

Moodle Plugin – Merge PDF Files

The ‘Merge PDF Files’ plugin offers the users a convenient way by which they can merge the PDF documents in a Moodle course.

This plugin requires two external tools:

- **PDFtk** (short for PDF Toolkit) is a cross-platform tool for manipulating Portable Document Format (PDF) documents.
- **LaTeX** – A document preparation system for high-quality typesetting. It is most often used for medium-to-large technical or scientific documents but it can be used for almost any form of publishing.

The module is created and is currently being developed at IIT, Bombay (India).

Installation

The public repository of the plugin is at <https://github.com/Kashmira9890/mergefiles>.

Forum discussion

The forum discussion thread about this plugin can be found at

<https://moodle.org/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=352481>.

Plugin Usage

Through this feature, now users will be able to merge pdf files in a particular course from within moodle itself.

Tracker Issue : <https://tracker.moodle.org/browse/CONTRIB-6920>

Plugin Description with illustrative screenshots

The 'mergefiles' folder is to be added to moodle/report directory.

After applying this patch to moodle,

- Go to a particular course
- Click on settings icon
- A link saying "Merge PDF files" appears in the course settings (drop-down menu) list.

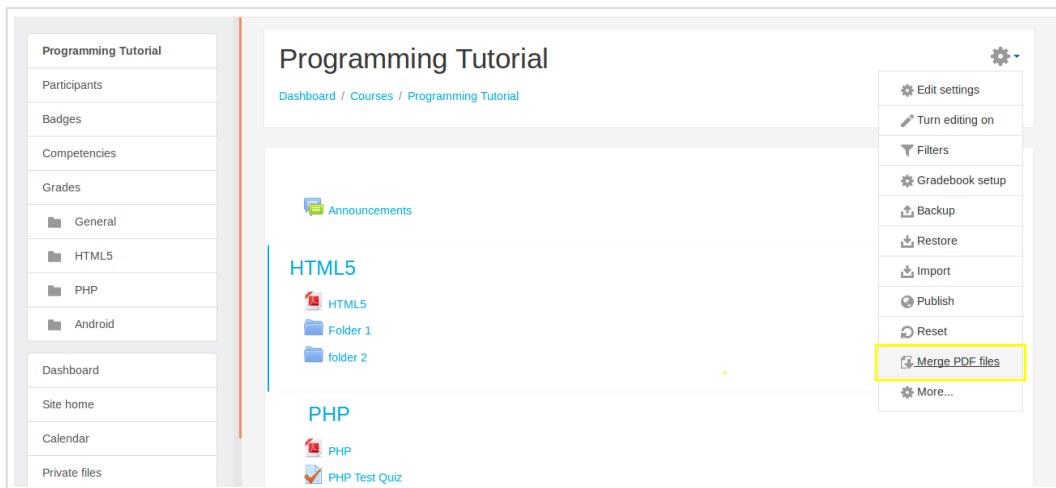


Figure 1: Moodle Course Page

- Then, you get a page listing all the pdf files in that particular course.
- At the end of this page, you get a button labeled "Merge pdf files".

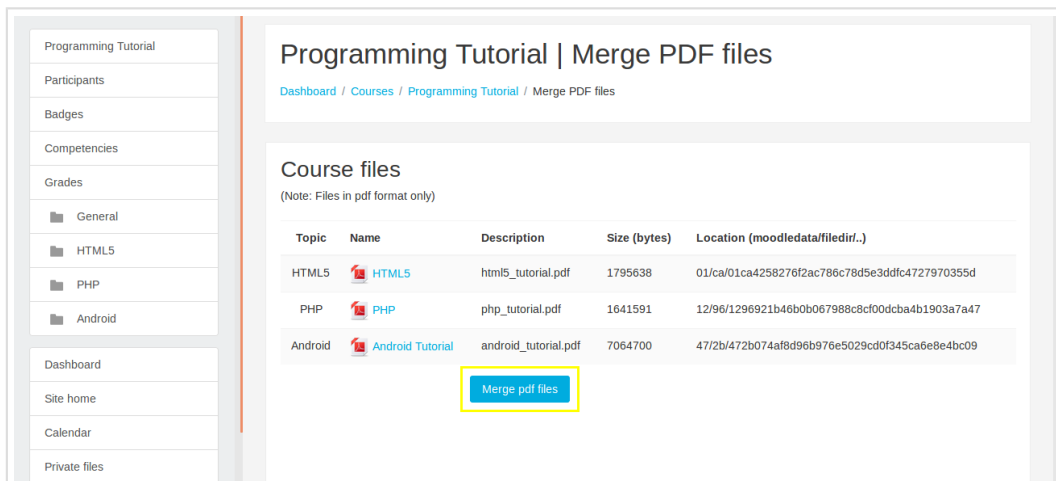


Figure 2: Page listing course files (only pdf files)

- On clicking the button, the user will get a merged document of all the course files listed on that page.

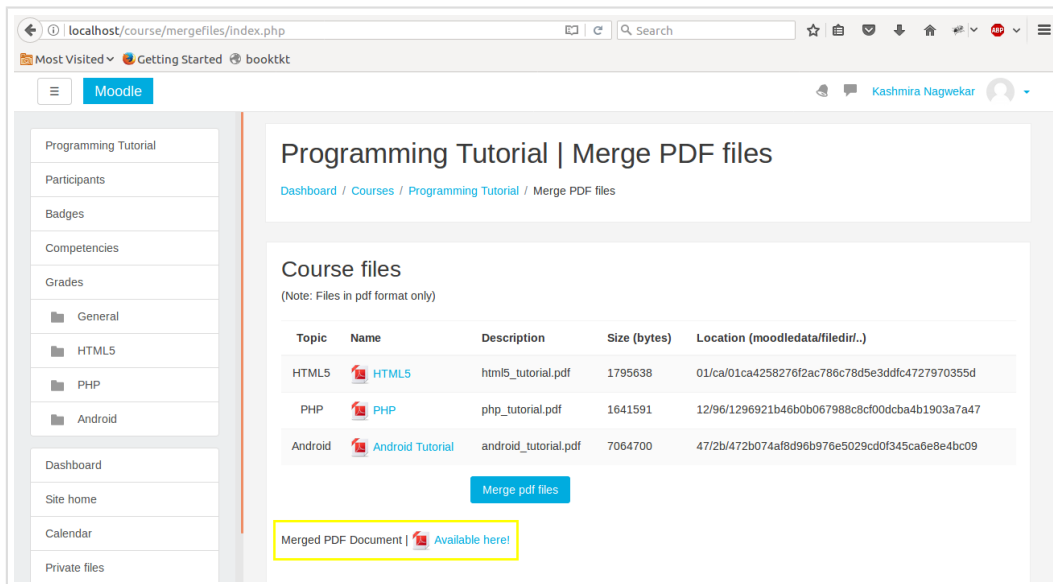
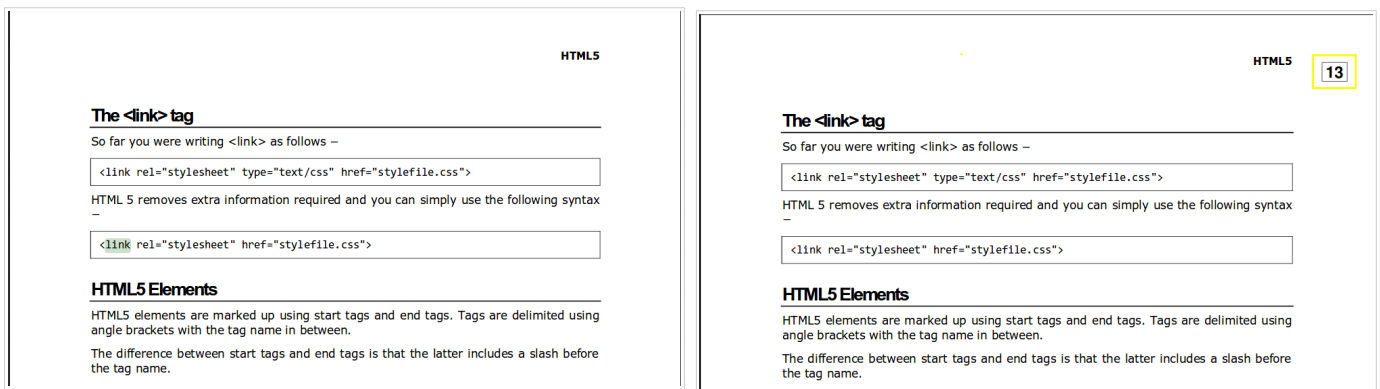


Figure 3: Merged document readily available (in PDF format)



Before Merging

After Merging

Figure 4: Merged file with page numbers stamped on it

Other Features

The following functionality is currently being incorporated into this plugin wherein:

- user can shuffle the listed pdf files
- user can select only a few/all pdf files
- a list of previously merged files will be displayed