

pdfcomment.sty v1.2*

A user-friendly interface to PDF annotations†

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Abstract

For a long time pdf_latex has offered the command `\pdfannot` for inserting arbitrary PDF annotations. However, the command is presented in a form where additional knowledge of the definition of the PDF format is indispensable. This package is an answer to the – occasional – questions in newsgroups, about how one could use the comment function of Adobe Reader. At least for the writer of L^AT_EX code, the package offers a convenient and user-friendly means of using `\pdfannot` to provide comments in PDF files. Since version v1.1, pdfcomment.sty also supports:

L^AT_EX → dvips → ps2pdf, L^AT_EX → dvipdfmx¹ and XeL^AT_EX.

Unfortunately, support of PDF annotations by PDF viewers is sparse to nonexistent. The reference viewer for the development of this package is Adobe Reader.

If you can't see this annotation  you are definitely using the wrong PDF viewer!

Required packages for using pdfcomment.sty

hyperref (v6.76a [2007/04/09]), xkeyval, ifpdf, marginnote and the packages loaded by them.

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¹only with style option dvipdfmx

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$\text{\LaTeX} \rightarrow \text{dvips} \rightarrow \text{ps2pdf}$, $\text{\LaTeX} \rightarrow \text{dvi\text{p}dfmx}$ und Xe\LaTeX .

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- **Christian Feuersänger** for contributing new ideas in form of his package `pdfmarginpar.sty` and for solving the printing problem² of PDF annotations and popups.

²see section 3

1 Options

1.1 Global options

1.1.1 `final`

The option `final` will set the package to final mode. The PDF annotations will not be typeset and will not influence line breaking.

1.1.2 `draft`

The option `draft` (default) will set the package to draft mode. Therefore, the PDF annotations will be typeset.

1.1.3 `dvipdfmx`

If you want to use the driver `dvipdfmx` for creating your documents, you have to use the option `dvipdfmx`. The other drivers are recognized automatically.

1.2 Local options

The following options are useable as options for the commands presented in section 2, as well as style options. As style options they have global effect, whereas they have only local effect when used in commands. Furthermore global options are not overwritten.

1.2.1 `subject`

You can use the option `subject` for defining the subject of the PDF popup annotations.

1.2.2 `author`

You can use the option `author` for defining the author of the PDF popup annotations.

1.2.3 `opacity`

You can use the option `opacity` for defining the opacity of PDF annotations with values between 0 (transparent) and 1 (not transparent, default). If you want to print PDF popup annotations with transparency you will have to use the option `open = true`.

1.2.4 `color`

You can use the option `color` for defining the color of PDF annotations in the form `{0.34 0.56 0.12}` (RGB). If you are using the additional package `xcolor` you can use predefined color names, as well as the available optional color names. Furthermore you can use the command `\definecolor` to define your



own named colors. Please take a look at the attached example `example.tex`. It shows the different possibilities of defining colors.

By definition the PDF specification allows four different color spaces with different numbers of color values:

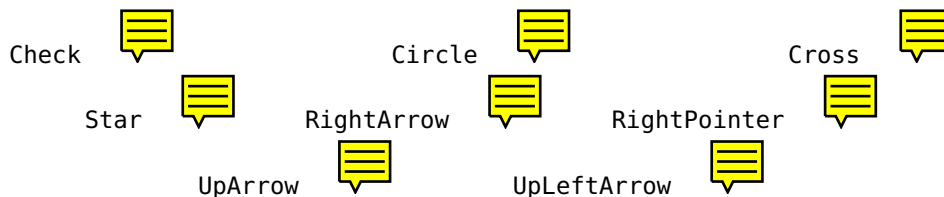
#	color space
0	transparent
1	grey scale
3	RGB
4	CMYK

1.2.5 icon

You can use the option `icon` for defining the graphic used for the PDF text annotations. The following icons are defined as mandatory by the PDF reference:



Furthermore the following icons are also supported by Adobe Reader and some other PDF viewers:



1.2.6 open

You can use the option `open` for defining the opening status of the PDF popup annotations. Possible values are `true` or `false` (default).

If you want to print the PDF popup annotations (with transparency) you will have to use the option `open = true`.

1.2.7 voffset

You can use the option `voffset` for defining a vertical offset of the PDF annotations, that is a vertical shift for the given length.

1.2.8 hoffset

You can use the option `hoffset` for defining a horizontal offset of the PDF annotations.

1.2.9 width

You can use the option width for defining the width of PDF annotations, e.g. the width of FreeText annotations. PDF text annotations have a width of 0pt by definition.

1.2.10 height

You can use the option height for defining the height of PDF annotations. PDF text annotations have a height of \baselineskip by definition.

1.2.11 hspace

You can use the option hspace for defining the horizontal space after the PDF text annotations, otherwise the PDF text annotations will overlay the text.

1.2.12 avatar

With the option avatar you can load the option lists, that were predefined with the command \defineavatar to avoid annoying typing.

1.2.13 style


With the option style you can also load predefined option lists for splitting personal and stylistic options, e.g. avatar=Josef, style=MyComment.

2 Commands


2.1 Comment commands

You can use the following commands for commenting your documents.


2.1.1 \pdfcomment

`\pdfcomment`
`[(options)]{comment}` \pdfcomment will typeset an annotation into the text at the current position. 

2.1.2 \pdfmargincomment

`\pdfmargincomment`
`[(options)]{comment}` \pdfmargincomment will typeset an annotation into the margin. Please note the positioning of the annotation in this example. This documentation was written with the L^AT_EX class ltxdoc. Therefore the annotation is typeset into the left margin. 

2.1.3 \pdfreetextcomment

`\pdfreetextcomment`
`[(options)]{comment}` \pdfreetextcomment will typeset a comment in form of a freely positioned box on the wished spot of the page. 

2.2 Misc. commands

2.2.1 `\pdfcommentsetup`

`\pdfcommentsetup{<options>}` With the command `\pdfcommentsetup` you can reset the global options at any time.

2.2.2 `\defineavatar`

`\defineavatar{<name>}{<options>}` With the command `\defineavatar` you can create named predefined option lists, which can be later used in the comment commands with the option `avatar`. With this option, it's easy for several authors of the same document to switch between different avatars, that is their graphical representation.

2.2.3 `\definestyle`

`\definestyle{<name>}{<options>}` With the command `\definestyle` you can split up lists in personal and stylistic option lists (see `example.tex`). This option list can be loaded with the option `style`.

3 Printing comments and popups

Basically, Adobe Reader is able to print PDF annotations. Therefore, you have to choose 'Document and Markups' in the field 'Comments and Forms' of the print dialog. Additionally, you have to configure the menu 'Edit → Preferences → Commenting'. Unfortunately, this option does not exist in many versions of Adobe Reader. If it does not exist, the only possibility is to edit the configuration files itself.

Windows: the registry needs to be changed (on your own risk!)

Start the registry editor (`regedit.exe`) and open the following key, e. g. for Adobe Reader 9.0:

HKEY_CURRENT_USER/Software/Adobe/Acrobat Reader/9.0/Annots/
cPrefs

The key for other version will be similar, except version number and some letters in lower- or uppercase!

Open or create (with closed Adobe Reader) the key
`bprintCommentPopups` and change the value to 1 (dword).

Linux: open the configuration file:

`~/.adobe/Acrobat/8.0/Preferences/reader_prefs`

with a text editor and change the entry

`/printCommentPopups [/b false] to /printCommentPopups [/b true]`

Please note that only opened popups will be printed!

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