

Using eps and tiff Graphics with pdflatex

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Introduction

Users who include eps and tiff figures in documents are sometimes surprised to find that they have a problem when compiling those files using pdflatex. By default pdflatex can include jpg, png and pdf files but not eps or tiff files. This document discusses a way of including eps and tiff files in documents compiled with pdflatex. It involves the ability to convert one graphic format to another on the fly and then include the converted file in the document. In the end these methods use Ghostscript or Apple's distiller and "convert" from ImageMagick, so conversion may fail if you did not install Ghostscript and ImageMagick.

Conversion Is Automatic in TeX Live 2011

Since eps illustrations cause such trouble for users switching from TeX to pdfTeX, the authors of TeX Live 2011 made a concerted effort to solve the problem once and for all. Instead of having to explicitly use the `epstopdf` package the good news is that conversion of eps files to pdf files is now automatic in TeX Live 2011 if you use the `graphics` package, as almost all users do.

Here's how it works. Suppose your document contains the line

```
\includegraphics{foo.eps}
```

then the `graphics` package will automatically convert `foo.eps` to `foo-eps-converted-to.pdf` and load that pdf file. When the file is typeset again, `foo.eps` will be converted again only if it is newer than `foo-eps-converted-to.pdf`, but in any case `foo-eps-converted-to.pdf` will be loaded.

Some users omit the extension and just write

```
\includegraphics{foo}
```

which will also work as above: the file `foo.eps` will be converted to `foo-eps-converted-to.pdf` and so forth. But there is one tricky point. Suppose the source folder contains both `foo.eps` and a completely unrelated file named `foo.pdf`. Then the `graphics` command will load `foo.pdf` first and not even notice the eps file.

Incidentally, the system names the converted file `foo-eps-converted-to.pdf` rather than `foo.pdf` precisely because a few users might have source files containing unrelated eps and pdf files with the same name; these users wouldn't appreciate an automatic conversion that destroyed their original pdf file!

Users upgrading from earlier versions of TeX Live will be familiar with the command

```
\usepackage{epstopdf}
```

This command is not needed in TeX Live 2011, although it does no harm, because the `graphicx` package automatically loads it. Users may also be familiar with the TeX command-line flag “-shell-escape”, which gives TeX the ability to call external programs during typesetting. This flag is also not needed in TeX Live 2011 for eps to pdf conversion because the system implements “restricted shell escape” which allows a small list of special system commands to be executed even if shell escape is not set.

Using Apple’s Distiller

By default, conversion of eps files to pdf files is done with Ghostscript. Apple provides an alternate conversion program (often called a distiller), `pstopdf`. To use this program instead of Ghostscript, add the following line to the document header immediately following inclusion of the `graphicx` package:

```
\usepackage{epstopdf}
\epstopdfDeclareGraphicsRule{.eps}{pdf}{.pdf}{%
  /usr/bin/pstopdf #1 -o \OutputFile
}
```

More Conversions

The most common graphic file formats are eps, pdf, png, jpg and tiff. In particular, many scanners output tiff files. The authors of TeX Live 2011 were unable to automate conversion of tiff to png using the `convert` program from ImageMagick because on Windows machines there is an unrelated program named `convert` which would cause security concerns if called indiscriminately from TeX.

It is possible to automate this conversion on the Macintosh. But in that case, the `epstopdf` package must be explicitly loaded, and the “-shell-escape” flag must be active. Then add the following commands to the document header immediately following inclusion of the `graphicx` package:

```
\usepackage{epstopdf}
\epstopdfDeclareGraphicsRule{.tif}{png}{.png}{convert #1 \OutputFile}
\epstopdfDeclareGraphicsRule{.tiff}{png}{.png}{convert #1 \OutputFile}
\PrependGraphicsExtensions{.tif, .tiff}
```

Automating More Conversions

If you use tiff conversions often you may wish to always load the lines given above automatically. You may do this by creating an `epstopdf.cfg` file containing only the conversion lines

```
\epstopdfDeclareGraphicsRule{.tif}{png}{.png}{convert #1 \OutputFile}
\epstopdfDeclareGraphicsRule{.tiff}{png}{.png}{convert #1 \OutputFile}
\PrependGraphicsExtensions{.tif, .tiff}
```

and place it in your personal texmf tree at `~/Library/texmf/tex/latex/config/`. But remember that others that see your source file may not have your `epstopdf.cfg` file and a compile will fail for them.

If you create the `epstopdf.cfg` file you needn't include the `\usepackage{epstopdf}` in your source document but you still must use the command-line “-shell-escape” flag to do the extra conversions.