

## Convert single PDF pages to multiple SVG files on Debian Linux with pdf2svg

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In my last article, I've explained [How to create PNG, JPG, GIF pictures from one single PDF document](#) Conversion of PDF to images is useful, however as *PNG and JPEG graphic formats* are **raster graphics** the image quality gets crappy if the picture is zoomed to lets say 300%.

This means conversion to PNG / GIF etc. is not a good practice especially if image quality is targeted.

I myself am not a quality freak but it was interesting to find out if it is possible to **convert the PDF pages to SVG (Scalable Vector Graphics) graphics format.**

Converting PDF to SVG is very easy as for GNU / Linux there is a command line tool called **pdf2svg** [pdf2svg's official page is here](#)

The traditional source way compile and install is described on the homepage. For Debian users **pdf2svg** has already existing a deb package.

To install **pdf2svg** on Debian use:

```
debian:~# apt-get install --yes pdf2svg
...
```

Once installed usage of pdf2svg to convert PDF to multiple SVG files is analogous to imagemagick's **convert** .

To **convert the 44 pages Projects.pdf to multiple SVG pages** - (each PDF page to a separate SVG file) issue:

```
debian:~/project-pdf-to-images$ for i in $(seq 1 44); do \
pdf2svg Projects.pdf Projects- $i$ .SVG  $i$ ; \
done
```

This little loop tells each page number from the 44 PDF document to be stored in separate SVG vector graphics file:

```
debian:~/project-pdf-to-images$ ls -l *.svg|wc -l
44
```

For BSD users and in particular FreeBSD ones png2svg has a bsd port in:

**/usr/ports/graphics/pdf2svg**

Installing on BSD is possible directly via the port and conversion of PDF to SVG on **FreeBSD**, should be working in the same manner. The only requirement is that bash shell is used for the above little bash loop, as by default FreeBSD runs the **csch**.

On *FreeBSD* launch **/usr/local/bin/bash**, before following the Linux instructions if you're not already in bash.

Now the output SVG files are perfect for editing with **Inkscape** or **Scribus** and the picture quality is way superior to old rasterized (JPEG, PNG) images