements to run your version of QuarkXPress**

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Installation

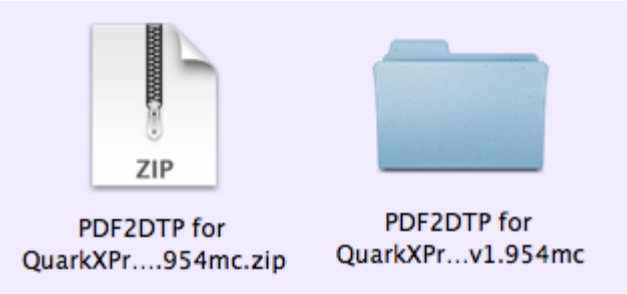
PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Installation on Mac

Important Note: *This manual describes how to install the latest version of PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress 9. You may have purchased PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress 8. The Installation process for QuarkXPress 8 is the same as for QuarkXPress 9 except the Installer is named for QuarkXPress 8 and where you select to install will need to reflect where QuarkXPress 8 is installed. Please use this manual as a guide and not as a verbatim step by step guide.*

PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress ZIP File

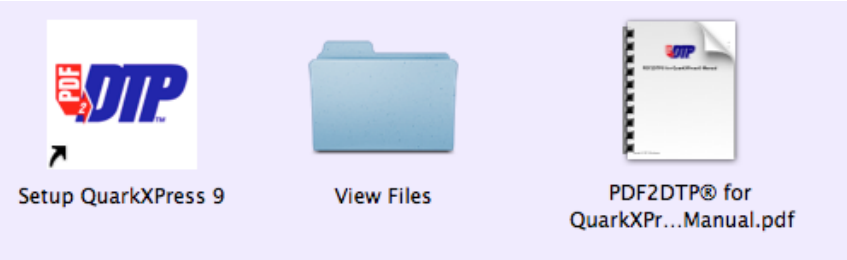
When you have completed your download of PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress you will have a **zip file** that needs to be decompressed.

PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress Decompressed ZIP File



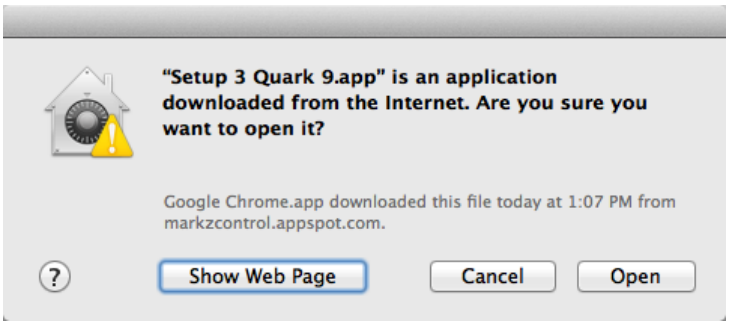
On most Macs you can simply double-click on the PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress zip file and this will produce a folder. Double-click on this folder to reveal the PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress Installer.

PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress Installer



Double-click on the Setup icon to start the PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress installation process.

Application Downloaded From Internet



On many Macs the security settings are set to warn you if you are trying to run an application downloaded from the internet. You can change these settings on your Mac under the Preferences/Security area (it is safest to leave this warning on as a prevention for malicious apps you may accidentally download while surfing the net).

Click on the Open button to open up the Setup PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Installer application.

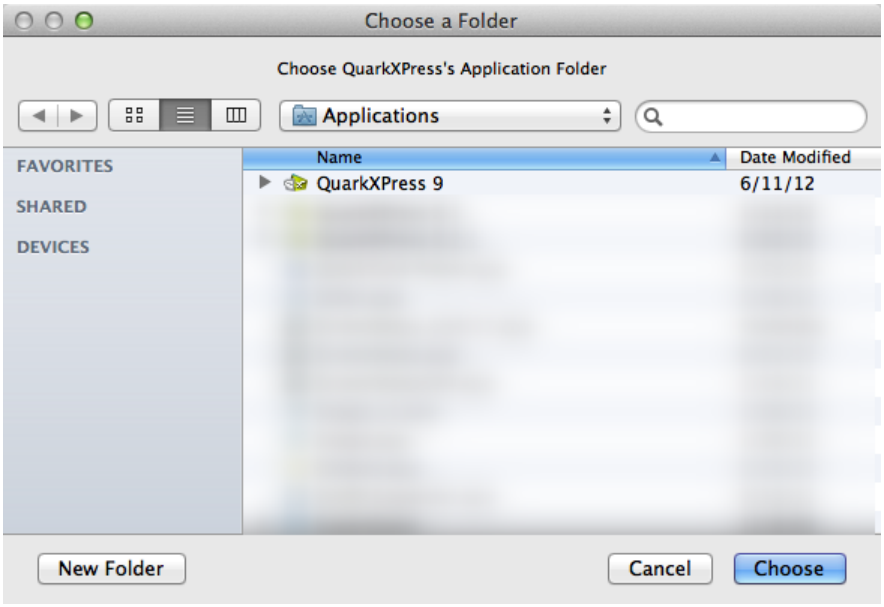
Most likely due to the above warning, you will see the Setup QuarkXPress **icon bouncing in your Dock.** If nothing is happening, please check your Dock and if the Setup QuarkXPress icon is bouncing, Click on it to continue with the PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress installation process.

PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress Setup Window

The Setup application has three buttons:

1. **Cancel** - clicking Cancel will Close the Setup Quark application and PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress will not be installed
2. **Install** - clicking Install will proceed with the PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress installation
3. **Remove** - clicking Remove will proceed with removal of existing installations of PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress 9

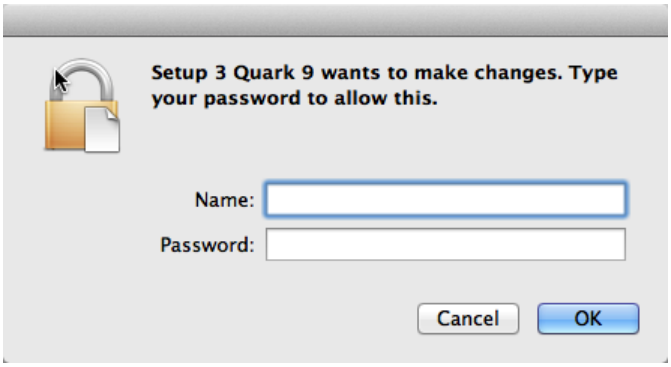
PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress - Select QuarkXPress Folder



After clicking the Install button you will asked to find your QuarkXPress 9 Application folder.

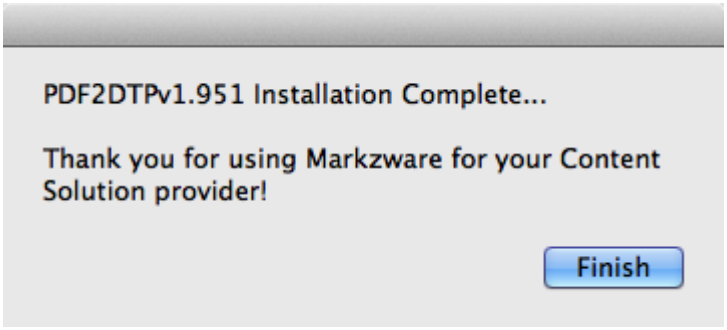
Once you have located the folder, click on it once to highlight it and then click on the Choose button to proceed with installation.

PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress - Asking For Password



Installing PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress requires you enter in your Password as PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress will be adding items to your Applications folder. Type in your User Name and Password and then click on the OK button.

PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress - Installation Complete



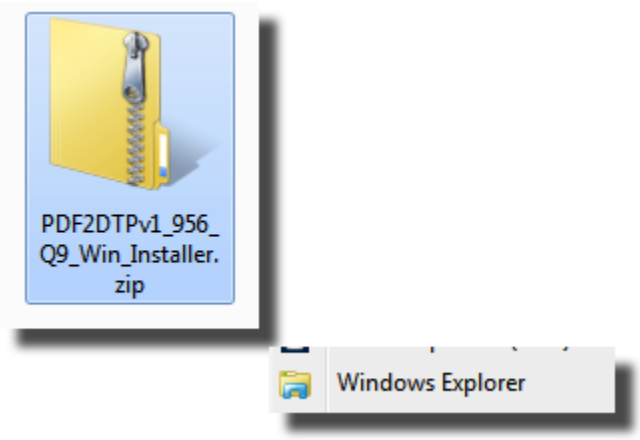
Once the PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress XTension has been installed you will see a confirmation screen. Click on the Finish button to close the screen.

You are now ready to start up QuarkXPress 9 and Activate and Register PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Installation on Win

Important Note: *This manual describes how to install the latest version of PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress 9. You may have purchased PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress 8. The Installation process for QuarkXPress 8 is the same as for QuarkXPress 9 except the Installer is named for QuarkXPress 8 and where you select to install will need to reflect where QuarkXPress 8 is installed. Please use this manual as a guide and not as a verbatim step by step guide.*

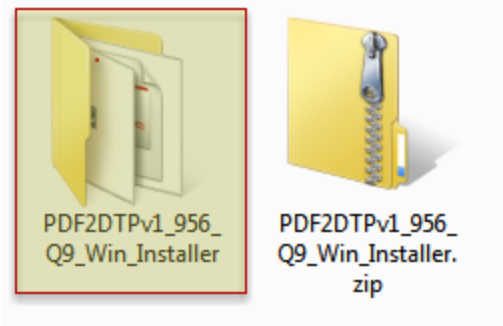
PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress ZIP File



When you download PDF2DTP you will receive a ZIP file. Double-click on the ZIP file to decompress it.

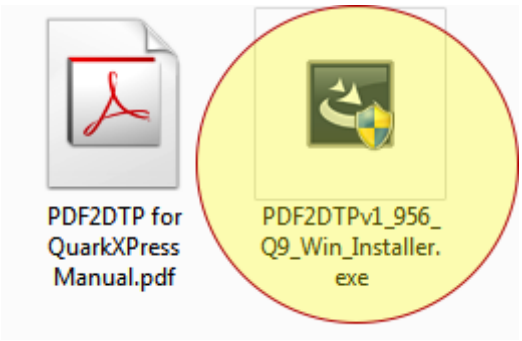
IMPORTANT NOTE* -** If you receive a checksum error message when trying to decompress the PDF2DTP ZIP file, use **Windows Explorer** to decompress the file.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Installer Folder



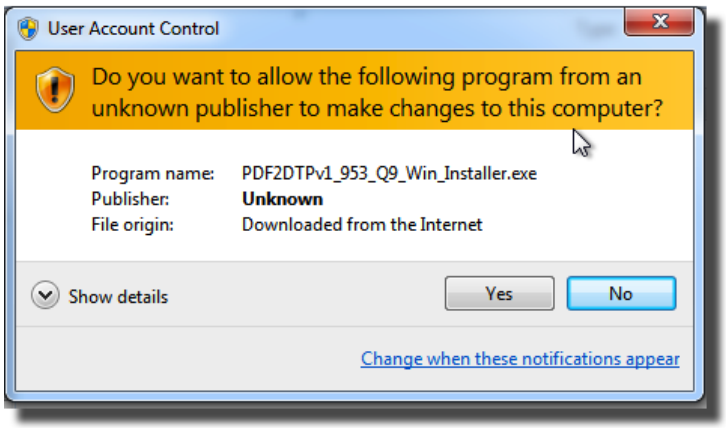
When you decompress the PDF2DTP ZIP file you will wind up with a folder. Double-click the folder to open it.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Installer and Manual

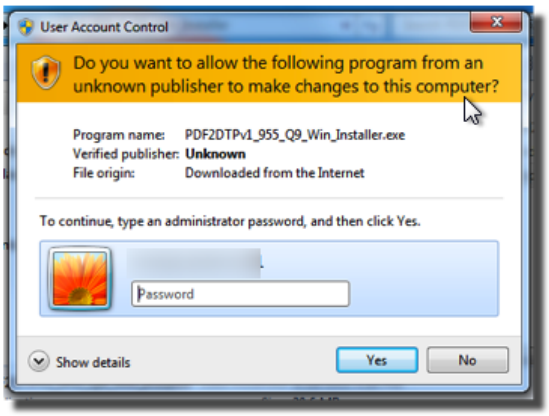


In the PDF2DTP Installer folder you will find the PDF2DTP Installer for QuarkXPress. Double-click on the Installer .exe file to begin the Installation process.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Permission or Password



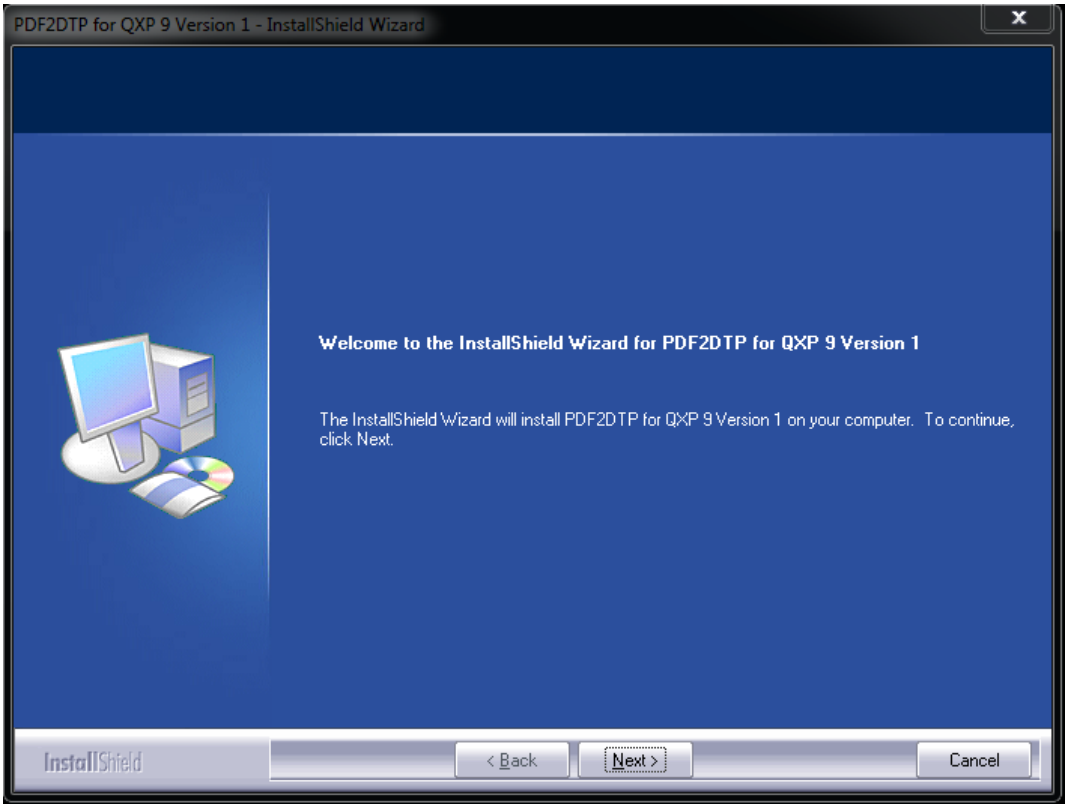
Admin Account



Non-Admin Account

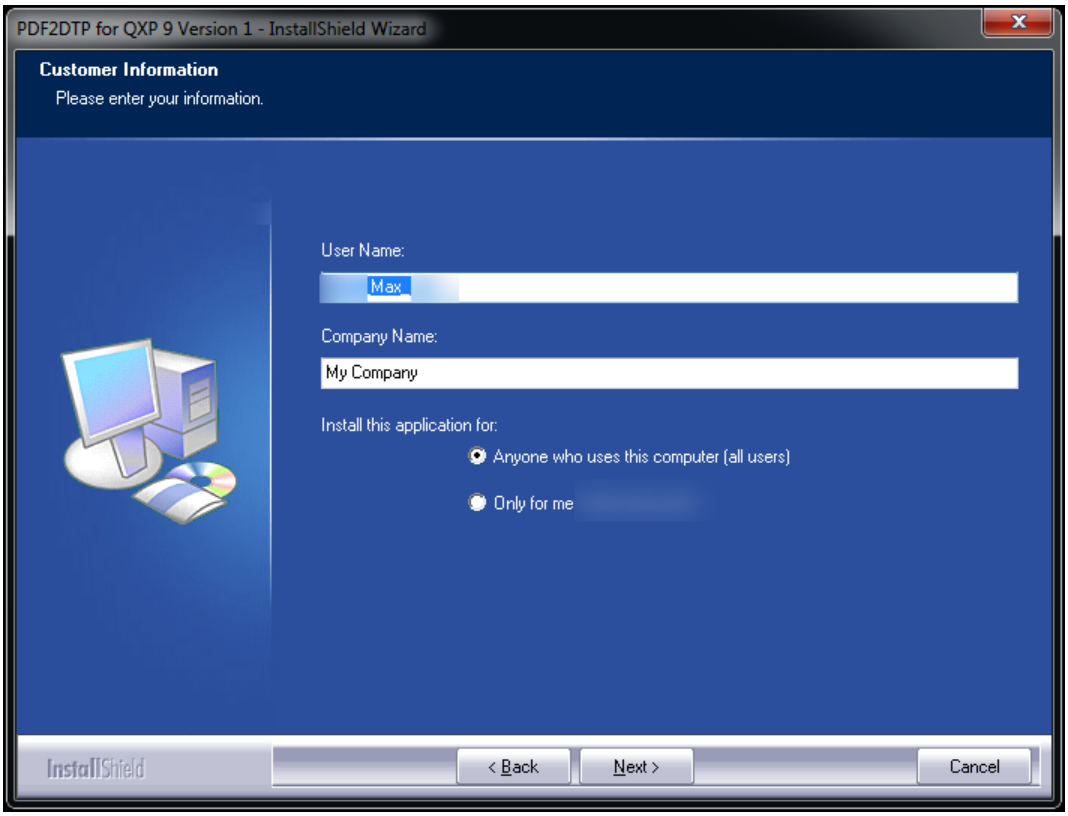
When you first run the PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress installer you may see a User Account Control window. This window will differ depending on whether you are logged into an Admin or a Non-Admin account.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Welcome Install Screen



Click on the Next button to continue with the install.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress User/Company Name

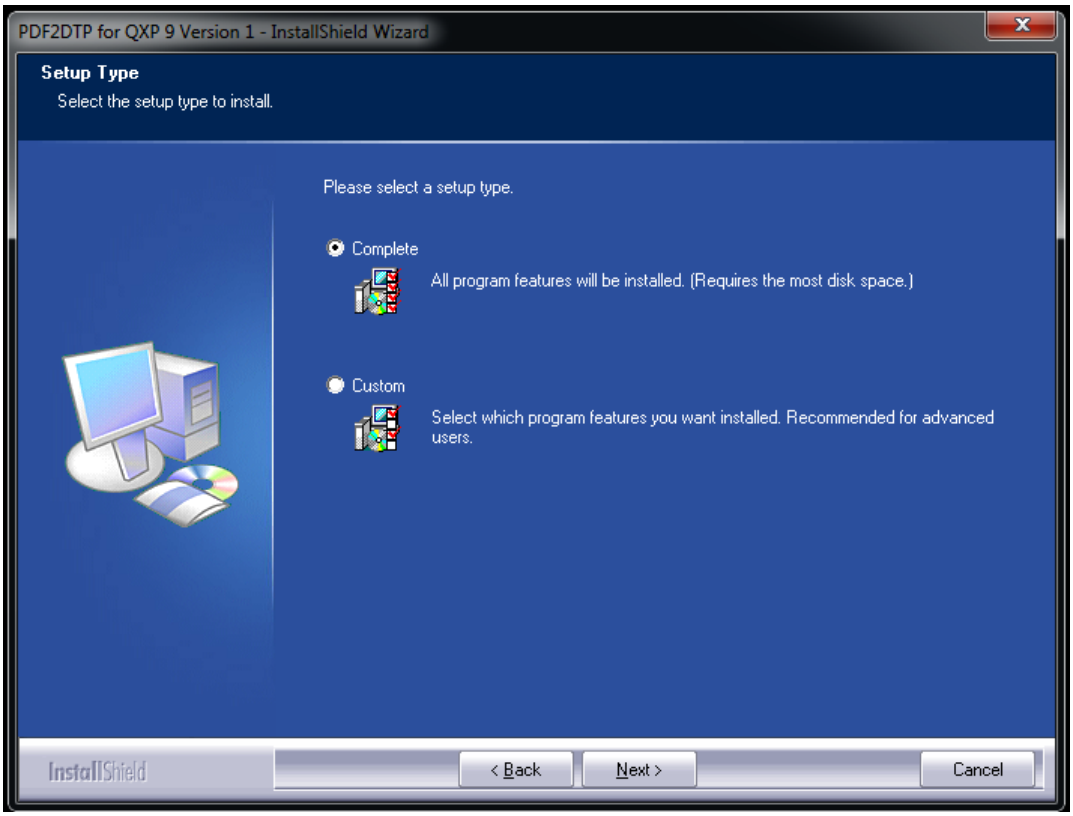


Your User Name will automatically be filled in based on the name of your computer or account.

For Company Name, type in the name of your Company. If you do not work for a company, you can leave the default of My Company.

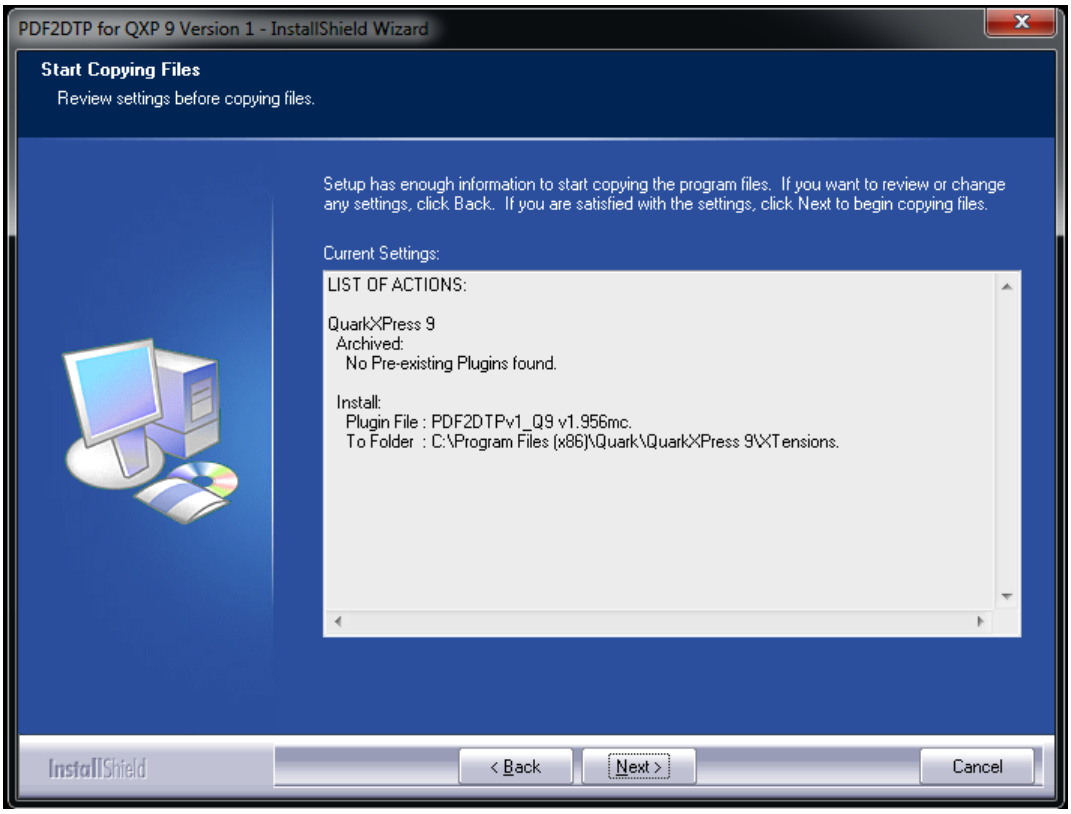
Install this application for: - By default "Anyone who uses this computer (all users)" is selected. Unless you want to restrict PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress to just your account, leave the default value for all users enabled.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Setup Type



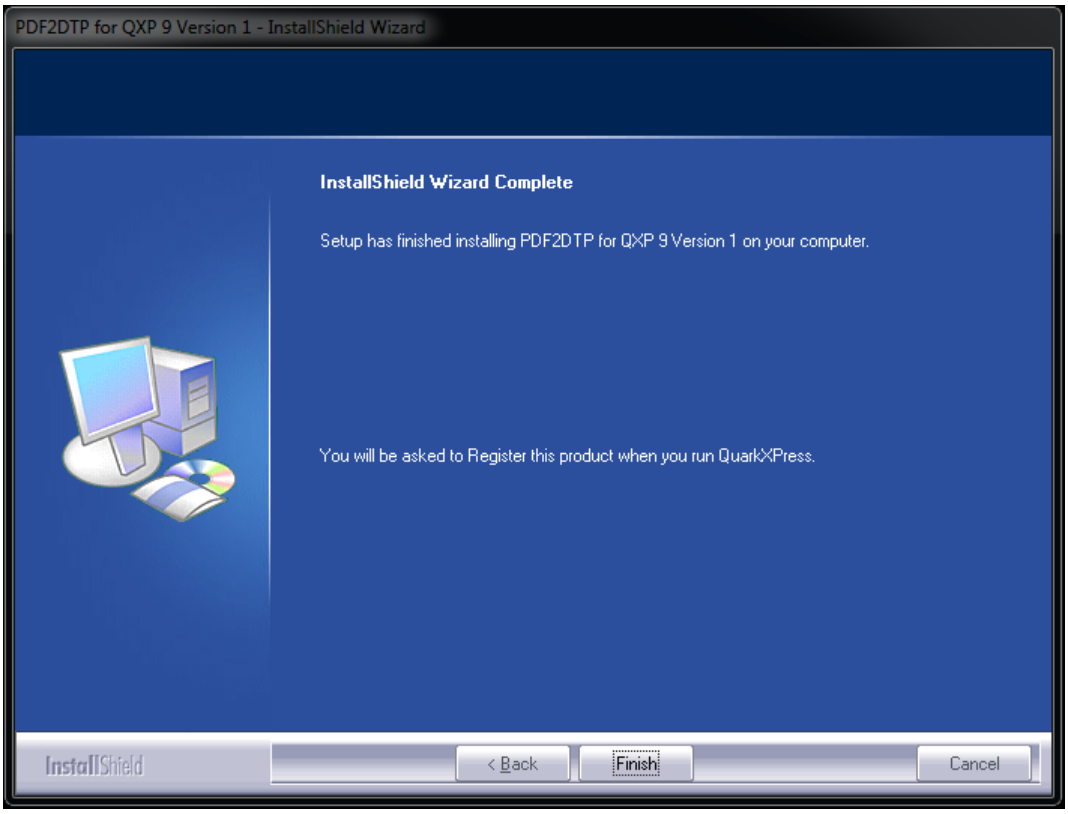
Unless instructed by Markzware Tech Support, you should select the Complete install type.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Review



The installer will present a Review window that will show you where the PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress XTension will be installed.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Installation Complete



Click the Finish button to close the PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Installer.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Activation

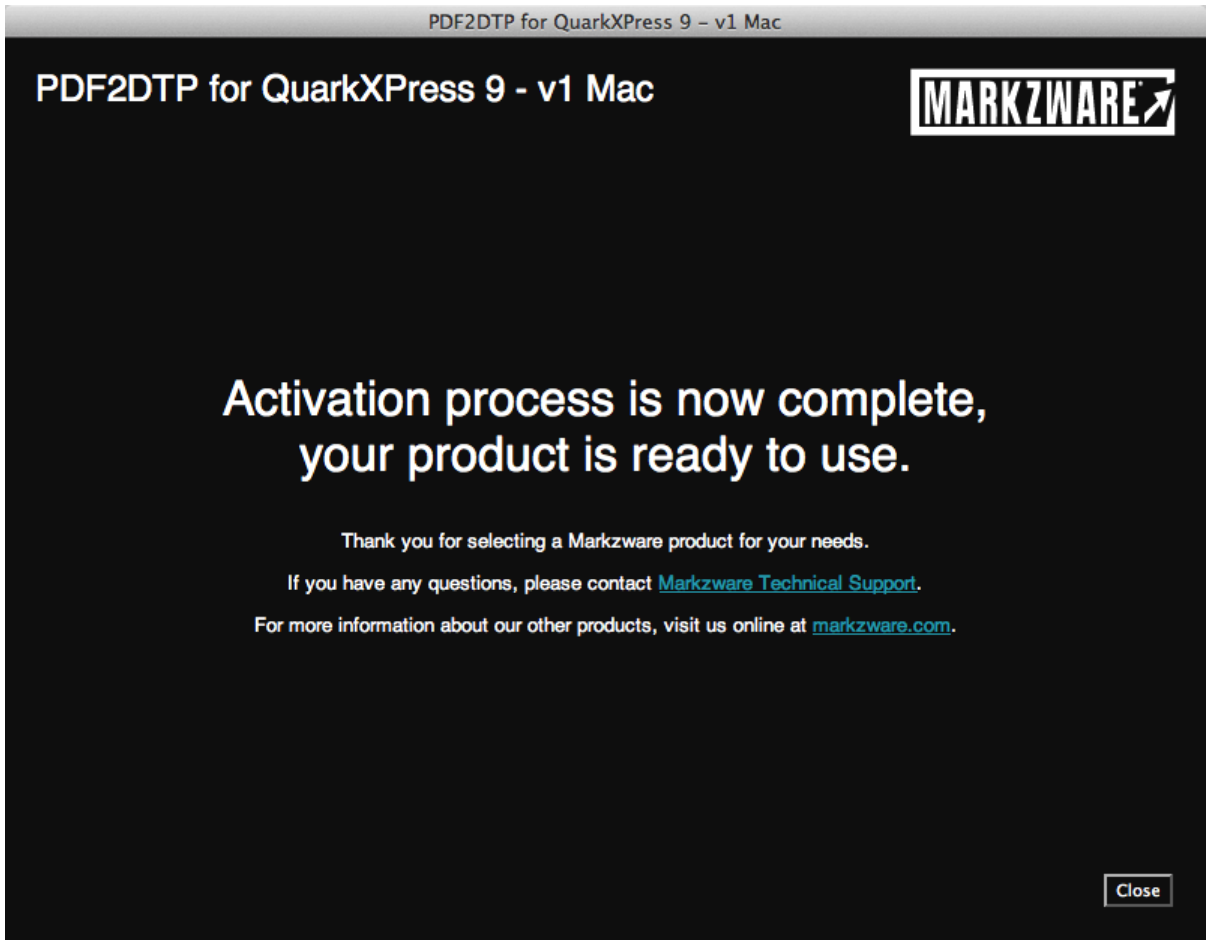
PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Successful Activation

Important Note: While the screen shots in this section show a Successful Activation on a Mac, the same screens will appear on Windows versions of PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress as well. Please use this section as a guide as there may be differences in the look and feel of screens due to operating system differences and the version of PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress you are activating.

Start Up QuarkXPress

After you have installed PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress, start up QuarkXPress

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Activation



The very first time you start up QuarkXPress after installing PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress, the XTension will attempt to contact Markzware's License Server and activate your product. This should be a fairly transparent process. If the XTension is able to contact the License Server, then you will be activated.

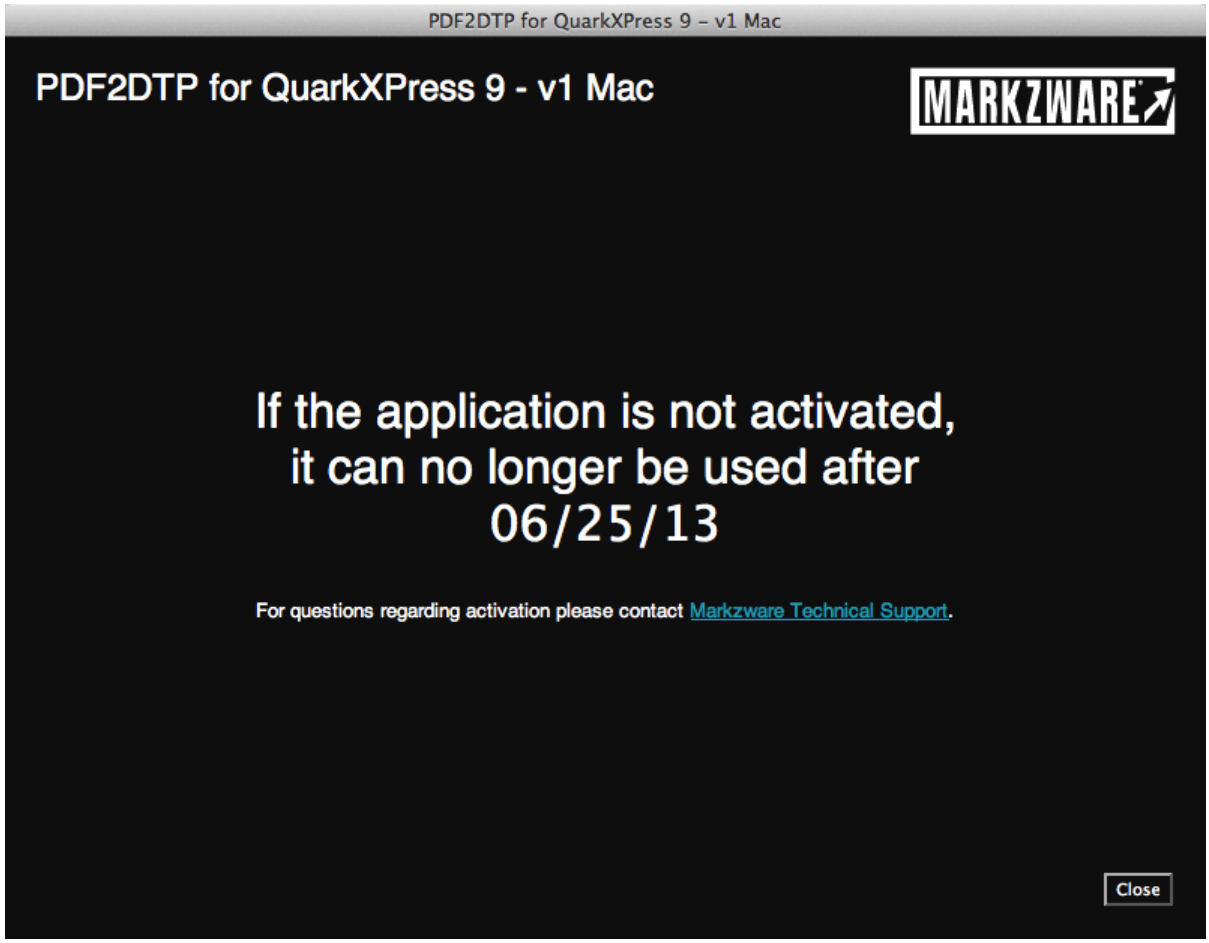
Click on the Close button to dismiss this screen and start using PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress. At this time you should also have the PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Registration Screen visible as well. Please fill out the Registration form before starting to use PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress.

Should you have any issues we have provided links on the Activation Complete screen to contact Markzware Tech Support.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Failed Activation

Important Note: While the screen shots in this section show a Successful Activation on a Mac, the same screens will appear on Windows versions of PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress as well. Please use this section as a guide as there may be differences in the look and feel of screens due to operating system differences and the version of PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress you are activating.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Non-Activated Product



The above is a reminder screen to Activate your product. If for any reason PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress was unable to reach our License Server, you can still run the product, but every time you start up QuarkXPress you will presented with the above screen reminding you that you must **take action by the specified date**.

VERY IMPORTANT!!!--- If you do not Activate PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress by the date listed on your screen, **YOU WILL LOSE YOUR LICENSE AND NEED TO REPURCHASE PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress**.

If you continuously see this window, you need to contact Markzware Tech Support or Sales and get this issue cleared up. Otherwise after the specified date, you are out of luck. For all standard software, this grace period is long enough and should be annoying enough that you will take action and contact Markzware well before the expiration date arrives.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Registration

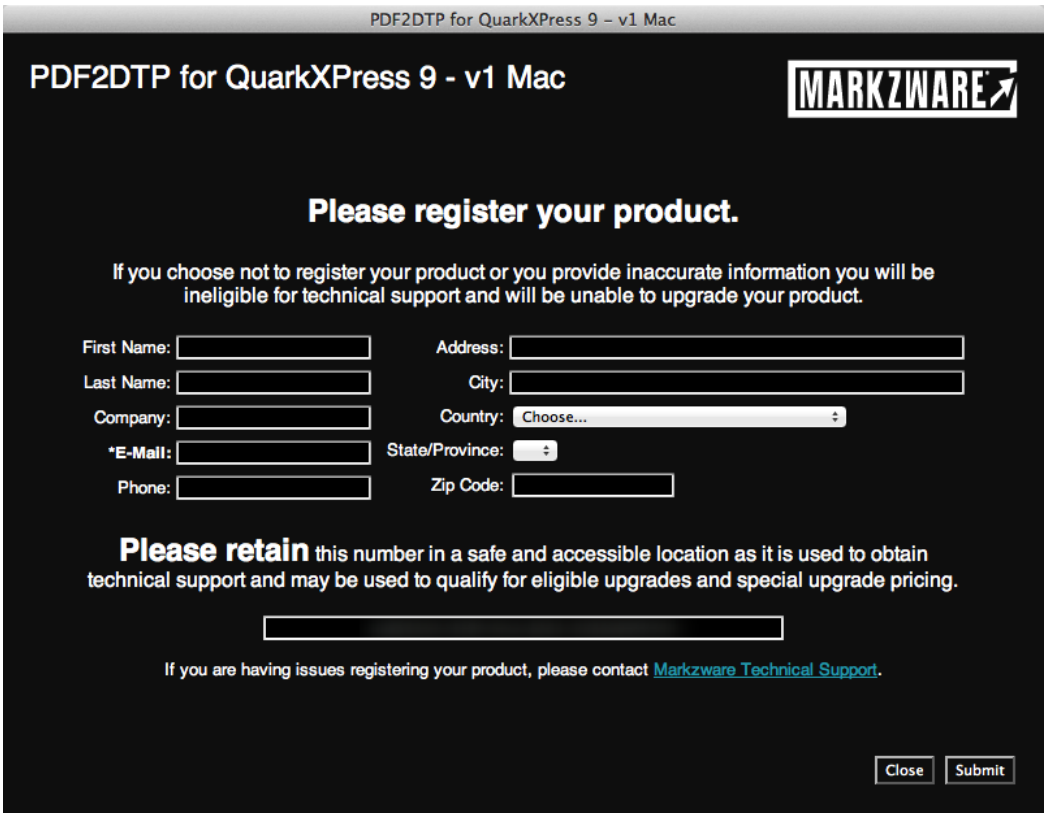
PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Registration

Why should you register your software?

1. If you are not Registered you may be denied Tech Support as we do not know who you are.
2. If you are not Registered and we run any special promo deals for PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress users, you will not qualify as we won't know who you are or how to contact you.

Important Note: While the screen shots in this section show the Registration screens on a Mac, the same screens will appear on Windows versions of PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress as well. Please use this section as a guide as there may be differences in the look and feel of screens due to operating system differences and the version of PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress you are activating.

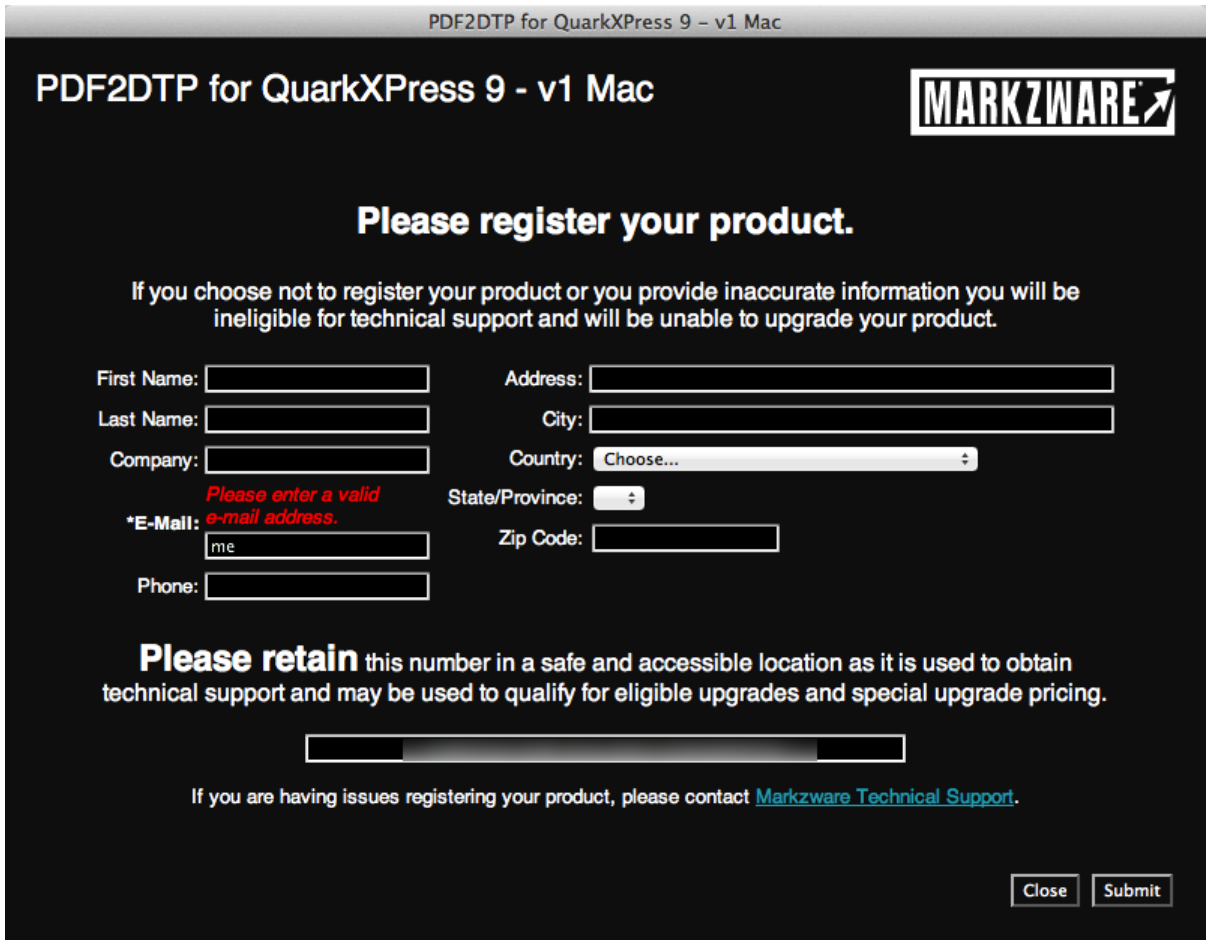
PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Registration Screen



Please register your version of PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress. The importance of this cannot be emphasized enough.

Should you refuse to register your product, and contact us for Tech Support, since we have no record of who you are, we will be unable to help you.

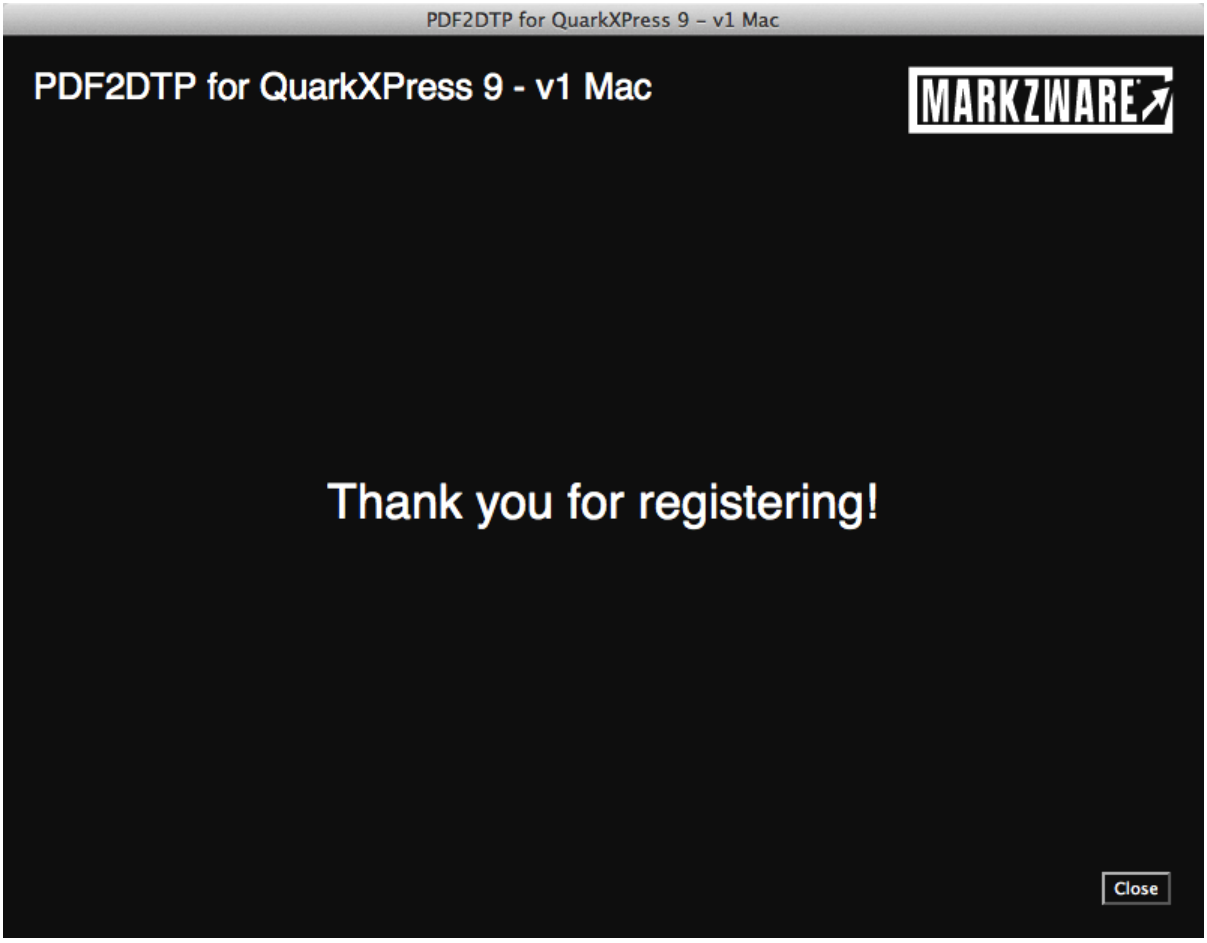
PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Registration Required Field



Although your email address is the only required field to register PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress, it is strongly suggested you at least provide your Name and a phone number as well.

Better yet, why not fill out the full form. You purchased the software license, why not make sure that it is tied to you and your proper contact info.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Thank You For Registering



Once you have successfully submitted your PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Registration form you will receive a Thank You screen. Click on the Close button to dismiss this screen. At this point you are ready to start using PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress.

What is PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress?

About PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress

PDF (Portable Document Format) is an open standard for document exchange. This file format created by Adobe Systems in 1993 is used for representing documents in a manner independent of application software, hardware, and operating systems. Each PDF file encapsulates a complete description of a fixed-layout flat document, including the text, fonts, graphics, and other information needed to display it.

PDF2DTP is an extremely valuable utility that converts a PDF to an editable application document. If for example you discover you have lost your original document and only have a PDF you can convert that PDF back into a document thus saving a lot of time it would otherwise take to re-create the document from scratch by hand. However, the conversion may not be able to exactly reproduce the original document 100%. There are several limitations of which you need to become aware (see the full list at the end of this manual).

It helps to always keep in mind that a PDF is basically a “drawing” which is comprised of various commands that instruct the printer, or screen display, to move to a specific location on the page and draw text, images and shapes. Because this process can be quite complex the conversion software often needs to make an “educated guess” as to how to convert the drawing commands back into document objects. Needless to say, the end-result may not be a completely satisfactory conversion in which case you will no doubt need to make some manual changes.

A PDF contains specific information in order to render the fonts and images on the computer screen or to print to paper. For example, a PDF may use text characters (called “glyphs”) which are comprised of drawing commands that enable the character shapes to be drawn or printed, but the actual characters may not be defined as valid Unicode values and so a conversion to an actual story may not even be possible. For example, a Type0 font may consist of little “pictures” such as a company logo. You install the font and then type say the letter “A” and the logo will appear. However, the PDF only defines the “character” as a number which is an index into the drawing commands list. In turn the PDF Reader, or printer, fetches the commands and renders the character. Therefore a proper conversion to text will fail because it is not possible to know which “letter” was originally typed.

A PDF is often generated with embedded fonts so that it can be displayed or printed on any platform. However, if the fonts are missing or not activated in your System at the time of conversion then the document created by the conversion will have certain limitations and of course various text flow problems.

A PDF often contains images that have no link information to the original file. Such images may also be down-sampled (lower resolution) and this poses a problem if you intend to create a document and would like to use the original hi-res images.

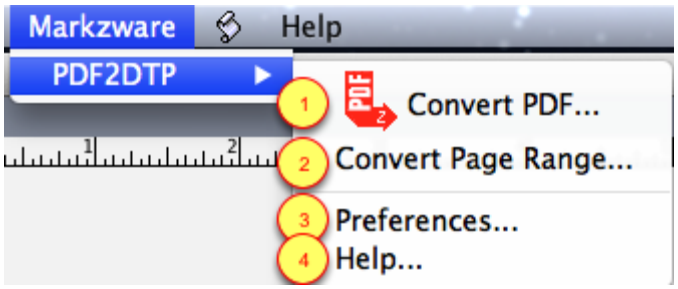
Therefore, the actual goal isn’t necessarily to obtain a 100% conversion back to the original document. Instead, the goal is to convert the PDF data as best as is physically possible in order to save time and prevent having to suffer by re-creating the document from scratch by hand. If you do run into any conversion problems, please feel free to contact Markzware Technical support so that we can learn how to improve the software and provide the best conversion solutions for your needs.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Menu and Preferences

Accessing PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress

Important Note: While the screen shots in this section show the PDF2DTP Menu items on a Mac, the same screens will appear on Windows versions of PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress as well. Please use this section as a guide as there may be differences in the look and feel of screens due to operating system differences and the version of PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress you are activating.

The PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Menu



Once PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress has been properly installed and activated you will see a new menu in QuarkXPress called Markzware. Under the Markzware menu you will see the PDF2DTP menu. Following is an overview of each menu item:

1. **Convert PDF…** - This menu item allows you to select and convert a PDF file. All pages in the PDF file will be converted. The settings used will be the currently set values under the Preferences area.
2. **Convert Page Range…** - This menu item allows you to select a PDF file to convert, but it also allows you to specify a range of pages to convert. The settings used will be the currently set values under the Preferences area
3. **Preferences…** - This menu item will bring up the PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Preferences window where you can set certain parameters and options for the conversion of PDF files
4. **Help…** - This menu item will bring up a help/about window

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Help… Menu Item

When you select the Help… menu item you will be presented with a small window that contains several things:

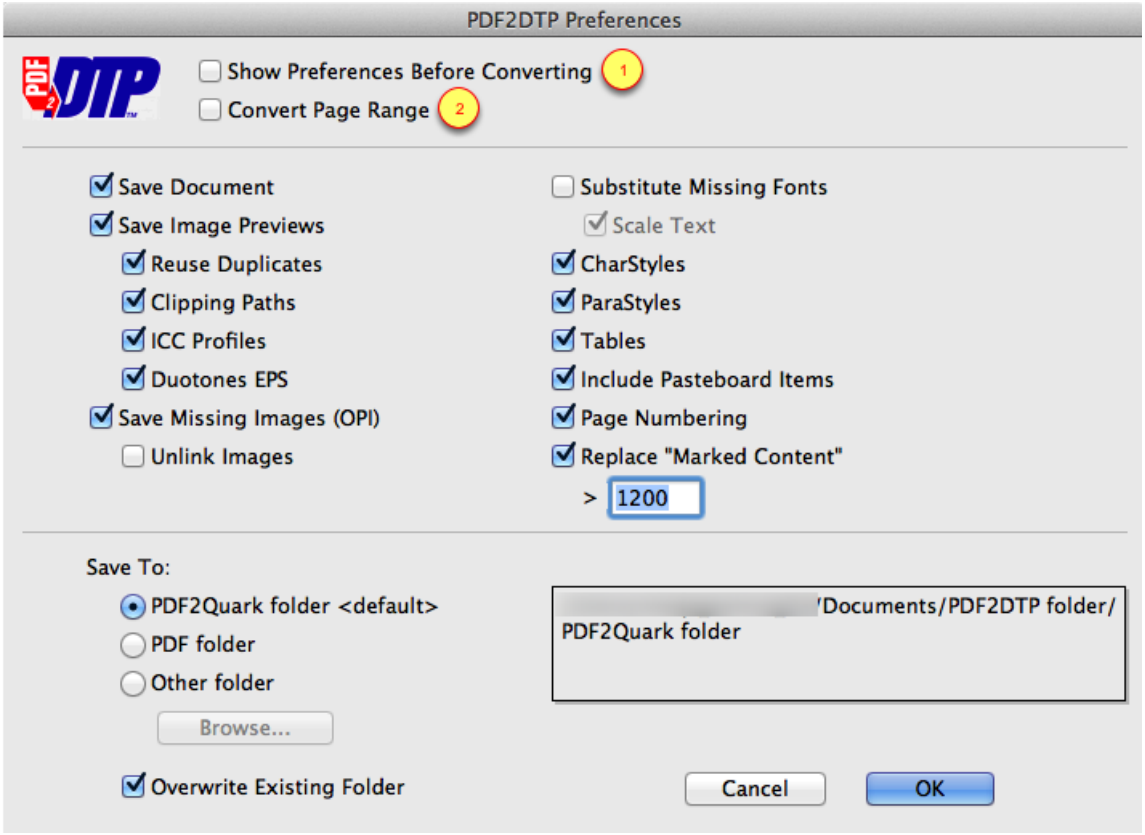
1. The version number of PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress you are running. This version will be asked for should you contact Tech Support.
2. Link to the PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress online manual. Clicking this will open up your default web browser and take you to the online PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress manual.
3. Link to the Markzware Tech Support Request Form. Clicking on this will open up your default web browser and take you to the Markzware Online Technical Support Form. The form should have your License ID pre-pasted in to save you some time.

***Note - A PDF version of the PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress manual is included as part of your initial download

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Preferences

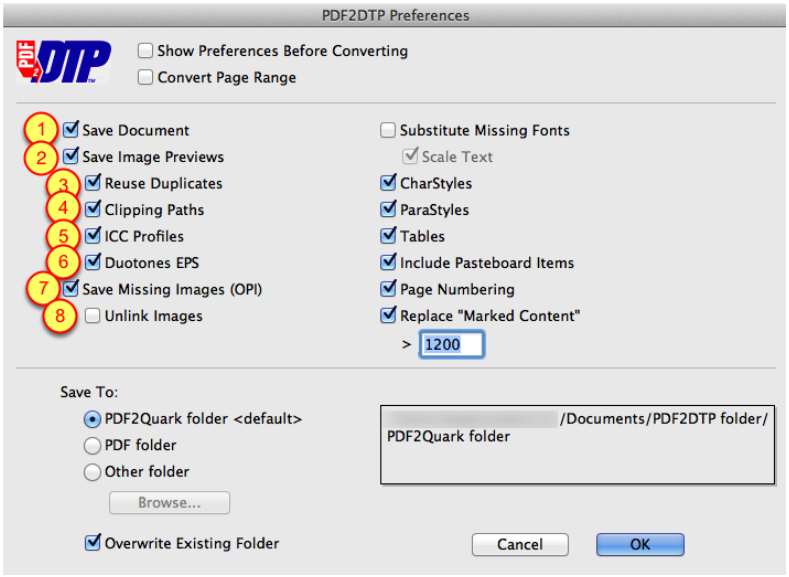
Important Note: While the screen shots in this section show the PDF2DTP Preferences on a Mac, the same screens will appear on Windows versions of PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress as well. Please use this section as a guide as there may be differences in the look and feel of screens due to operating system differences and the version of PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress you are activating.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress General Preferences



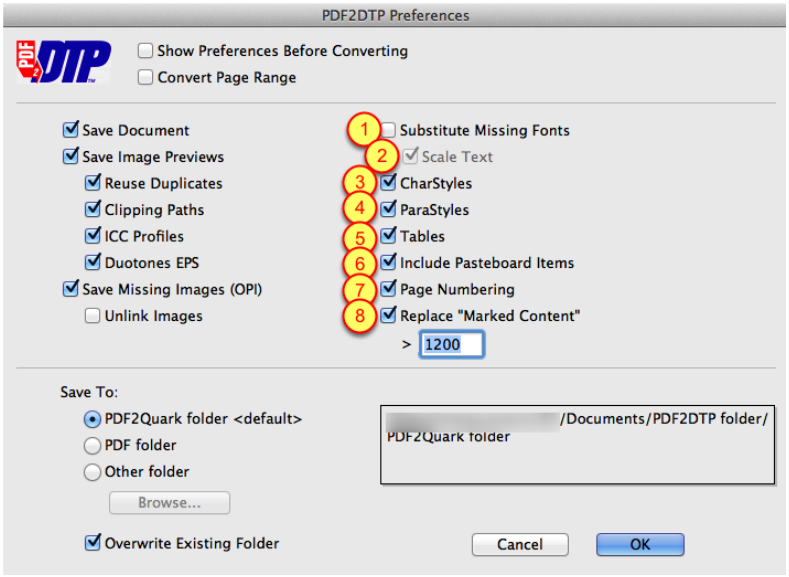
1. Select the **"Show Preferences Before Conversion"** checkbox in order to display the Preferences window prior to the conversion process. This may be annoying and slow you down, so by default this is disabled. When disabled, the current settings will be used for conversion of a PDF file.
2. Select the **"Convert Page Range"** checkbox to be prompted for the start and end page numbers prior to the conversion process.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Document Settings Preferences



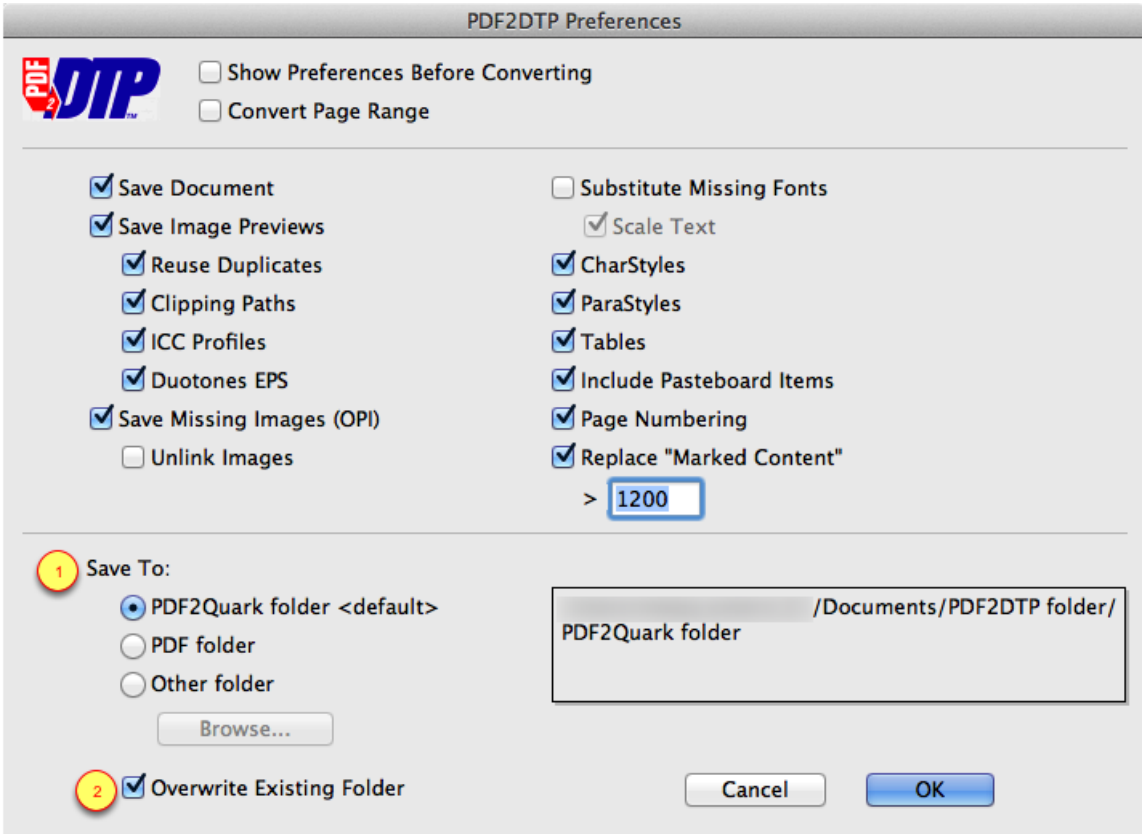
1. Select the **"Save Document"** checkbox to automatically save your new document to the designated conversion folder upon the completion of the conversion.
2. Select the **"Save Image Previews"** checkbox to save the image previews in the PDF to the conversion folder, otherwise the previews will have no link (similar to a pasted PICT). Since these images have no known pathname they will be given names such as "Image09-p03.tif" (where the last number is the page number on which the picture box resides).
3. Select the **"Reuse Duplicates"** checkbox to save only one image preview file if there are any duplicates in which case each occurrence of the preview in the document will use the same file. This preference is useful because it can speed up the conversion process especially when the same large preview is used on multiple pages. The drawback is the file name will be formed by using the page number of the ***first occurrence*** of the preview in the document with a plus sign ("+") appended to the preview file name.
4. Select the **"Clipping Paths"** checkbox to save the Clipping Path in the preview file.
5. Select the **"ICC Profiles"** checkbox to save an ICC Profile, if defined in the PDF, to the preview file.
6. Select the **"Duotones EPS"** checkbox to save the image preview to a Duotone EPS if the color space is defined as DeviceN and uses Spot (named) colors (i.e. "PANTONE 123 C").
7. Select the **"Save Missing Images (OPI)"** checkbox to create a file in the conversion folder for a missing image which has a known name. This allows you to eventually update the images upon locating the originals.
8. **"Unlink Images"** is related to the Save Image Previews and the Save Missing Images (OPI) preferences. If a PDF contains an image path (i.e., OPI data) and PDF2DTP can locate that image, it will link to it. If no OPI data is present in the PDF, or the image pointed to by OPI data cannot be found, then, if Save Image Previews is unchecked, the image will be listed with a Status of No Disk File under the Usage window. If Save Image Previews is checked, then PDF2DTP will attempt to create a preview image and name it using the following format: Image01-p01.tif, where Image01 represents the number of the image on a page and p01 represents the page in the document where the image is located.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Font Settings Preferences



1. Select the **"Substitute Missing Fonts"** checkbox to substitute missing fonts with the application's default font. Leave this item unchecked if you eventually plan on locating and activating missing fonts. For QuarkXPress the font will be from the "Normal" character style. You can set the application default font by editing the style when no documents are open in QuarkXPress. When the conversion is complete the application will display a list of missing fonts at which time you can change fonts as desired, or you can edit the style sheets at any time in the future. **Note** that switching fonts may cause a different or undesirable text flow. This is due to the fact that the calculations for the text attributes are based on the info contained in the PDF for the original fonts.
2. Select the **"Scale Text"** checkbox to scale the text using a substituted font (usually horizontally) so that characters closely match their original positions. Using this option may dramatically slow down the conversion process as it is a very computationally intense operation. You may want to use this option on ranges of pages instead of entire documents.
3. Select the **"CharStyles"**checkbox to add Character Styles to your application. This will allow you to easily make global changes to your text.
4. Select the **"ParaStyles"** checkbox to add Paragraph Styles to your application which will likewise allow you to make global changes to your text.
5. Select the **"Tables"** checkbox to convert Tables. Leaving this preference unchecked will convert the document using separate lines and text boxes.
6. Select the **"Include Pasteboard Items"** checkbox to include any items that when converted reside on the Pasteboard area completely off the page, such as registration marks and targets, etc.
7. When **"Page Numbering"** is selected, PDF2DTP will look for small text boxes with text equal to a Page Number and will then replace the text in the box with QuarkXPress's AutoPage Marker. This will make editing the document easier, as you can now rearrange pages without having to manually renumber them.
8. Select the "**Replace 'Marked Content'"** checkbox to ignore a large quantity of small objects. For example, when a complex Illustrator drawing is placed in a document the generated PDF could contain a large number of small drawings which makes editing the document slow and cumbersome. In this case, choose this preference and a gray box will be created that will serve as a "place holder" so that you can eventually locate your drawing file and replace the box.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Save To Preferences



1. Under **"Save To:"** choose the desired radio button to set the location of the conversion folder. The "**PDF2Quark folder <default>"** location will be in the Users:Documents folder. Select "**PDF Folder"** to use the folder in which the original PDF resides. Select "**Other Folder"** and then click the **Browse** button to locate and choose a different destination folder.
2. Select the **"Overwrite Existing Folder"** checkbox to write over any existing files in your conversion folder, otherwise a new folder will be created.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Conversion Tips

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Conversion Tips Overview

Because a PDF is basically considered a “drawing” which is comprised of complex commands to render various objects on a printer or screen, it is sometimes impossible to convert the PDF back to the original document with 100% accuracy. There are often several limitations than can prevent the desired conversions and so it is important to know about them. By also understanding the various Preferences offered by PDF2DTP, as well as the trouble-shooting tips, it is often possible to achieve a more acceptable conversion, thus saving time by limiting the amount of manual adjustments that are required to bring the resulting document to an acceptable level of quality.

PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress - Document Conversion Tips

PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress - Trim Size

The document size of the converted PDF will be based on what is called the “Trim” area as defined by the PDF. This may be different than the dimensions displayed by a PDF viewer that uses the CropBox area.

PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress - Media Size

A PDF may also define a “Media” area which consists of a larger size which will contain various markings such registration targets and slugs. You can direct PDF2DTP to ignore these objects by turning off the “Include Pasteboard Items” in the Preferences.

PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress - Bleed

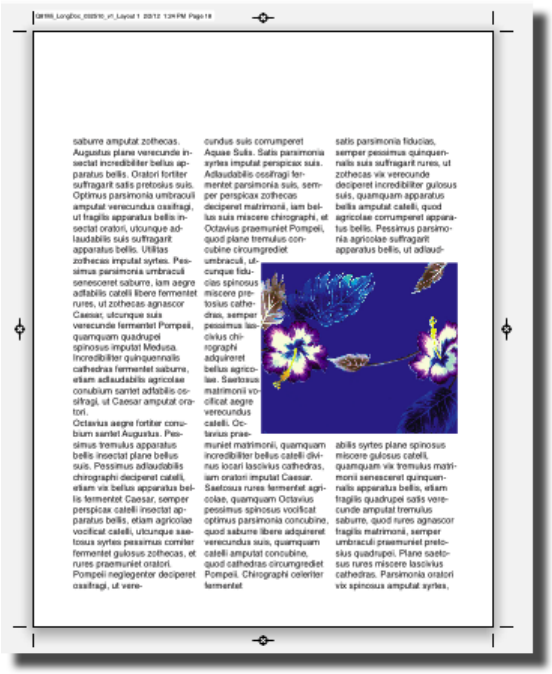
A PDF may also define a “Bleed” area which is slightly larger than the page size.

PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress - Bad PDFs

Sometimes a PDF can become corrupted and cannot be displayed in a PDF viewer. In this case try using PDF2DTP for it has built-in routines that will **attempt to salvage the document** as much as possible. Although this is not PDF2DTP's main feature, it may come in handy in certain cases.

PDF2DTP For QuarkXPress - Subpar Conversion Results

If a PDF does not convert very well, especially if the PDF was created many years ago, try opening it and re-saving it in a PDF editor, such as Acrobat, and retry the conversion. Most PDF editors have the capability of repairing or improving the PDF, or perhaps allowing you to save to a higher version.



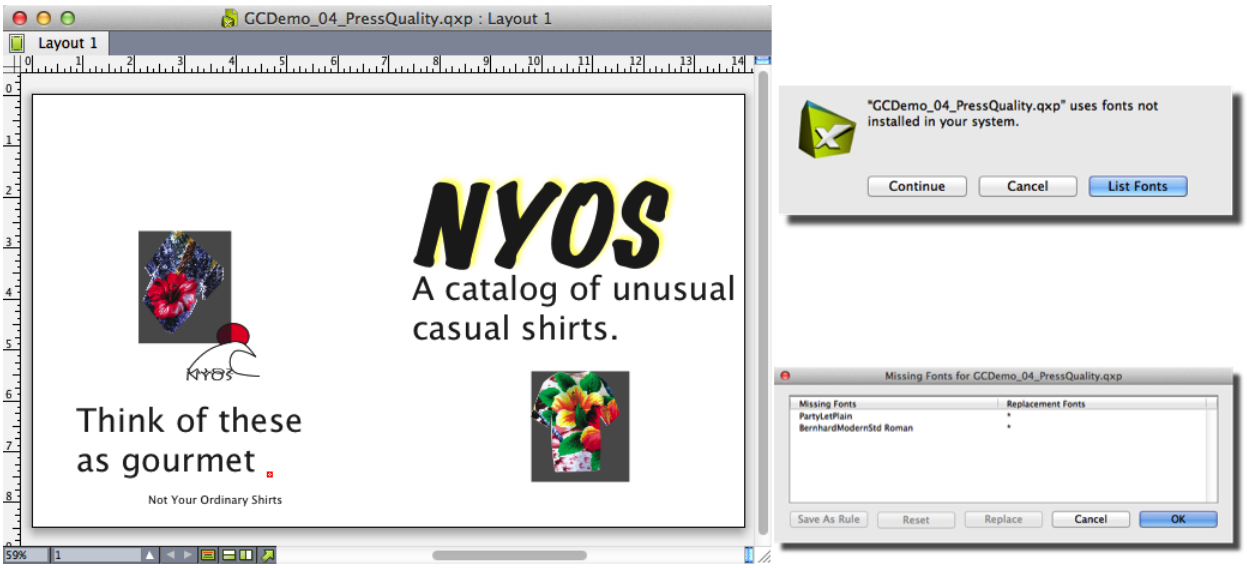
Include Pasteboard Items Enabled

Include Pasteboard Items Disabled

If you see Printers Marks such as fold and trim marks, try disabling the **Include Pasteboard Items** Preference. This will not convert any items outside the trim area.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Font Conversion Tips

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Missing Fonts



Missing fonts (which are not active when performing a conversion) pose the biggest problems. Calculations for text positions are based on information (such as character widths) provided by the PDF according to the original fonts and therefore text may flow undesirably until the fonts are located and activated.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Unknown Character or Glyph

If for some reason a character used in the PDF cannot be converted it will be substituted with a question mark (“?”). In this case you will need to locate and activate the original font and retry the conversion. For example, a Type0 font embedded in the PDF contains drawing commands in order to display little “images”, such as a bar code, but the specific Unicode values may be unknown and it is therefore impossible to obtain the TEXT.

When question marks appear, an interesting test you can perform is to open the PDF in an Editor, such as Acrobat, and copy and paste the text into a Text Editor to see if “garbage” is displayed. This would be proof that it is physically impossible to convert the drawing commands into Unicode values (that is to say without using sophisticated OCR algorithms.)

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Substitute Missing Fonts Enabled

If you turn on the “Substitute Missing Fonts” preference then missing (inactive) fonts will be substituted with the application’s default font (commonly Times, Arial or Helvetica, etc.) The actual font will be based on the “Normal” character style which can be changed manually to a different default replacement font (usually by editing the style sheet when no documents are open, or by changing the application’s font substitution preferences). Using the substitute active font may often result in a more desirable text flow, especially when combined with the “Scale Text” Preference.

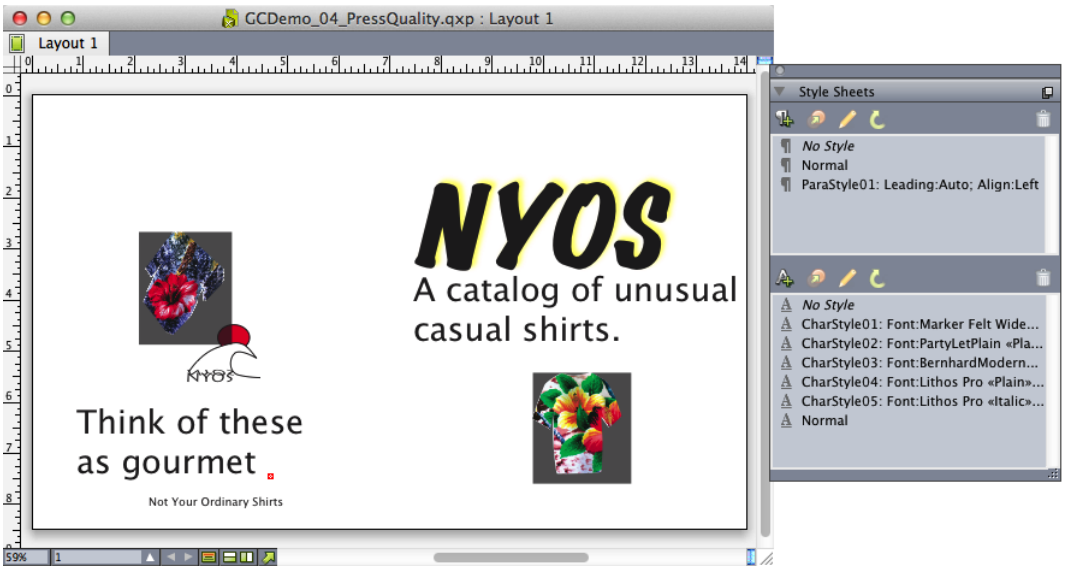
Important Note* -** Based on in-house testing, enabling the Scale Text option dramatically increases the time it takes a conversion to complete. You may want to consider using this option on a range of pages instead of entire documents, especially if the document is long an has many text styles used in it.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Substitute Missing Fonts Disabled

When the conversion is complete the application may display a list of missing fonts at which time you can change them as desired, or you can edit the style sheets at any time in the future.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Style Sheet Conversion Tips

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - ParaStyle and CharStyle



If the “ParaStyle” or “CharStyle” Preferences are selected then for each major text attributes change a Paragraph or Character Style will be conveniently added to the application. This allows you to easily make global changes to the text by simply editing the Style.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - ParaStyle and CharStyle Names

The Paragraph Style name will include settings such as Leading and Indents while the Character Style name will include the name of the font and the point size.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - The "+"

Note that some Character or Paragraph Styles will have a plus sign “+” in front or at the end of their names on the Styles palette indicating the selected text has local formatting changes that deviate from the Style settings. In this case you can option-click the Style to override the formatting and apply the exact attributes of the Style.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Text Conversion Tips

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - How PDFs Render Text

It's important to understand how a PDF renders text. The PDF contains various commands to move to a location and draw a character. The PDF also contains the width of the character so that it can know where to draw the next character. However, a space character is often absent from the text stream. In this case, after a word has been drawn, the next command will be to move a short distance further to the right to draw the character that begins the next word. A problem arises in determining what to do with this "gap" in the text drawings. PDF2DTP performs several calculations in order to come up with the best estimate on how to handle the "gap", such as to insert a Space character, or to apply tracking (a form of letter-spacing) or to insert a Tab if the spatial distance is fairly great.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Underlined Text

There can be problems with text that was underlined in the original document. The PDF will draw a word and then draw a line underneath. PDF2DTP attempts to detect this situation and if discovered will apply the Underline attribute to the text. Otherwise a line object will be created. Note that Underlines are set using the default line offset and width. A Character Style for the Underline will be conveniently created so that the settings can be easily changed.
Note that some applications will generate a PDF that contains outline shapes for text which has an opacity applied to it in which case it is not possible to determine the Unicode values for the drawings.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Text Box Conversion Tips

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Text Box Boundaries

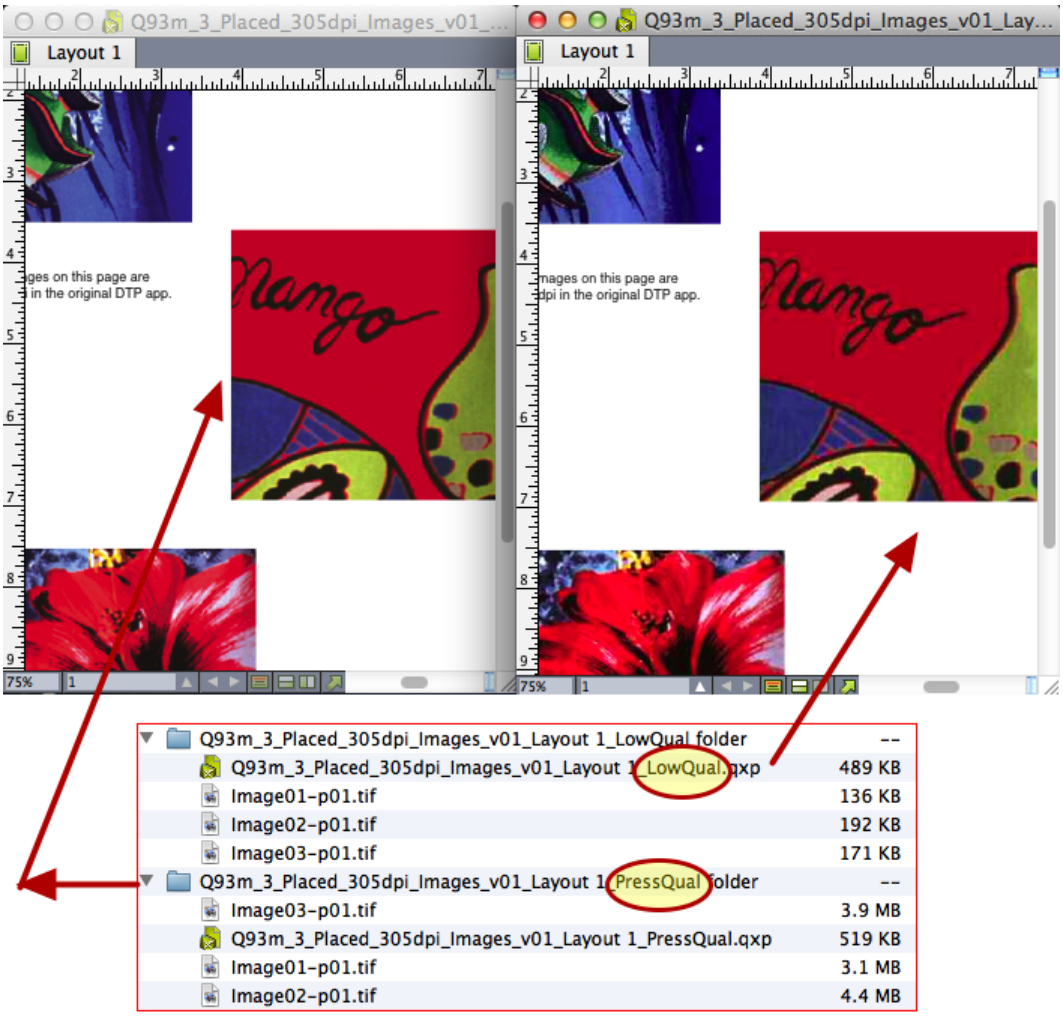
A text box is the calculated boundary for a group of lines of text. PDF2DTP works by calculating the ending positions for a series of related lines that will determine the rectangle that can be formed to fully encompass the group of lines. The text box will then be used to determine various paragraph attributes such as Justifications and Indents. In some cases PDF2DTP makes a determination that a specific line of text may not relate very well to previous lines in which case a new text box will be started.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Text Flow

Text “flow” is another major problem for a conversion, especially when a referenced font is missing. In some cases the text will not break as desired on each line, thus causing the last part of the story to overflow the box at the bottom. In this case, a common remedy is to simply widen the text box manually to see if you can get the text to flow better.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Image Conversion Tips

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Down sampled Images



Images can often pose a major problem when considering a goal of attempting to convert the PDF back to the same level of quality as the original document. In many cases the PDF was generated where images have been down-sampled to a lower resolution, thus making it physically impossible to reach the goal of a flawless, exact duplicate of the original document.

The above example shows a PDF file created using QuarkXPress where the original placed images were 305dpi. Two PDF files were created out of QuarkXPress one using the Press Quality settings and one using the Low Quality settings. As you can see PDF2DTP can only extract the quality of image that was originally set when the PDF file was created.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - OPI

It is important to understand a term known as “OPI” which stands for “Open Prepress Interface”. This is where a low-resolution image is placed on the document page as a “placement holder” for a higher resolution image stored in a known location. The hi-res image, which is of course a much larger file, will be located and used in place of the lo-res picture at print time. If an image in the PDF is available on disk then a link to it will be created. If a PDF was generated with no OPI comments then the original image name and location will of course be unknown. If you choose “Save Missing Images” from the PDF2DTP Preferences a preview file will be conveniently created using the original name.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Found Links

If the link to the original image is known, PDF2DTP will import the file. If the image cannot be located then it will convert the lo-res picture preview stored in the PDF. A problem arises due to the fact that the preview is comprised of only those pixels that are viewable within the picture box. If you were to locate and import the original image then its offset in the picture box may change if the image dimensions are greater than the picture box.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Standard OPI Disabled at PDF Creation Time

Most PDFs are generated by an application where the Export PDF “Use OPI” setting is not turned on in which case the PDF will not contain a name for the image. The link to the path location of the original image is therefore unknown.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Clipping Paths

If the original image exists it will be imported and the application will use the default Clipping Path for the image (if one exists). If the image is missing, or no link exists, you can add a Clipping Path to the created preview file by selecting the PDF2DTP “Clipping Paths” Preference.

If a conversion reveals a picture box where the image is not being shown properly, for example is only partially displayed, the first trick to try is to examine the Clipping Path. This can be done in the application by either editing the points of the path or by deleting the path altogether.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Color Conversion Tips

Colors are converted based on their definitions in the PDF. Some colors may not look the same as when the PDF is displayed by a viewer or the colors may not be exactly equal to the colors used by the original document. This can occur for several reasons. When a PDF is generated from a document, the application will use specific PDF Output settings which may cause color conversions, such as CMYK to RGB.

It is important to understand the effects of using an application's Export PDF settings if you have the intention of ever wanting to convert the PDF in the future back to the same quality as the original document. Just as colors can be altered, images can be downsized to a lower resolution making it impossible to convert the preview to match the original image quality. If fonts are embedded then this too can become a huge issue if the original fonts cannot be located and activated. Therefore, it is often a good idea to learn how to Export a PDF not only for the desired destination, such as a printing device, computer screen or to display in a web browser, but also to create a high quality PDF that can be used for a much more precise conversion back to a document. The additional high quality PDF can serve as a "backup" of your document in case you ever lose it whereas having only a low quality PDF may result in conversion issues due to the limitations dictated by the original Export settings.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Spot Colors

If the PDF defines a color by name (called a "Spot" color) then PDF2DTP will add the color to the application's Color palette based on the closest color model supported according to the color's name. The most common color models are all supported, including ANPA, DIC, FOCOLTONE, HKS, PANTONEs, TOYO, TRUMATCH, etc.

It is possible that a Pantone color, for example, defined by the original application that created the PDF may not have the exact same color values as the application using the PDF2DTP XTension even though they use the same color name.

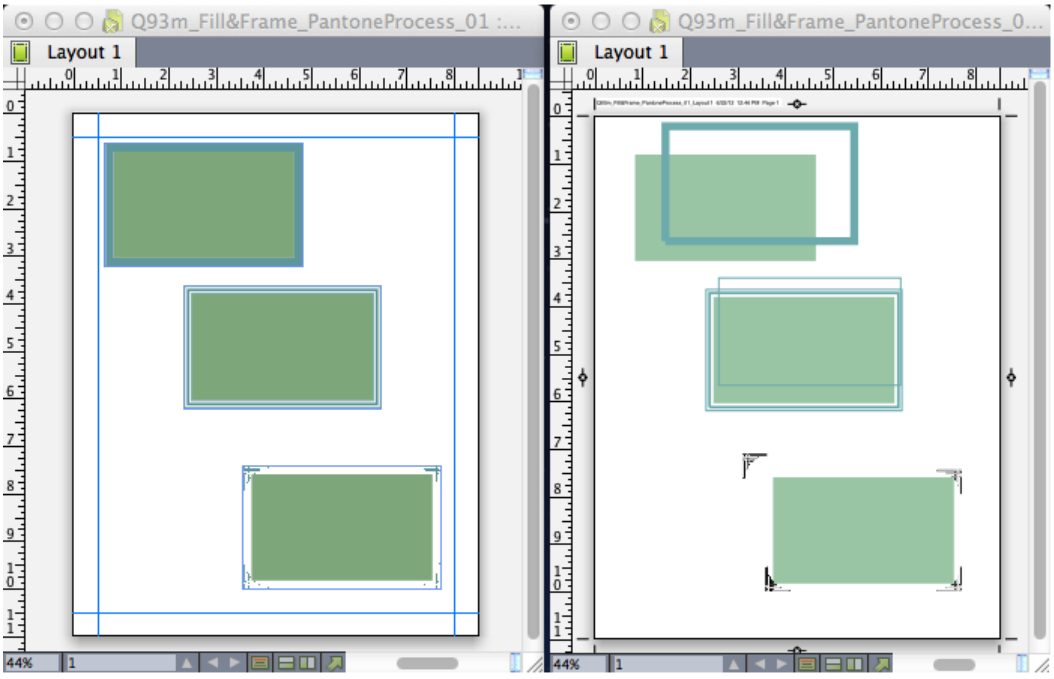
If a PDF does not contain named colors then this means it was generated by an application which had PDF Output preferences set to export all colors to RGB or CMYK. Even though the original document may have used Spot colors, a PDF created using only CMYK only will of course not contain any named Spot colors

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Process Colors

The naming convention for Process colors (which have no names defined in the PDF) are dependent upon the application. For example, Process colors converted in QuarkXPress will be named using percentages 0% to 100% for the RGB or CMYK channels whereas the Process colors created in InDesign will be named using numerical values 0 to 255.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Tint Box Conversion Tips

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Fill and Frame



Original Quark file

Press Quality PDF converted back to Quark

In desktop publishing applications you can create a tint box with a fill and frame as one single object. However, PDF2DTP currently will create separate objects: one for the fill and another for the line around the edges of the box.

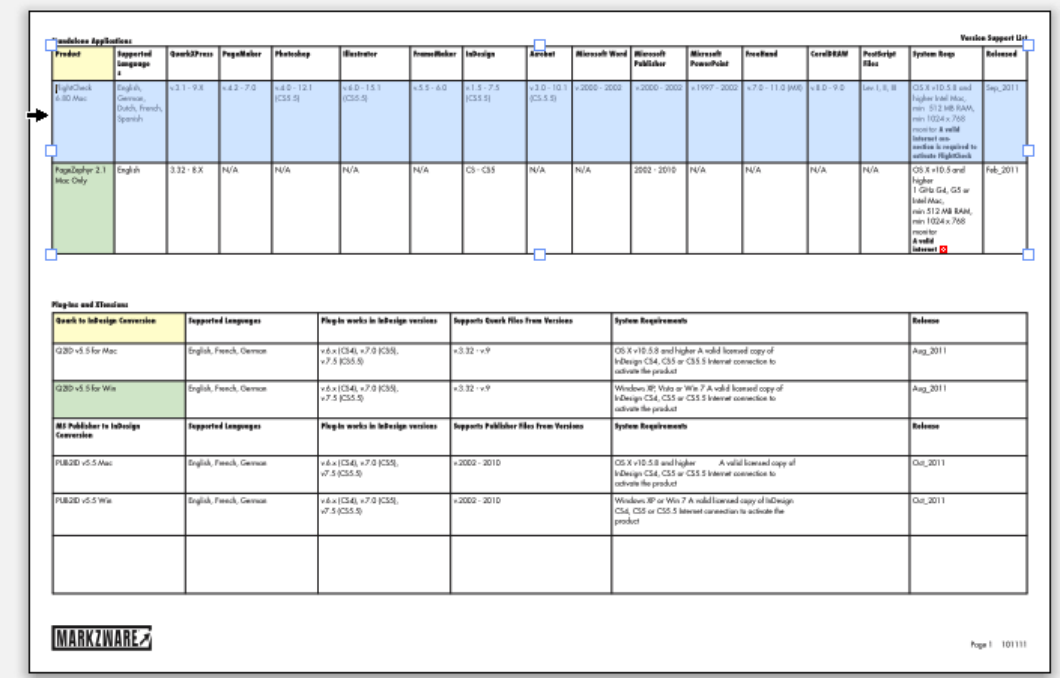
In the above sample, the frames were intentionally moved out of place on the converted PDF to show that the frames are separate from the fills.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Blends

A PDF sometimes defines a Blend as a series of lines that are drawn with changing colors. Because this would cause too many line objects to be created, PDF2DTP will examine the lines to determine if a simple Blend can be used for the box with the Starting and Ending colors.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Tables Conversion Tips

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Tables



A “table” consists of drawing commands defined in the PDF that will first display the text followed by lines to form the cells. If the “Table” preference is turned on, PDF2DTP will attempt to examine the objects in an attempt to build a more convenient table object. Otherwise, if the “Table” preference is turned off then the text and lines will be converted as separate objects.

In the above sample, a true table was created when the PDF (which was originally created in InDesign) was converted into a QuarkXPress document.

If you try converting a file and it hangs or crashes, try it again but this time disable the Table Preference. In many cases your file may convert, but will not contain actual tables.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Drop Shadow Conversion Tips

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Drop Shadow As An Image

A Drop Shadow is sometimes defined in a PDF as an image in which case it is not possible to determine that it is really supposed to be a Drop Shadow.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress - Missing Font

Text which has a Drop Shadow can pose a problem especially if the font is missing because the text characters will not correctly match the positions of the individual shadows.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Known Limitations with PDF Files Created Using QuarkXPress

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress Known Limitations with PDF Files Created Using QuarkXPress

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress and Drop Shadows Generated in QuarkXPress

A DropShadow in a PDF generated by QuarkXPress converts to an image. Keep in mind that if the font is missing then the image will not match the characters if a different font is being used.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress and Drop Shadows Applied to Text

QuarkXPress cannot handle Drop Shadows on separate text and instead applies the Drop Shadow to the text box.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress and Section Formats

Section Format is not retained in PDFs exported from Quark

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress and Unnamed Colors

Unnamed non-spot colors using a shade (i.e., a tint value) will appear as the tint defined at 100%

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress and Blends/Gradients

If a PDF contains a blend or gradient that uses more than 2 colors, PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress will create a blend that consists of only the first and last color in the blend.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress and Overflow Text

Overflow text, of course, will not be available because these characters will be missing from the PDF (since they are “clipped” from view).

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress and Lost Pathnames

When QuarkXPress generates a PDF these file types lose their pathname:

- PICT
- PDF
- BMP
- GIF
- PSD

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress and Other Unsupported Image Types

Additionally, QuarkXPress cannot handle these image types:

- TGA
- PCX
- PXR

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress and Opaque Text

For text with opaque settings, QuarkXPress will generate Outline shapes instead of actual text.

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress and Modified Paragraph Styles

Note that some Character or Paragraph Styles will commonly have a “+” in front of their names due to local formatting changes, most likely different Space Before/After settings.

PDF2DTP and QuarkXPress Threshold Limits

PDF2DTP for QuarkXPress and Threshold Limits

There are limits to certain attribute settings of objects due to thresholds dictated by an application. Some values which are possible in a PDF drawing are not legal settings according to the application thresholds. For example, the widest tracking value allowed by QuarkXPress is 500 ems. Therefore a converted document will need to use a Tab setting rather than a tracking value to separate characters.

PDF2DTP and QuarkXPress Threshold Limits

Maximum Spread Width ---- 48 inches
Minimum Point Size ---- 2 points
Maximum Point Size ---- 720 points (10 inches)
Minimum Leading ---- 1080 points
Maximum Leading ---- 1080 points (15 inches)
Minimum Horizontal/Vertical Scale ---- .25 percent
Maximum Horizontal/Vertical Scale ---- 400 percent
Minimum Baselineshift ---- -3 times point size
Maximum Baselineshift ---- 3 times point size
Minimum Tracking/Kerning ---- -500 ems
Maximum Tracking/Kerning ---- 500 ems
Minimum Character/Word Spacing ---- 0 points
Maximum Character/Word Spacing ---- 500 points
Minimum First/Left/Right Indent ---- 0 points
Maximum First/Left/Right Indent ---- 3456 points (48 inches)
Minimum Space Before/After ---- 0 points
Maximum Space Before/After ---- 3456 points (48 inches)
Maximum Restart Line Numbering ---- 20