

Exporting to PDF with K15t PDF Exporter

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Overview

This example requires the install of the [Scroll PDF Exporter app](#).

Once installed, the Comalatech `{pdf-export}` macro can then be used as an [action in a trigger macro](#) to export a page or blog post in pdf format. The exported pdf is added to the page as an attachment.

Basic Example

```
{workflow:name=PDF export}
  {description}
    Pdf export macro example workflow
  {description}
  {state:Review|approved=Published|rejected=Review}
    {approval:Approve For Export}
  {state}
  {state:Published|final=true|submit=Review}
  {state}
  {trigger:pageapproved|approval=Approve For Export}
    {pdf-export}
  {trigger}
{workflow}
```

In this example, the **approved** decision will transition the content to the **Published** state.

When the **Approve for Export** content review is approved, the content is also exported as a pdf file and added to the content as an attachment

The transition does not wait for the pdf export of the content as a pdf and its addition as an attachment.

The export may take some time - it is queued in Confluence.

- the successful completion of the pdf export will be seen when the pdf is added as an attachment

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[View Page](#) [Save for later](#) [Save for later](#)

Attachments

Name	Size	Creator	Creation Date	Labels	Comment
pdf publish document-v2-20210202_144500.pdf	10 kB	Matilde Sipes	Feb 02, 2021 14:45	No labels	Properties Edit Delete

Using pdf-export macro events

The `pdf-export` macro action generates the workflow event `pdf-export-success`. This event occurs when the pdf export is successful.

This workflow [event](#) can be used to help confirm the success of the pdf export.

A simple way is to add an on-screen message when the event is triggered.

```
{trigger:pdf-export-success}
  {set-message:style=info|duration=PT1M}
  ||PDF export completed|@datetime|
  ||See| @attachmentURL|
  {set-message}
{trigger}
```

This would display a confirmation message together with the attachment URL and the date and time the export was completed.

pdf publish document

Created by [Matilde Sipes](#), last modified about an hour ago ● Published

PDF export completed	Feb 02, 2021 14:45
See	https://confluence.comalatech.com/download/attachments/88584479/pdf%20publish%20document-v2-20210202_144500.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1612298701065&api=v2

A second workflow event can also be generated by the `pdf-export` macro, the `pdf-export-error` event.

This event occurs if the pdf export fails.

Again this can be used, for example, to generate a custom notification.

```
{trigger:pdf-export-error}
  {set-message}
    There was an error in the pdf export @errormessage@
    {set-message}
  {trigger}
```

The value reference `@errormessage@` in the `set-message` content displays the value for actual error recorded by Confluence.

i There was an error in the pdf export error pdf-export action macro failed. Scroll PDF Exporter App is not installed or is disabled.

Note that this same Confluence error message will also be displayed but can be removed by a user.

⚠ pdf-export action macro failed. Scroll PDF Exporter App is not installed or is disabled. ✕

In this simple example

- the actions of the `pdf-export` macro are not recorded in the page activity report for the content

Filter by: ↓ States ✍ Edits 📧 Tasks 🗉 Comments Order by date: ↓ Oldest [Export to CSV](#)

Feb 02, 2021	Actor	Type	Activity	Version
● Published	Matilde Sipes	↓ State	changed state to ● Published at 8:18 PM	v4
○ Review	Matilde Sipes	↓ State	gave <i>Approve For Export</i> approval at 8:18 PM	
		↓ State	changed state to ○ Review at 8:18 PM	v4

- the on-screen message notifications may not appear on the transition to the **Published** state as the pdf export is an asynchronous event and may take some time to be completed

Manage the pdf export and add details to the page activity report

The `pdf-export` macro events can be used in one or more triggers to

- display a notification that content is being exported
- add details of the pdf export to the page activity report
- transition on the success of the pdf export

Remove the approval transition for the **approved** decision from the **Review** state.

```
{state:Review|rejected=Review}
  {approval:Approve For Export}
{state}
```

An **approved** decision for the **Approve for Export** approval will now **NOT** action a content review transition.

The `pageapproved` event trigger is still used to activate the `pdf-export` macro but before the `pdf-export macro`, an on-screen message notification is added.

```
{trigger:pageapproved|approval=Approve For Export}
  {set-message}
  This content is currently being exported to pdf
  {set-message}
  {pdf-export}
{trigger}
```

The content now remains in the **Review** state after an approved decision.

pdf publish document

Created by [Matilde Sipes](#), last modified just a moment ago, approved by admin — Review

i This content is currently being exported to pdf

A transition is set to occur as an action in a `pdf-export-success` event trigger.

```
{trigger:pdf-export-success}
  {set-message:style=success|duration=PT2M}
  PDF export completed!
  {set-message}
  {set-state:Published|comment=Approved page exported as pdf - see @attachmentURL@}
{trigger}
```

Completion of the pdf export causes the `pdf-export-success` event trigger to transition the content to the **Published** state using the `{set-state}` macro.

pdf publish document

Created by [Matilde Sipes](#), last modified about 3 hours ago Published

✓ PDF export completed!

The page activity report includes details of the pdf export that were added as the `comment` parameter value for the `{set-state}` macro.

Filter by:	States	Edits	Tasks	Comments	Order by date:	Oldest	Export to C
Feb 02, 2021	Actor	Type	Activity	Versi			
Published	admin	State	changed state to Published at 5:34 PM				
Approved page exported as pdf - see https://confluence.comalatech.com/download/attachments/88584479/pdf%20publish%20document-v2-20210202_173400.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1612308842052&api=v2							

Create a 'waiting' state for pdf export

Exporting to PDF can take some time, you may find it useful to have a 'waiting' state - a workflow state to wait for the completion of the pdf export.

```
{state:Review|approved=Export PDF|rejected=Review}
  {approval:Approve For Export}
{state}
{state:Export PDF|submit=Published|description=Content is being exported to pdf, please wait ...
|hideselection=true}
{state}
```

The **approved** decision in the Review state now causes the content to transition to the **Export PDF** state.

pdf publish document

Created by [Matilde Sipes](#), last modified about 5 hours ago ● Export PDF

i This content is currently being exported to pdf

Export PDF

Content is being exported to pdf, please wait ...

● Published i

Next: ● Published Final: ● Published

- the `pageapproved` event trigger is still used to activate the `pdf-export` macro and add the on-screen message
- The `pdf-export-success` event trigger is still used to transition the content to the **Published** state and add the details of the pdf export to the page activity report

A user can also simply move of this waiting state by choosing **Submit** to transition to the **Published** state. The `pdf-export-success` event trigger will still be activated on the successful export of the pdf.

Create an 'error' state

If the pdf export fails - for example, the K15t app may be disabled for the instance or space - it may be useful to create and use a workflow state to manage the export error.

The transition to the **Error** state will be set to only occur if the `pdf-export-error` event occurs.

```
{trigger:pdf-export-error}
  {set-message}
  PDF export failed
  {set-message}
  {set-state:Error|comment=PDF export failed - @errormessage@}
{trigger}
```

The **Error** state will need to be added to the workflow. A review can be added to allow a user to decide if the export should be tried again or the error ignored and transition to the **Published** state.

pdf publish document

Created by [Matilde Sipes](#), last modified yesterday at 7:23 PM ● Error (view "Published")

i PDF export failed

Approve for Export ⋮

PDF export failed. What do you want to do?

Add comment

Retry ExportIgnore Error

Next: ● Export PDFFinal: ● Published

- use the same approval name as the **Review** state approval and the `pageapproved` trigger will listen for the approval event in each state approval
- customize the content review buttons displayed in the workflow popup to help the user understand the content review decisions

```
{state:Error|approved=Export PDF|rejected=Published|description=PDF export failed. What do you want to do?|hidefrompath=true|color=#ff0000}{approval:Approve for Export|approveLabel=Retry Export|rejectLabel=Ignore Error}{state}
```

The page activity report will include details from the `comment` parameter value for the `{set-state}` macro.

Filter by: ⚡ States ✎ Edits ☑ Tasks 🔍 Comments Order by date: ↓ Oldest Export to CS

Feb 03, 2021	Actor	Type	Activity	Version
● Error	admin	⚡ State	changed state to ● Error at 12:28 AM	v4
		PDF export failed - service proxy has been destroyed		
● Review	admin	⚡ State	gave <i>Approve For Export</i> approval at 12:28 AM	
		⚡ State	changed state to ● Review at 12:28 AM	v4

Example complete workflow with 'waiting' and 'error' states

```

{workflow:name=Pdf Export workflow}
  {description}
    Pdf export macro example workflow with waiting Export for PDF state and Error state
  {description}
  {state:Review|approved=Export PDF|rejected=Review|colour=#0052CC}
    {approval:Approve For Export}
  {state}
  {state:Export PDF|submit=Published|description=Content is being exported to pdf, please wait ...}
|hideselection=true}
  {state}
  {state:Error|approved=Export PDF|rejected=Published|description=PDF export failed. What do you want to do?}
|hidefrompath=true|colour=#ff0000}
  {approval:Approve for Export|approveLabel=Retry Export|rejectLabel=Ignore Error}
  {state}
  {state:Published|final=true|submit=Review|updated=Review}
  {state}
  {trigger:pageapproved|approval=Approve For Export}
    {set-message} This content is currently being exported to pdf{set-message}
    {pdf-export}
  {trigger}
  {trigger:pdf-export-success}
    {set-message:style=success|duration=PT2M}
    PDF export completed!
    {set-message}
    {set-state:Published|comment=Approved page exported as pdf - see @attachmentURL@}
  {trigger}
  {trigger:pdf-export-error}
    {set-message}
    PDF export failed
    {set-message}
    {set-state:Error|comment=PDF export failed - @errorMessage@}
  {trigger}
{workflow}

```

See also

- [pdf-export macro](#)
- [K15t Scroll PDF Exporter](#)