

# Package: qpdf (via r-universe)

March 12, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Split, Combine and Compress PDF Files

**Version** 1.4.1

**Description** Content-preserving transformations transformations of PDF files such as split, combine, and compress. This package interfaces directly to the 'qpdf' C++ library [<https://qpdf.sourceforge.io/>](https://qpdf.sourceforge.io/) and does not require any command line utilities. Note that 'qpdf' does not read actual content from PDF files: to extract text and data you need the 'pdftools' package.

**License** Apache License 2.0

**URL** <https://docs.ropensci.org/qpdf/>  
<https://ropensci.r-universe.dev/qpdf>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/ropensci/qpdf/issues>

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Imports** Rcpp, askpass, curl

**LinkingTo** Rcpp

**Roxygen** list(markdown = TRUE)

**RoxygenNote** 7.2.1

**Suggests** testthat

**SystemRequirements** libjpeg

**Config/pak/sysreqs** libjpeg-dev libssl-dev

**Repository** <https://ropensci.r-universe.dev>

**Date/Publication** 2026-03-12 22:26:43 UTC

**RemoteUrl** <https://github.com/ropensci/qpdf>

**RemoteRef** master

**RemoteSha** b5053559dc183ca194ace32fcec0de33bdae7dfe

## Contents

qpdf . . . . .	2
<b>Index</b>	<b>4</b>

---

qpdf	<i>Split, Combine and Compress PDF Files</i>
------	--

---

### Description

Content-preserving transformations of PDF files. Note qpdf does not read actual content from PDF files: to extract text and data you need the pdftools package.

### Usage

```
pdf_split(input, output = NULL, password = "")
pdf_length(input, password = "")
pdf_subset(input, pages = 1, output = NULL, password = "")
pdf_combine(input, output = NULL, password = "")
pdf_compress(input, output = NULL, linearize = FALSE, password = "")
pdf_overlay_stamp(input, stamp, output = NULL, password = "", pages)

pdf_rotate_pages(
  input,
  pages,
  angle = 90,
  relative = FALSE,
  output = NULL,
  password = ""
)
```

### Arguments

input	path or url to the input pdf file
output	base path of the output file(s)
password	string with password to open pdf file
pages	a vector with page numbers to rotate/select/stamp depending on the function; for pdf_select negative numbers means removing those pages (same as R indexing)
linearize	enable pdf linearization (streamable pdf)
stamp	pdf file of which the first page is overlaid into each page of input

angle	rotation angle in degrees (positive = clockwise)
relative	if TRUE, pages are rotated relative to their current orientation. If FALSE, rotation is absolute (0 = portrait, 90 = landscape, rotated 90 degrees clockwise from portrait)

## Details

Currently the package provides the following wrappers:

- `pdf_length`: show the number of pages in a pdf
- `pdf_split`: split a single pdf into separate files, one for each page
- `pdf_subset`: create a new pdf with a subset of the input pages
- `pdf_combine`: join several pdf files into one
- `pdf_compress`: compress or linearize a pdf file
- `pdf_rotate_pages`: rotate selected pages

These functions do not modify the input file: they create new output file(s) and return the path(s) to these newly created files.

## Examples

```
# extract some pages
pdf_file <- file.path(tempdir(), "output.pdf")
pdf_subset('https://cran.r-project.org/doc/manuals/r-release/R-intro.pdf',
  pages = 1:3, output = pdf_file)
pdf_length(pdf_file)
unlink(pdf_file)
```

# Index

pdf\_combine, [3](#)  
pdf\_combine (qpdf), [2](#)  
pdf\_compress, [3](#)  
pdf\_compress (qpdf), [2](#)  
pdf\_length, [3](#)  
pdf\_length (qpdf), [2](#)  
pdf\_overlay\_stamp (qpdf), [2](#)  
pdf\_rotate\_pages, [3](#)  
pdf\_rotate\_pages (qpdf), [2](#)  
pdf\_split, [3](#)  
pdf\_split (qpdf), [2](#)  
pdf\_subset, [3](#)  
pdf\_subset (qpdf), [2](#)  
  
qpdf, [2](#)