

Bug 620916 - PDF printing with a PDF-printer not working optimally

[Last Comment](#)

Status: UNCONFIRMED

Whiteboard:

Keywords:

Reported:

Modified:

CC List:

Product: Firefox

Component: General

Version: 4.0 Branch

Platform: x86 Windows 7

Importance: --
normal with [2 votes](#) ([vote](#))

Target Milestone: ---

Assigned To: Nobody; OK to take it and work on it

QA Contact: general@firefox.bugs

URL:

Depends on:

Blocks:

Show dependency [tree](#)
/ [graph](#)

Save Changes

Flags:

in-testsuite

in-litmus

See Also:

tracking-firefox

status-firefox5:

tracking-firefox

status-firefox6:

tracking-firefox

status-firefox7:

tracking-firefox

status-firefox8:

blocking2.0:

status2.0:

blocking1.9.2:

status1.9.2:

blocking1.9.1:
status1.9.1:
Crash Signature

Attachments

Adobe Distiller printer output (108.82 KB, application/pdf)
2010-12-22 08:37 PST, Kevin Brosnan

PDFFactory Output from FF4B12 - Image not Txt (619.75 KB, application/pdf)
2011-02-28 03:07 PST, Stefan Phosub

Printing from FF 4b12 with Directwrite disabled (86.48 KB, application/pdf)
2011-02-28 05:02 PST, Frederic

Printing from FF 4b12 with Directwrite enabled (703.58 KB, application/pdf)
2011-02-28 05:03 PST, Frederic

PostScript output from HP Printer Driver (786.35 KB, application/postscript)
2011-03-11 22:48 PST, Alex

[Add an attachment](#) (proposed patch, testcase, etc.)

Summon comment box

Timo 2010-12-22 04:13:45 PST

Description

User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; rv:2.0b8) Gecko/20101218 Firefox/4.0b8
Build Identifier: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; rv:2.0b8) Gecko/20101218 Firefox/4.0b8

In Firefox 4 printing seems to have changed in a way that negatively impacts text printing. I tried using Acrobat Distiller, FreePDF, PDFCreator, Nitro PDF, etc. Changes to Firefox 4 seem to make it impossible to pass off text to a PostScript style PDF printer rather it hands off all the text as images which results in files much larger and none searchable. Is there a way to disable the DirectWrite in Firefox 4 so that works like it did in 3?

I tested with a completely new profile and a new installation. No extensions, themes or plugins are installed.

Reproducible: Always

Steps to Reproduce:

1. Open a webpage with text (any)
2. Print with any PDF-printer (for example: Acrobat Distiller, Free PDFCreator)

3. open PDF-file in PDF-viewer (any, for example: Adobe Reader, Foxit Reader)

Actual Results:

All the text is as image which makes the PDF files much larger and not searchable.

Expected Results:

Text should be searchable.

As a workaround I have found this: Run Firefox 4 in Safe Mode, without all addons. The PDF when printed will be searchable and very low in size.

The key now is to find out which addon is breaking this function. Have to do some testing and shed some light on this.

Kevin Brosnan 2010-12-22 08:36:10 PST

[Comment #1](#)

Works for me - Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; rv:2.0b9pre) Gecko/20101218 Firefox/4.0b9pre and Distiller 9.4.0195. Created a searchable pdf of this report.

Kevin Brosnan 2010-12-22 08:37:04 PST

[Comment #2](#)

Created [attachment 499300 \[details\]](#)
Adobe Distiller printer output

Anthony Engel 2011-01-09 19:02:35 PST

[Comment #3](#)

I have had this issue with Firefox 4.0b8 as well. (Maybe this has been fixed in FF 4.0b9pre.)

As an example, the Firefox legal page printed in FF 3.6.13 produces a 1.2 MB PDF printed in Acrobat, while FF 4.0b8 produces a 3.7 MB PDF printed in Acrobat. I experience this when printing from FF 4.0b8 on two different computers.

Stefan Phosub 2011-02-28 03:04:52 PST

[Comment #4](#)

I have the same Problem with Beta12 still.
Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; rv:2.0b12) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/4.0b12

When I print from Firefox 4 (any Beta since 7 when I entered Beta) :
Output with an Image in it. Unter Firefox 3.6 I get searchable Text
IE also produces searchable Text in the PDF. I tested in different (Windows XP 32.bit, Windows7 32-bit, Windows 7 64-bit and different PDFFactotry, PDF Creator, Adobe Distiller) all produce the same PDF (Image instead of Text).

Stefan Phosub 2011-02-28 03:07:33 PST

Comment #1

Created [attachment 515581 \[details\]](#)
PDFFactory Output from FF4B12 - Image not Txt

Frederic 2011-02-28 05:02:11 PST

Comment #2

Same problem here on Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; rv:2.0b12) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/4.0b12.

The problem seems to be related to Directwrite, if I set
gfx.font_rendering.directwrite.enabled to "false", I get real text !
Unfortunately they have some additional blanks between the letters.

Frederic 2011-02-28 05:02:50 PST

Comment #3

Created [attachment 515591 \[details\]](#)
Printing from FF 4b12 with Directwrite disabled

Frederic 2011-02-28 05:03:22 PST

Comment #4

Created [attachment 515592 \[details\]](#)
Printing from FF 4b12 with Directwrite enabled

Andy K. [Wawuschel] 2011-02-28 08:59:57 PST

Comment #5

Is it a special problem with Windows 7 - 64 bit? (WOW64)

like → (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; rv:.....)

Frederic 2011-02-28 09:08:01 PST**Comment #1**

Comment #1 and #4 would suggest otherwise.

Alex 2011-03-11 22:48:05 PST**Comment #2**

Created [attachment 518921 \[details\]](#)
PostScript output from HP Printer Driver

This doesn't just affect PDF printers, attached is the output of my printer driver using Print to file.

When run through GhostScript or opened in Apple's Preview.app, the file contains no text, only the (low quality) vector outlines.

Is something with DirectWrite causing the normal text placement path causing it to fall back to a basic vector path?

RNicoletto 2011-06-01 01:42:17 PDT**Comment #3**

It seems related to Hardware Acceleration ==> <http://support.mozilla.org/questions/760923>

jpj-at-bugzilla 2011-06-09 06:37:41 PDT**Comment #4**

When the graphics acceleration is enabled (tested with Windows 7-x64) text is converted into Bezier curve.

The file is much larger and the "text" can not be selected or copied (it is not text).

See (in French): <http://www.geckozone.org/forum/viewtopic.php?p=6311>

The problem seems fixed with Firefox 5 and 6.

RH 2011-07-07 04:12:14 PDT**Comment #5**

I do not see it fixed. FF 5 on Windows7 64, PDFs are still huge and unlike with FF 4, disabling HW acceleration does not make a difference.

RH 2011-07-07 04:14:50 PDT**Comment**

OK, just as I tried to send an attachment, it seems OK, so please for comment :)

Additional Comments:

Status: UNCONFIRMED

Sa

[Format For Printing](#) - [XML](#) - [Clone This Bug](#) - [Top of page](#)