

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Upgrade Feature: Thread PDF Export](#)

Omniscient - December 17, 2018, 2:50 pm

You should now see a PDF export link in the showthread pages.

The feature will allow you to fully export as a PDF any thread (assuming you have proper permission).

This is an upgraded member feature (avoids abuse). You will need L33t, Ub3r, R00t, Staff, or Admin for access.

We used to have this feature many years ago. I'm very happy to have it back.

Example export: <https://hackforums.net/pdf.php?tid=5919947>

We worked as best we could on the format. It's not perfect but it will suffice. If you find bad characters or very odd layout problems please post the export link for us to review.

Thank you.

Any questions?

PerfectStorm - December 17, 2018, 2:52 pm

Very cool. Thanks for the innovative features.

SIM-82498 - December 17, 2018, 2:54 pm

Ey I actually really like this feature. Nice addition.

B?ker - December 17, 2018, 2:57 pm

I like the idea of this, curious what is a potential use case?

Nachfolger - December 17, 2018, 3:04 pm

Cool feature. I use FPDF for my SAAS application too. Greatest open-source software ever.

reBELLYus - December 17, 2018, 3:09 pm

This is really nice. You've wasted no time pumping out updates upon your return.

Cheers.

fordtough1972 - December 17, 2018, 3:16 pm

This will be really useful, well done!

Omniscient - December 17, 2018, 4:03 pm

Quote:I like the idea of this, curious what is a potential use case?

Be aware that you can export even a 20 page thread. Could be useful for Marketplace or other options where you want to do a full view of the thread in a different way. Part of adding this to HF was also for some SEO benefit because the export is very clean material for Google.

Quote: You've wasted no time pumping out updates upon your return.

I gave Xerotic assignments to complete before I left. Basically 4 things to do. So far you've seen 2 of them and the other 2 will be added shortly.

Ren And Stimpy - December 17, 2018, 4:04 pm

ahhhh dopppppe Thank you brother!

Meow - December 17, 2018, 6:15 pm

(Dec 17, 2018 05:03 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Be aware that you can export even a 20 page thread. Could be useful for Marketplace or other options where you want to do a full view of the thread in a different way. Part of adding this to HF was also for some SEO benefit because the export is very clean material for Google. Is 20 pages max it can do? Useful feature, will definitely test it out in the future.

Omniscient - December 17, 2018, 7:11 pm

(Dec 17, 2018 07:15 PM)Meow? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Is 20 pages max it can do? Useful feature, will definitely test it out in the future.

I did a 3000 reply thread. Took about 30 seconds to generate a 200 page PDF. So you should be good with long threads with a few hundred replies.

V For Vendetta - December 17, 2018, 7:13 pm

Outta curiosity, will I get closed if I make a bot to archive every single thread on HF?

B?ker - December 17, 2018, 7:13 pm

(Dec 17, 2018 08:13 PM)V For Vendetta. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Outta curiosity, will I get closed if I make a bot to archive every single thread on HF?

I feel like this is a yes.

V For Vendetta - December 17, 2018, 7:14 pm

(Dec 17, 2018 08:13 PM)B?ker Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I feel like this is a yes.

I do too, worth a shot to ask though.

B?ker - December 17, 2018, 7:15 pm

(Dec 17, 2018 08:14 PM)V For Vendetta. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I do too, worth a shot to ask though.

Fair best to ask for permission than forgiveness with somethings on hf.

Omniscient - December 17, 2018, 7:15 pm

(Dec 17, 2018 08:13 PM)V For Vendetta. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Outta curiosity, will I get closed if I make a bot to archive every single thread on HF?

Abuse of this tool would get you closed. Pretty much a big no.

V For Vendetta - December 17, 2018, 7:16 pm

(Dec 17, 2018 08:15 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Abuse of this tool would get you closed. Pretty much a big no.

Damn okk thank you

Effexion - December 18, 2018, 1:29 am

Great idea and will be super useful for saving quality tutorials and guides. Thanks!

Bacardi Cola Lime - December 18, 2018, 2:39 am

It's an awesome new feature to have! Always wanted to have some tutorials on-the-go.

Question: Is there a way to save, let's say, first page only?

Effexion - December 18, 2018, 3:58 am

I can't see a button to export to PDF.

Cammy - December 18, 2018, 5:36 am

(Dec 18, 2018 04:58 AM)That Guy with Spiders Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I can't see a button to export to PDF.
It's all the way down here

Would be nicer if it was put in the list that opens when you click the cogwheel at the top right of a thread

Effexion - December 18, 2018, 5:38 am

(Dec 18, 2018 06:36 AM)Cammy Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) It's all the way down here

Would be nicer if it was put in the list that opens when you click the cogwheel at the top right of a thread

Oh, nice, cheers. I was checking the cog wheel too lol.

Roytoy - December 18, 2018, 6:42 am

This is so damn useful for many reasons. Thanks for the idea!

root@HF - December 18, 2018, 7:20 am

(Dec 17, 2018 03:50 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You should now see a PDF export link in the showthread pages.

The feature will allow you to fully export as a PDF any thread (assuming you have proper permission).

Thank you.

Any questions?

Will pictures be included in the export?

If an image has been [img] tagged will it display the URL of the image or the image itself?

Juffar - December 18, 2018, 9:03 am

(Dec 18, 2018 08:20 AM)Spectacular.blondey Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If an image has been [img] tagged will it display the URL of the image or the image itself?
It won't display anything at all.

isu - December 18, 2018, 9:04 am

Nice feature! Might be useful ?

Juffar - December 18, 2018, 9:05 am

With my thread: <https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=5862503>

Since I only have an image all I see in the PDF is a white-space. The title is also converted to HTML characters.

root@HF - December 18, 2018, 9:16 am

(Dec 18, 2018 10:05 AM)Juffar Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) With my thread:
<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=5862503>

Since I only have an image all I see in the PDF is a white-space. The title is also converted to HTML characters.

Thank you for clearing that up for me I thought you were being sarcastic. But I understand now. This is an awesome feature. I look forward to seeing this develop this is very beneficial for many people especially students like me who are studying specific subjects spoken about on this forum. ?

Omniscient - December 18, 2018, 2:37 pm

Quote:Question: Is there a way to save, let's say, first page only?
Sorry but no. It does the whole thread.

Anima - December 18, 2018, 2:45 pm

I like it, although would be cool if each post was separated by a line? (Sorta like the View printable version)

Spoiler [\(Click to View\)](#)

Edit: Just as it shows the site logo & is easier to read. Also welcome back, loving the new features being developed so far

Skull-13 - December 18, 2018, 2:56 pm

This is an useful feature. Thanks a lot for this.

Dan. - December 18, 2018, 3:07 pm

Does your plugin put a canonical tag in the HTTP header?

Also was it just too much hassle parsing the thread titles to use for the file name?

Nachfolger - December 18, 2018, 4:12 pm

(Dec 18, 2018 04:07 PM)Dan. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Does your plugin put a canonical tag in the HTTP header?

Also was it just too much hassle parsing the thread titles to use for the file name?
Somebody is in a bad mood today...

B E A S T - December 18, 2018, 4:21 pm

This will be useful, great feature omni!

Dan. - December 18, 2018, 5:41 pm

(Dec 18, 2018 05:12 PM)Nachfolger Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Somebody is in a bad mood today...
As a matter of fact I am. Had a wisdom tooth pulled this morning. There was way too much positive in the thread, it needed equalizing.

Nachfolger - December 18, 2018, 5:46 pm

(Dec 18, 2018 06:41 PM)Dan. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) As a matter of fact I am. Had a wisdom tooth pulled this morning. There was way too much positive in the thread, it needed equalizing. Enjoy chubby cheeks for two weeks. Had it done when I was a baby, so I sympathize.

#Offtopic

Omniscient - December 18, 2018, 7:00 pm

Xerotic was suppose to do the subject as the PDF name. At least I'm pretty sure we discussed it. We can adjust the plugin a bit based on the feedback and suggestions.

Cryptic™ - December 19, 2018, 11:23 pm

Dont think I'll ever use this, cool feature though.

Never seen it on any forum I've come across in the past.

ZuGgY - December 21, 2018, 6:57 am

Ah, pretty clever. Was expecting this sooner or later actually. Thanks.

DENIZ - December 21, 2018, 11:13 am

Great feature. Good job on this one.

flavoral - March 30, 2019, 9:49 am

did this feature get removed? i can't seem to find it anymore...

Eagle 95 - March 30, 2019, 9:51 am

(Mar 30, 2019 09:49 AM)flavoral Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) did this feature get removed? i can't seem to find it anymore...

Scroll to the bottom of the thread, I still see it.

flavoral - March 30, 2019, 9:52 am

(Mar 30, 2019 09:51 AM)Eagle 95 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Scroll to the bottom of the thread, I still see it. oh fuck...

i kept searching around the OP of the thread instead of the bottom of the page...

Hopsin - March 30, 2019, 4:06 pm

For the reference above, in case somebody haven't found it yet.

Here:

<https://i.imgur.com/P7EXvHb.jpg>

Doc- - March 31, 2019, 3:21 am

Can't this be done as JS instead of PHP in order to prevent abuse?

Omniscient - March 31, 2019, 7:34 am

(Mar 31, 2019 03:21 AM)Doc- Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Can't this be done as JS instead of PHP in order to prevent abuse?

What abuse? And what's the problem doing it from php?

Happeh - March 31, 2019, 7:37 am

(Dec 17, 2018 03:50 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This is an upgraded member feature (avoids abuse). You will need L33t, Ub3r, R00t, Staff, or Admin for access.

Does this mean if I upgrade to Admin I can access this feature? How much is an ADM1N upgrade?

Omniscient - March 31, 2019, 7:43 am

(Mar 31, 2019 07:37 AM)Happeh Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Does this mean if I upgrade to Admin I can access

this feature? How much is an ADM1N upgrade?
Yes.

Nachfolger - March 31, 2019, 9:54 am

(Mar 31, 2019 03:21 AM)Doc- Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Can't this be done as JS instead of PHP in order to prevent abuse?Technically, it could be. This wouldn't help with "abuse", though. Using PHP to serve the export requires one request to the export page, and during that request all validation on user permissions is performed (I assume). If you were to use JS to generate the PDF (via jsPDF, or anything else) you would still need to make a XHR request to load every response to the thread (MyBB uses pagination for posts on a thread), and then generate the PDF client side through that.

Either way, an additional network request is needed. Why redesign the existing export infrastructure and add an additional JS script for the export functionality? Besides this, Omni has mentioned JS isn't his best language.

Omniscient - March 31, 2019, 4:30 pm

I still don't understand what abuse he's talking about.

Nachfolger - March 31, 2019, 4:36 pm

(Mar 31, 2019 04:30 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I still don't understand what abuse he's talking about.Probably whatever this was in reference to:

(Dec 17, 2018 03:50 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This is an upgraded member feature (avoids abuse).

Yin Yang - March 31, 2019, 4:44 pm

This is a pretty cool and neat feature, thanks

Omniscient - March 31, 2019, 6:24 pm

(Mar 31, 2019 04:36 PM)Nachfolger Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Probably whatever this was in reference to:
But we take care of abuse by making this an upgraded member feature. I don't think the guy knows what he's talking about. I certainly don't know what he's on about.

Sixen+ - March 31, 2019, 7:53 pm

This is interesting, how does this benefit SEO? Genuinely curious.