

Internet information on the Kindle

15 Things I Just Learned About the Amazon Kindle

Posted by [Joel Johnson](#), November 19, 2007 9:34 AM
on <http://gadgets.boingboing.net/2007/11/19/15-things-i-just-lea.html>

- Its eBooks have DRM (filetype: .AZW), but it supports unprotected Mobipocket books (.MOBI, .PRC), .TXT files, HTML, and Word. Some files can be transferred over USB, while others have to be emailed to the special per-device Kindle email. (USA only)
- It has a web browser, under the "Experimental" banner.
- You can download text and other files to the device from the web for later storage.
- It can play Audible audiobooks, but cannot download them over the air using the "Whispernet" EV-DO service. They must be downloaded using the Audible manager, then copied to the Kindle via USB.
- The Kindle can play MP3s copied to its internal storage (180MB user accessible) or SD card, but only on random shuffle. Music can be played in the background while you read or shop the Kindle store.
- Kindle also features "Kindle NowNow," a human-powered search query system powered by Amazon's Mechanical Turk distributed work system. NowNow is free.
- Blog subscriptions cost \$2 a month with a 14-day free trial. However, you can browse directly to the blog using the "Basic Web" browser for free. Basically, you'll pay for RSS, but not the web.
- Mobipocket DRM'd files will *not* work on the Kindle.
- PDF is not supported. At all. Even via the conversion process.
- GIF and JPEG are supported file types.
- There are only two fonts: Caecilia and Neue Helvetica, both from Linotype. You cannot select which font to use to read (the book texts are in Caecilia), but can select from six font sizes.
- If you email a document directly to your Kindle, Amazon will charge you a \$.10 per document conversion fee. You can choose to avoid that fee by using the free Kindle service that will email the file back to you, which can then be copied via USB. **Update:** The pay service took about 15 minutes to convert and broadcast a simple text-only .DOC file; the free copy, sent *before* I sent the identical file over the pay service, has still not arrived. **Update 2:** Okay, it actually arrived pretty quickly, but routed back to the email I use for my Amazon account, not the one I sent it from. That puts it in the neighborhood of the pay service.
- The shape of the Kindle makes sense when you hold it, but the color isn't all that great. White plastic is going to get dirty, too.

- The conversion by email, both free and pay-for, isn't instant by any means. I'm actually still waiting on my files to show up after about five minutes. It hasn't shown up in the "Pending" list on Amazon.com's Kindle management page, either.
- You can't use the scroll wheel to move down content, even on the web. You must use the page forward and back keys. It's confusing.
- **Bonus 16th Update:** Having copied over .DOC, .TXT, .RTF, .PDF, .GIF, .JPEG, and .PDB files directly to the Kindle via USB, only the .TXT file showed up for viewing.

The .DOC file I sent over the air to the Kindle arrived as a .AZW, the Kindle format, which implies to me that the only two file formats this thing can read natively are .AZW and .TXT. That's a *huge* bummer.

Can Kindle read non DRM (encrypted) Mobi files?

Note: www.mobipocket.com is an online eBook site that sells only DRM protected eBooks. These do not seem to be compatible with Kindle. I suggest you do your research to check if Mobi files are DRM protected before buying eBooks for Kindle.

[mobi cs1](#)



Joined: 24 Aug 2007

Posts: 4449

Location: Mobipocket

➔ Posted: Tue Nov 20, 2007 4:48 pm

Mobigen can create non-DRM mobi files.

About the Kindle, as said in another post, the Mobipocket non-DRM books are compatible with Kindle.

But the books purchased from Mobipocket or retailers who use the Mobipocket format with DRM are not compatible with Kindle.

As for Kindle books on mobipocket-enabled device, i think the publishers hopefully might authorize the sales of their eBooks on Mobipocket.



Joined: 24 Aug 2007

Posts: 4450

Location: Mobipocket

→Posted: Wed Nov 28, 2007 11:47 am

Here are a few questions that can be of help:

Are Mobipocket books compatible with Kindle?

Mobipocket non-DRM books are compatible with Kindle. Essentially these would be freebooks and samples.

Books purchased from Mobipocket or retailers who use the Mobipocket format with DRM are not compatible with Kindle.

As for other questions such as kindle sales, royalties or publisher ebooks on the kindle store, the Amazon customer support is better suited to answer these types of questions.

Thanks and Regards

■01-13-2008, 02:19 PM #1

[guineapiguser](#)

Junior Member



Posts: 4

Karma: 10

Join Date: Jan 2008

Device: Kindle & Sony PRS-505

Converting your PDF files to Kindle using PDF2LRF (Better than Amazon's conversion)

Written by [guineapiguser](#) on <http://www.mobileread.com/forums/showthread.php?t=18968>

Hey,

As an former Sony Reader I frequently used a program called PDF2LRF which I found to be the best PDF converter too because it specifically increased the contrast for text/ images to make them more readable on our eReader screens (which default converters don't do)

I came up with a straightforward workflow to convert PDFs to Kindle format which also bypasses Amazon's service. Note: this works best for image based/ or text +image based pdfs or if you want to preserve PDF formatted.

PDF to Kindle Workflow:

The workflow I've come up with is this.

1) Use PDF2LRF to input the PDF and output to a .zip file filled with PNG files. (I have to use PDF2LRF in command line format to accomplish this).

link: <http://www.mobileread.com/forums/showthread.php?t=13135> (download the command line program). Use command:

" pdf2lrf -i INPUT_PDF_FILENAME.pdf -o OUTPUT_PDF_FILENAME.zip " (which generates a zip file of PNG images from PDF)

2) Then use the program that jbenny posted (PNG2PDF) to generate a PDF file in commandline from the Zip files

LINK: <http://www.mobileread.com/forums/showthread.php?p=13135&page=18> (scroll down and download the file PNG2PDF.zip) Type this command in command line prompt:

```
" png2pdf OUTPUT_PDF_FILENAME.zip "
```

This generates a file called: OUTPUT_PDF_FILENAME_png.PDF

3) Afterwards, I run Mobipocket Creator to import PDF file and output to .PRC format which is then readable with the Kindle.

download link: <http://www.mobipocket.com/en/DownloadMobipocketCreator.asp>

Use option: Import PDF file: OUTPUT_PDF_FILENAME_png.PDF in Mobipocket Creator program (free), then after setting the Metadata, click Publish, to generate PRC file.

4) Move the generated .PRC file to your Kindle and enjoy it.

Note: you can fiddle with the PDF2LRF settings but I found the default settings worked pretty well.

Note: The advantage of this is I don't have to email the file to Amazon at all to get it converted and readable on kindle! (Since Gmail's 20 meg limit which I find quite limiting). And best of all the output is split nicely with high contrast, 2 pages/ landscape rotated which makes it as readable as on my Sony device compared to Amazon's default PDF conversion.

Summary: PDF -> PDF2LRF -> PNG2PDF -> MobiPocket Creator -> Kindle.

How to Convert PDF Files to Read on the Amazon Kindle

Posted by *Cottontimer* on 06 May 2008 on <http://www.cottontimer.com/2008/05/06/how-to-convert-pdf-files-to-read-on-the-amazon-kindle/>

One of the first things I wanted to do with my [Amazon Kindle electronic reader](#) was to read PDF files on it. Unfortunately, you can't just dump PDF files directly into the Documents folder of the Kindle. You have to convert them first into one of the document file types the Kindle will recognize (.azw, .txt, .mobi*, .prc*). I tried emailing my files to name@free.kindle.com for free conversion and delivery to the email address associated with my Amazon.com account but I never received the files.

Thankfully, xxxx sent me [a link](#) showing how to convert PDF files using [Mobipocket Creator](#) but the instructions weren't very clear. Here is a step-by-step on how to convert PDF files into .prc files for the Amazon Kindle.

1. Download and install the FULL version of Mobipocket Creator. (If you opt for the simpler version, it won't have the PDF conversion option.)
2. When Mobipocket Creator is running, select Adobe PDF under Import From Existing File
3. Choose the PDF file you want to convert
4. Leave the rest alone unless you want to change your destination folder and click Import
5. Select the html file that was just created and click Build from the toolbar at the top of Mobipocket Creator
6. Click Build (you will most likely get a few errors but I just ignore them)
7. Go to your destination folder, open the folder that was created with your publication
8. Copy the .prc file into the Documents folder of your Kindle via the USB cable (if you want it delivered wirelessly, you'll have to email it to yourself and pay 10 cents)

One of the major difficulties of reading PDF files on the Kindle is the lack of a Table of Contents so you can't skip around very easily. There is a function on Mobipocket Creator for creating a Table of Contents but I just can't be bothered to figure it out. My solution is to convert only individual articles and not large PDF files. Sometimes the formatting can also be wonky but it's still quite legible. I'm willing to put up with this process as I much prefer reading PDF files on my Kindle. Hopefully in future software upgrades, PDF files will be supported!

Mac Magazine comments on Kindle

<http://www.mymac.com/showarticle.php?id=3195>

Kindle?

No, I wasn't looking for one of these. Ebook (eBook? ebook?) readers have always been seriously lacking in both design and function, as well as services. Kindle seems to be different, however. Perhaps you should take a look too, because Steve Jobs may have been mistaken when he said that nobody reads anymore.

If you are looking for an iPhone or a media player, this is not the thing for you. You will be disappointed with Kindle if that is what you are expecting.



What Kindle is, is an excellent (but ugly) electronic book reader.

There is no monthly service fee or any cost whatsoever to access the web. Popular sites, such as SlashDot, MyMac, Digg, Reddit, etc., are always available on the Internet, through the free wireless service. So are the sites, Wikipedia, Google, and the New York Times, as well as a number of other daily and weekly publications, however some are not free but subscription only. There is also a built-in Webster's Dictionary on the Kindle.

The thing that is striking about the Kindle is that there is no glare from the electronic ink screen at all. It looks just like a printed page. There is no backlight either, so you can read the screen anywhere you can read a book. Therefore, a booklight is also a good option to buy when and if you happen to buy a Kindle.

Books are for sale on the Kindle, through Amazon, the creator and seller of the Kindle. All best-sellers are just \$9.99, regardless of the paper book price. Short stories are \$2.00 or less. Buying a book takes just seconds, when you access Amazon's bookstore, and downloads are very fast, so you can start reading your book in under a minute after you buy it. This is a feature that Amazon got right. It works very well — almost as well as iTunes.

Battery life for the Kindle is measured in days instead of hours, and it takes about two hours to recharge. The battery indicator will also go up and down, depending on your wireless usage. The electronic ink display will take many days to run down your battery.

You can also use the Kindle to listen to your unlocked MP3 music files or your audio books. You are responsible for these files. MP3 files will play on the Kindle, but of course, at much lower sound quality. There is a small stereo headset that comes with the unit. The Kindle doesn't exactly have access to a music store, but it can play back unprotected MP3 files and Audible (.aa) files synced via USB. Amazon has launched a music store that sells MP3s without digital rights management (DRM), but right now there is no direct link to the Kindle, so you will need to put any music or audio files on the unit yourself, through your computer.

Expansion for memory storage on the Kindle is through any size SD card. Kindle does not require the use of a computer at all. However, to connect to one (PC or Mac) you will need to use the included USB 2.0 cable. The Kindle can also be used as a USB drive as well.

But the most notable thing about the Kindle is that the unit is currently sold out and back-ordered. People who have bought one say it never leaves their side. Even though it looks clunky, it just works and works well. Therefore, the owner of a new Kindle ebook reader clearly loves them with the sort of mania usually reserved for Macs, iPhones and iPods.

Email on the Kindle is possible too. Send your emails to `YourName@free.kindle.com`. They are converted and a link to the converted files are emailed to your registered email address at no charge. You then download them to your Kindle to read when you want, using a USB connector. This is a neat feature if you are a daily long-distance commuter. You can also get your emails immediately and wirelessly, of course, but each email will cost you \$.10 through Amazon.

For the PC user, you can make your own files to read on the Kindle using the free and included, on-board MobiPocket v4.2 Creator, which converts HTML, MS Word Docs, Text, and PDF into .PRC files which, when transferred into the Kindle are directly readable.

Converted and readable files for the Kindle can be found through Amazon, of course, but also from the MobiPocket site, which can be found [HERE](#), but again, not for free. There seems to be very few reading or other files that can be had for free, or which will not expire (DRM) sometime in the near future, but that is sort of the way things are anywhere these days. So, please do not try to use such (cough, cough, bitorrents, cough) other such resources, which may be illegal.

Kindle does not support the Mac. It is not that the nice folks at Amazon are Mac-haters (yes they are), but since you live and work on a Mac, you will need to make your own .PRC conversions for downloading to the Kindle, if you happen to own one. You can do this using a number of free downloadable tools. Just go to sites like [nvwvault.ign.com](#), or [mac.softpedia.com](#), or [calliopeinc.com](#) to get their OS X tools. You can also find a lot more like that by just googling .PRC for Mac.

In my opinion, Kindle lacks the single feature that would make it truly useful to me as a writer, and that is a keyboard. It has a thumb board and that is useful for emails, margin notes for your ebooks and such, but not for writing articles, stories, or novels. Not to mention the fact (again) that the Kindle's looks are really off-putting. You can tell it was not designed by Jonathan Ive. Currently, there is nothing portable on the market that does work for us Mac writers, except the MacBook.

Looks aside, Kindle is the best ebook reader there is right now. Couple this with the free web access and the not-so-lame Amazon book buying service, and it is easy to see why they are sold-out and back-ordered.

The Kindle can be purchased through Amazon.com for \$399. (Yes, this is expensive. Expect the price to come down as more services and subscriptions are sold.)

Display: 6" diagonal E-Ink® electronic display, 600 x 800 at 167 ppi, 4-level gray scale.

Size (in inches): 7.5" x 5.3" x 0.7"

Weight: 10.3 ounces.

Wireless connectivity: Sprint's EVDO network (apparently free, however the true cost is built-in to whatever subscription or media is purchased, such as daily newspapers or book downloads).

Internal memory: 60 MB for system and about 256 MB for storage — about 200 books.

You know, Apple should come out with something like this.

Or they should just buy Amazon.

Sorry, no refunds. Your mileage may vary. Accept no substitutes. Film at 11.

[MyMac.com Rating](#): 4 out of 5, if based on function, but only 2 out of 5 based on price and appearance.