

# PDFTK - what a great tool!

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commands

pdf

pdftk



During the last week I have had to use a PDF manipulation tool called PDFTK. The first instance was to strip or replace pdf metadata (for work) and the second was to collate scanned pages from my printer at home - it even supports the even pages in reverse format!

My wife and I are trying to create a virtual filing system in Evernote.

(From their website) PDFtk Server can:

- Merge PDF Documents or Collate PDF Page Scans
- Split PDF Pages into a New Document
- Rotate PDF Documents or Pages
- Decrypt Input as Necessary (Password Required)
- Encrypt Output as Desired
- Fill PDF Forms with X/FDF Data and/or Flatten Forms
- Generate FDF Data Stencils from PDF Forms
- Apply a Background Watermark or a Foreground Stamp
- Report PDF Metrics, Bookmarks and Metadata
- Add/Update PDF Bookmarks or Metadata
- Attach Files to PDF Pages or the PDF Document
- Unpack PDF Attachments
- Burst a PDF Document into Single Pages

- Uncompress and Re-Compress Page Streams
- Repair Corrupted PDF (Where Possible)

PDFtk Server does not require Adobe Acrobat or Reader, and it runs on Windows, Mac OS X and Linux.

So I have a pretty standard scanner (an EPSON Artisan 837), it has a document feeder but only scans one side at a time, so when you run it through the first time you have odd pages, turn the bundle over, scan it and you have a bundle of even pages (in reverse order). This simple command collates them:

```
pdftk A=odd_pages.pdf B=even_pages.pdf shuffle A Bend-1 output collated_pages.pdf
```

if the even pages are in normal order, it's even easier:

```
pdftk A=odd_pages.pdf B=even_pages.pdf shuffle A B output collated_pages.pdf
```

**Question: Does anyone out there know if there is a python library for PDFTK (or equivalent)?**

**References:** <https://www.pdfabs.com/blog/how-to-collate-even-odd-scanned-pages/>  
<https://www.pdfabs.com/tools/pdftk-server/>

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