

**NAME**

compdf – Compare .pdf files.

**SYNOPSIS**

**`${HOME}/bin/compdf doc1.pdf doc2.pdf`**

**DESCRIPTION**

Portable document format (.pdf) files contain metadata and embedded fonts. That makes it difficult to ascertain whether two such files describe the same document. This script uses pdftotext to translate each document into text and then compares the text files. If they are byte-for-byte identical it reports that the documents compare equal; otherwise it reports that the documents do not compare equal.

**UNITS and FILES**

standard-out      error and informational messages

**DIAGNOSTICS**

The following return codes are possible.

- 0    the documents are apparently the same
- 1    usage information was written
- 2    one or both files do not seem to be .pdf
- 3    there was a nonzero return code from pdftotext
- 4    the documents are apparently different

**BUGS**

Files containing matter other than text might be reported as different even though they produce documents indistinguishable in appearance. Files containing font changes might be reported as the same even though they produce documents that differ slightly in appearance.

**AUTHOR**

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