

## Fred Browne's 'HTML2PDF Preservation of Active Embedded Links' Process

I have been successful in preserving active embedded links in my web pages using OpenOffice Writer. I wanted to preserve all my posted Genealogy HTML files as PDF files. Some of my larger Genealogy files contained an index pointing to subjects contained within the document.

I found that whenever I created the PDF, the file did not perform well. PDF print drivers such as PDF995 preserve the image and text appearance but were unaware of the internal active embedded links. Most conversions from HTML to PDF convert relative links such as `<A HREF="#JohnDoe(-)">John Doe (-)</A>` to fully qualified links such as `<A HREF="c:\MyPath\MyActiveFolder\MyFilename#JohnDoe(-)">John Doe (-)</A>` which will only work while the file is kept in that specific location with its original filename.

The following process preserves relative links relating to items on the same page. I created this process to make my PDF documents work both on the Web and saved as a local file. I make these pages available without any warranty.

### My PROCESS:

I create simple HTML documents following HTML2 standards.

The relative links are of the form

```
<A HREF="#JohnDoe(-)">John Doe (-)</A>
```

which points to

```
<A NAME="JohnDoe(-)">John Doe's Info Location</A>
```

I save the file and make a copy with the filename I want permanently associated to it, and close the file.

Example "HTML2PDF Process File Modified 2013-11-11.HTM"

or "HTML2PDF Process File Modified 2013-11-11.HTML" might be the file name.

I change the copy file name to the target I want to post and change its extension from HTML to PDF.

Example "HTML2PDF Process File Modified 2013-11-11.HTM" becomes "HTML2PDF.PDF"

I open the copy file using OpenOffice Writer. OpenOffice Writer correctly determines that the file contains HTML code and renders the HTML. It also appears to produce fully qualified direct links, but allows relative links to remain. I can then use the editing features to cleanup and make the document prettier.

I use the "Export Directly as PDF" feature of OpenOffice Writer to produce a relocatable PDF file with working relative links and fully qualified direct links that can work anywhere the file is moved, as long as the filename is preserved.