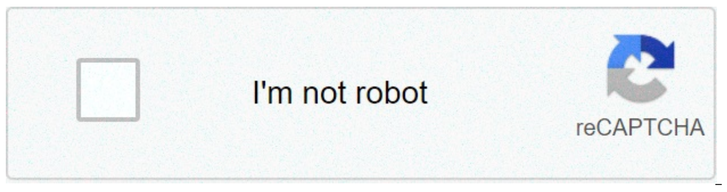

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In this article, I will introduce the latest version of the iText 7 library. I'm working on small project in java, there I want to fetch the contents from a database and write them into a PDF file. Create a new Java project. If your application needs to generate PDF documents dynamically, you need the iText library. If you are not familiar, iText is a free Java-PDF library that allows you to generate PDF files on the fly (dynamically). Here we have to create … Visual Studio 2017 and above.NET Framework, Version 4.0 and above; Installed iText 7 Library using NuGet Package Manager; Setting Up the Project Step 1: Create the Console App Using Visual Studio In my research, I came to know about iText. PDF generation in Java is easy with the open source iText library. “When using iText PDF in a closed source environment, you will need to purchase an iText PDF … Create a object of the Document class. Using this class you can merge a number of existing documents into one. 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This will be followed by examples of styling texts or paragraphs. To start, I'll begin with a short overview of the library to provide readers with a better understanding of the concept. Purpose of iText Library The iText library can be used to manipulate almost any PDF. It can be used to create static or dynamic PDFs and manipulate already existing PDFs with minimum concern for the PDF standards. The library is a collection of several components, but the primary concern of this article is the IText Core component. See some definitions from the iText site. Key features: iText 7 Core is a straightforward, performant and extensible library that is ready to handle the challenges of today's digital document workflows. Main benefits: With iText 7 Core you don't have to worry about PDF technologies and standards, you can just focus on your business needs and document content. 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We can find the latest available version of iText 7 in the Maven Central repository. Additionally, our code depends on the JUnit framework (for unit testing purposes) delivered by the SpringBoot Test Starter. Simple Text The library in version 7 is not so different from the previous versions. Therefore, the code has changed only minimally, although there are some notable differences. To start with the iText 7 library, we should learn first how to generate a PDF containing simple text. Note: this example uses JDK15, but it's not a hard constraint. The code should work fine with JDK8 as well. Generate PDF Content To generate our first PDF with the library we need to prepare several instances to be able to add the content. Our goal is to prepare an instance of com.itextpdf.layout.Document class and add some content there. The library uses a concept quite similar to DOM where the root element is represented by the instance of Document class. We can add any block element there (e.g. paragraph, list, or table). The block elements can contain more specific objects (e.g. text or image). To start, we need to follow these steps: Create an instance of PdfWriter class (line 13) to specify the target file name and path and optionally (as is our case) create an instance of WritterProperties class to specify the desired PDF version (the version is 2.0 in our case) for the generated PDF (lines 11-12). The generated PDF will be saved into the file specified in the variable file simplePdf (line 10). Create an instance of PdfDocument class to handle the writing of the added content according to the PDF specification (line 14). Create an instance of Document class as the main point to work with the PDF. It serves as the root element where we can add all the desired elements representing our content (line 15). Define the text to be added into the PDF and add it wrapped as a Paragraph element into the Document instance (line 17). Of course, we can add more content, but it's sufficient for now. Note: you can find a similar example using iText 5. Be aware that the text in the code above (the literal assigned to variable textContent) is not complete in order to make the example readable. The value itself is not important. You may need the whole code. Now, we can check the output of the generated code from the code above (see the next screenshot): The result of generated simple PDF. In thedzone-simple-text.pdffile, we can also find the desired values of PDF properties as highlighted in the screenshot below with red. You can see thePDF Producervalue added by iText Library and PDF Version specified earlier in WritterProperties by us (line 12). The properties of generated simple PDF. Test Generated PDF Content The generated PDF should also be tested to verify that the content has appeared as intended. 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Moreover, we verified that the PDF contains the expected content when the test passed successfully (see screenshot below). IDE result from executing generateSimplePdf test Styled Text Since we know how to generate a PDF, we can move on to investigate the possibilities of styling a text (more "advanced" objects like tables or QR codes are not within this scope). This part is focused on these areas: Styling of text: block elements inside a single paragraph. Styling of paragraph: paragraphs inside the document (on the page). Styling of Text When we want to style some text, we need to add an instance of Textclass into the instance ofParagraphclass (to use the overloadedaddmethod). With that, we can define the specific features of every defined Text instance. To achieve this, we need to follow these steps: Create an instance of Document (lines 7-10). It's the same as it was demonstrated in our first example. Create an instance of Paragraphclass where all the styled Text elements will be added later (line 12). Create an instance of Textclass with the desired features (lines 13, 15, and 17). Any line break can be achieved by adding a new line break character into the paragraphinstance (lines 14 and 16). The styling itself is realized by the methodstyledTextwith the set of passed arguments to be set on Text instance (lines 35-62). The only tricky part is the creation ofPdfFontclass from the passed family name as aString(lines 63-70). We just translate the checkedIOExceptioninto our runtimeITextExceptionto make our code easier. The generated PDF contains a single paragraph element with three styled text blocks, each one on a separate line (see the next screenshot). The result of styled text in PDF. Styling of Paragraph As well as styling eachTextelement independently, we can also do a similar styling on a whole Paragraphelement. These steps demonstrate how to do that: Create an instance ofDocumentas done before (lines 7-10) same as before. Create an instance ofParagraphclass with the rotation of 45° (lines 12-14). Please be aware you need to pass the rotation value to the library in radians. Such logic is encapsulated in thecalculateRadiusFromDegreemethod (lines 42-45). Create an instance of Paragraph class green dashed borderline. In order to add a paragraph border with some styles, you need to create a new instance ofcom.itextpdf.layout.borders.Borderclass with the desired features first and pass it tosetBordermethod. We used theDashedBorderclass for that purpose, passing the values in the constructor (lines 16-18). Note: there are more options for border styling. You can find another example achieved by theSolidBorderclass in the next example. Create an instance of Paragraphdefined with a margin (the offset of the paragraph on the page) and padding (the offset of the elements in the paragraph). We set 3 pixels for the margin and 6 pixels for the padding (lines 21-22). We can check the location of the solid border in the last paragraph in the next image to see those settings. The generated PDF contains three paragraph elements with the defined styling (see the next screenshot). The result of a styled paragraph in PDF. What else can be done? As I said in the beginning, the IText 7 is a quite powerful library and we just scratched the surface of it in this article. Other features of the library include: more elements (e.g. tables, barcodes or QR codes), add behavior (e.g. layers, forms, bookmarks or attachments), modify PDF (e.g. add page counter or watermark), convert an HTML into PDF, test PDF formatting, and more. Conclusion This article has covered the basics of the IText 7 usage. It was started with the generation of a simple PDF. After that, some text and paragraph styling were added. You can find the demonstrated codes in my GitHub repository. In the next article, I will cover the generation of barcodes and QR codes.