

Use of the MZ3 Tools to generate a photo book (online)



Definition: Online Version

The Online (also called server or browser version) allows accessing and viewing MZ3 titles from the internet in a browser with Flash support. All data relevant for the MZ3 title, i.e. all content, the MegaZine3 configuration file and the MegaZine3 software, is located on a server. The MegaZine3 software can and usually does support several MZ3 titles.

Although the use of a local disk or network is possible, there might be restrictions due to the safety concept of FLASH ("[sandbox](#)"), which can e.g. block videos to work.

The Offline-Version of MegaZine3 is different from the Online version. In this paper we'll discuss the Online version.

Variant Photo Book

A MZ3-Title can be created in different ways:

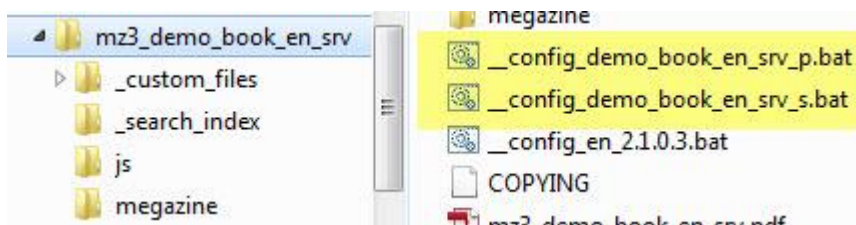
1. As individual pages with one to many elements (images, videos, ...) on every single page.
2. Pages created automatically, making use of the batchpages plugin. This option is mainly used for titles created automatically out of a PDF file, where the resulting flash pages (.swf files) are defined as batchpages.

The MZ3 tool configuration of the demo package for photo books creates pages with one image per page. Both, single and spreadpages, can be utilized. Alternatively to this approach also batchpages can be used. A simple change of one parameter in the MZ3 tool configuration file `__config` is sufficient:
`SET make_what=b` (b like batchpages instead of p as pages)

Download and Installation *MZ3 Tool photo book (Online)*

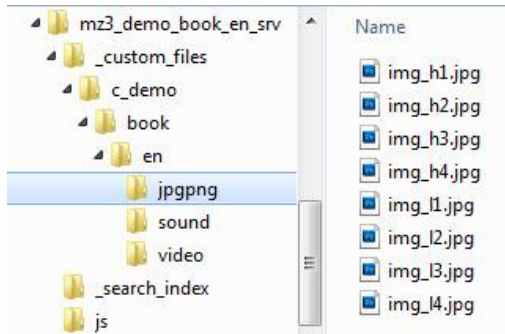
After downloading the [Demo Package](#) (photo book Online), this has to be unpacked in a new folder. Name and location can be freely chosen. Then all folders and files needed for the demo photo book are available, including the template for the MZ3 Tool configuration file `__config_en_2.1.x.x.bat` and two pre-configured *MZ3 Tool* configuration files to generate photo books:

`__config_demo_book_en_srv_p.bat` for a title with single pages
`__config_demo_book_en_srv_b.bat` for a title with single pages created with a single element, of the [batchpages](#) plugin: `<pages>`



Folder Structure (schematic)

The base folder, i.e. the folder you created for the demo package, contains the folders *megazine/* (MegaZine3 Software) and *_custom_files* (content for the MZ3 title). Book and version folders with the respective language (like *en/* for English) and content folders (like *jpgpng/* for images) will store all data like PDF files and images that will go into the MZ3 titles. The same structure as for Online titles is used, to support both Offline and Online titles.

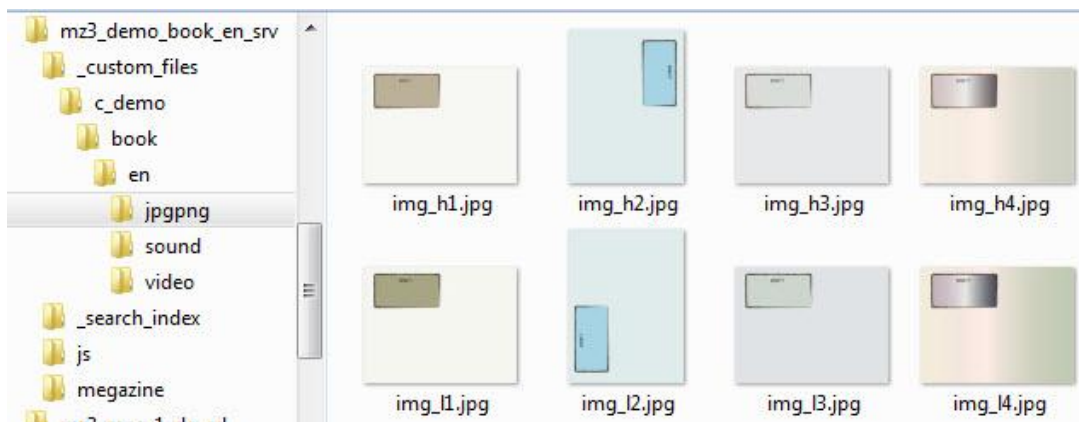


Sample Data

Four sample files in low in high quality are provided in the folder:

_custom_files/c_demo/book/en/jpgpng/ img_.jpg*

The name of the book is *demo* and the version is called *book*. It is an English title (*en/*) with images in *jpg* or *png* format in folder *jpgpng/*.




MegaZine3 Software

The folder `megazine/` contains the actual version of the MegaZine3 Software; in this case the Online version *megazine-fat.swf*

For the online version some more files and folders compared to the offline version are needed:

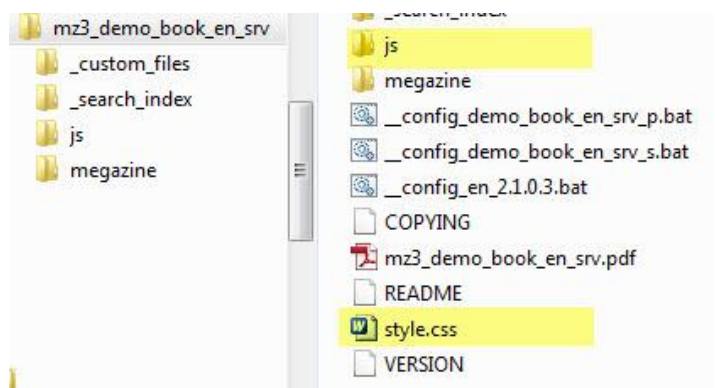
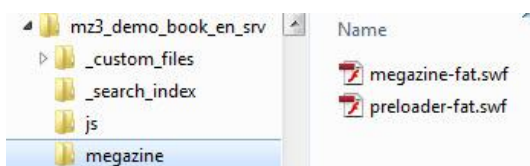
`index_demo_book.html` This index file, containing the book and version name, is called in a browser and calls the Preloader.

`Preloader-fat.swf` 

The Preloader loads the MegaZine3 software and then starts the MZ3 title

`js/` A folder with JavaScript files

`style.css` A CSS file taking care of the style of the browser output.
If this file is missing, at least Firefox cannot display anything.



Creation of a MegaZine3 Photo Book

A photo book is created in starting one of the `__config_demo_book_de_srv_x.bat` files (click/double click). A new message window opens with a lot of messages giving details about the building process.

In case there are no errors detected, the completed MZ3 title can be started with a hit of any key and will open in a window of your default browser.

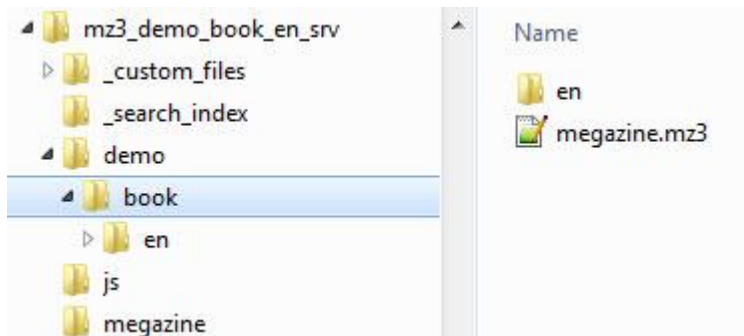
In case you get a warning from Adobe telling you that you must correct your security settings, please add the base folder to the list of exclusion for the security checks (see hints about [sandbox](#)).

If you are interested in some background information, continue reading with the next chapter. Otherwise continue with chapter "Use your own Images"

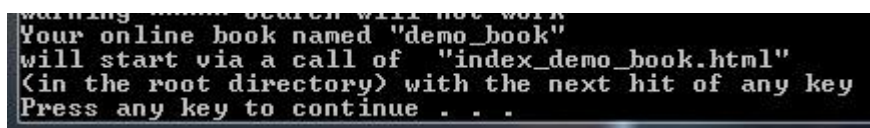
What is happening behind the scenes...

Assumption: book name = *demo*, version name = *book*, language = *en*

- A folder named as the book is created: *demo/*
Remark: This is different for the online version here compared with the offline version, where the book name is and a trailing “_cd” form the folder name..
- This folder *demo/* then holds a folder names as the version (in this case: book): *demo/book/*
- Into this version folder *demo/book/* the complete language folder *en/* from *_custom_files/c_demo/book/* is copied:
_custom_files/c_demo/book/en/jpgpng/img_.jpg* → *demo/book/en/jpgpng/img_*.jpg**
- The MZ3 configuration file *megazine.mz3* is created and put into the *demo/book/* folder.



After this the MZ3 title is ready and can be viewed with a click/double click of any key in the message window.

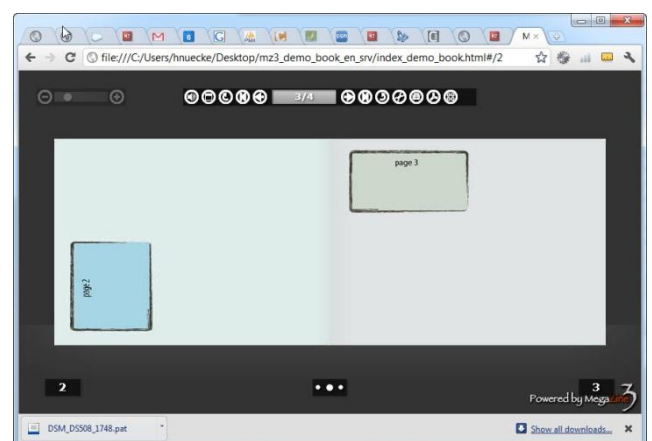
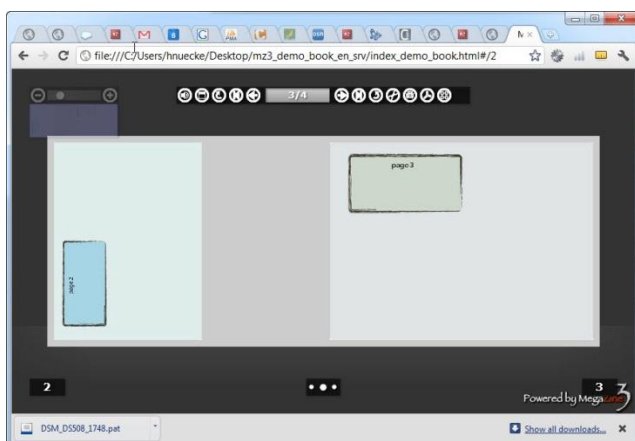


The index file *index_demo_book.html* is called, the default browser opens and the Preloader is shown. The Preloader then loads the MegaZine3 software and the MZ3 title and the photo book will be opened in the browser's window.

Four pages with the 4 images are shown, either with the `<page>` elements (see screenshot below on the left) or with the `<pages>` element from the batchpages plugin (screenshot on the right).

As you can see the batchpages plugin (right) resizes the images automatically to make them fit 100% with the size of the books page. Therefore images in portrait format become distorted.

→ to make use of the batchpages plugin all pages should have the same aspect ratio!



The following screenshots show some lines of the magazine.mz3 files of the two versions.

The first screenshot is the MZ3 configuration file that was created with SET page_type=p (i.e. <page> elements).

```
35  The following lines define 4 single pages, chapter tags had been included
36  <!-- ** page 1 **-->
37  <page buffer="true" stiff="true" print="../demo/book/en/jpgpng/img_h1.jpg">
38  <img top='10' left='10' height='300' keepar='true' >
39  <src>../demo/book/en/jpgpng/img_l1.jpg </src>
40  <src scale="1.5">../demo/book/en/jpgpng/img_h1.jpg</src>
41  </img>
42  </page>
43  <!-- ** page 2 **-->
44  <page buffer="true" print="../demo/book/en/jpgpng/img_h2.jpg">
45  <img top='10' left='10' height='300' keepar='true' >
46  <src>../demo/book/en/jpgpng/img_l2.jpg </src>
47  <src scale="1.5">../demo/book/en/jpgpng/img_h2.jpg</src>
48  </img>
49  </page>
50  <!-- ** page 3 **-->
```

The second one is the complete definition of the chapter using the <pages> element from the batchpages plugin, i.e. page_type was set in the __config file as SET page_type=b

```
<chapter
  pages="scale('../demo/book/en/jpgpng/img_l{{num}}.jpg');
  scale('../demo/book/en/jpgpng/img_h{{num}}.jpg',1.5);
  print('../demo/book/en/jpgpng/img_h{{num}}.jpg');
  count(1,4);
  settings(true, false, false, true, false)">
<!-- The end of the batchpages chapter -->
</chapter>
</book>
```

Use your own Images

Instead of the sample images provided with the demo package you can use your own photos. For that you need to copy your images into the folder `_custom_files`.

Best is you create a new set of folders, with `c_bookname` being first; located in the `_custom_files` folder. Here `bookname` is the name you choose for your book, like e.g. `photobook`. In this folder another folder named as your version needs to be created, e.g. `bali1`.

Example: `_custom_files/c_photobook/bali1/`

Now the language folder `en/` and the folder `jpgpng/` for the images have to be created. Your photos then will go into that folder:

Example: `_custom_files/photobook/bali1/en/jpgpng/`

The photos should be named like `img_l1.jpg`, numbered from 1,2,3, ... 10,11,12,13,.. to ...100, 101 etc.

An example of how to achieve that is shown in the tutorials [xnview](#) (xnview is an image management tool, free for personal use), as well as in chapter [photo adjustments](#) (part of the [photo book \(XML Editor\)](#) tutorial).

Example of a correct image path and name: `_custom_files/fotobuch/bali1/de/jpgpng/img_l1.jpg`

If you want to support high quality images also, another set of images, now with higher quality, must be copied and named `img_h*.jpg`

Please copy/duplicate the sample `__config_demo_book_de_srv.bat` file and rename it to e.g.:
`__config_photobook_bali_en_srv.bat`

In this new MZ3 tool configuration file you have to make all changes that are specific to your personal book. Like adjusting the name of your book (`book_name=photobook`), the name of the version (`version_name=bali1`), the page size (`pg_width`, `pg_height`) and the number of images/pages you want to create (`pg_count`).

For additional parameterization the comments available in the `__config` file will be of help..

After you saved your changes you can run the file `__config_fotobuch_bali_en_srv.bat` with e.g. a click or double click and your photo book will be ready for use.

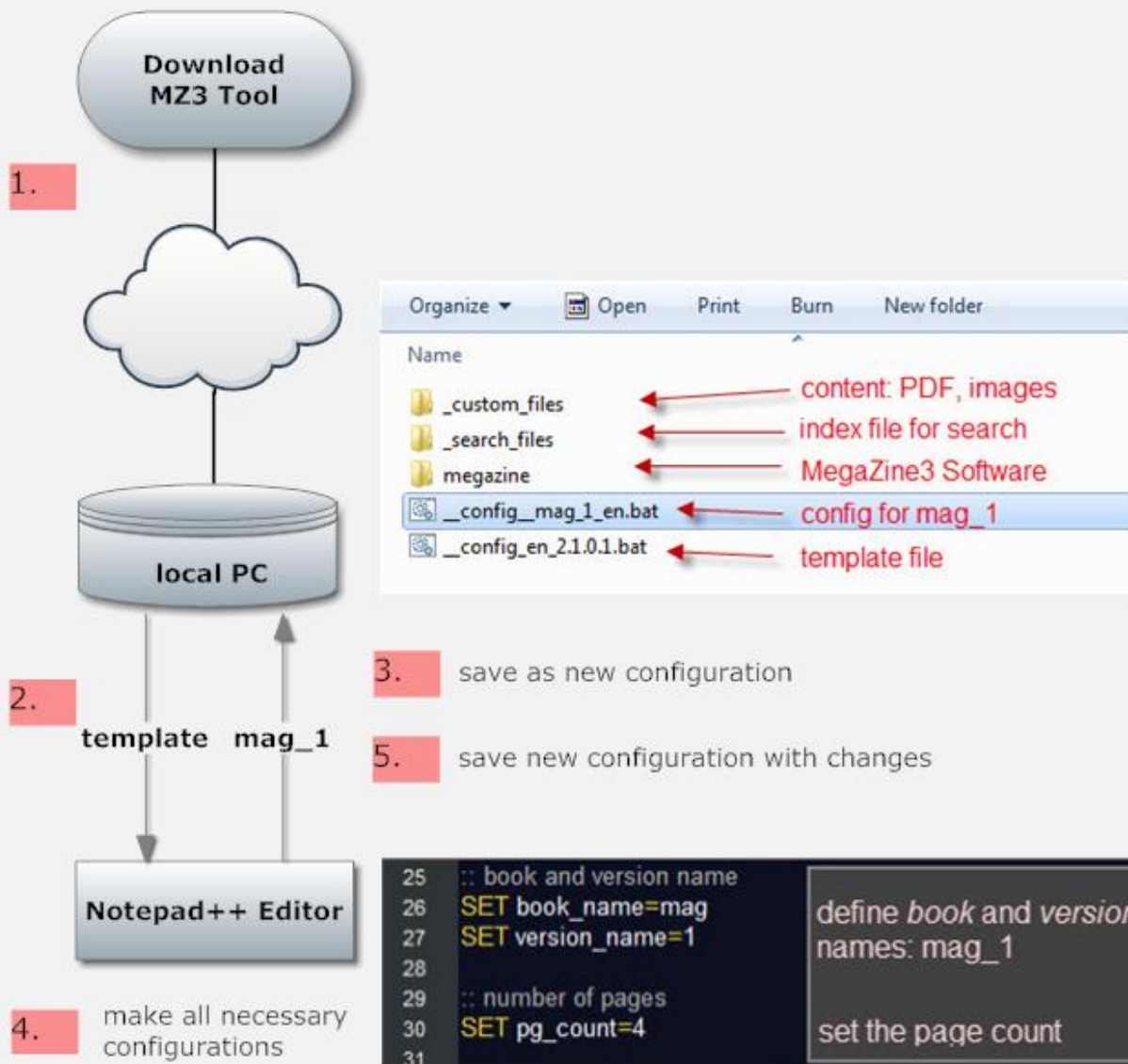
Additional help and features

Please also check the tutorial [Basic concepts of MegaZine3](#) and the tutorial about the [MZ3 Tool](#), which will help getting into the pageflip technology with MegaZine3.

We also suggest to load the other demo package examples, and then compare the different MZ3 Tool configuration files (they sometimes only differ in one single parameter) and the resulting MZ3 configuration files `megazine.mz3`.

In the [tutorial area](#) you soon will find special tutorials on how to enhance your books, like using page background color or background images, adding video and audio files, use chapters, links, bookmarks and more. Also a tutorial showing how to upload an online title to your server is planned.

General Workflow MZ3 Tool



1. Download the MZ3 tool; a link is provided on the *MZ3-TOOL* tutorial
2. Open the `__config_en_2.x.bat` file with notepad++
3. Save immediately with a new name, like `__config_mag_1_en.bat`. Otherwise changes are not possible, because the template file `__config_en_2.1.0.x.bat` is save protected.
4. Make all necessary adjustments in the configuration file, like setting the book and version name and the number of pages.
5. Save the the changed configuration file.

Start your __config file

Execute, click or double click your config file, e.g. __config_mag_1_en.bat. Whatever starts your batch command file

confirm the security question

You might have to confirm that you want to execute that file.

Watch the messages in the new window

```

Processing offline page 2
Processing offline page 3
Processing offline page 4
Now the MegaZine3 Software, the search index are copied to CD folder
also jpg, png, swf, snd, vid are copied to the CD folder if there is no folder
megazine\negazine-fat.exe
1 File(s) copied
The system cannot find the file specified.
The system cannot find the file specified.
The system cannot find the file specified.
The system cannot find the file specified.

Now creating the nag_cd/1/negazine/negazine.nz3 file

*** warning search: No language list provided
the default search-index _search_index/nag_1.txt
is needed to make search work

warning ***** Search will not work

Your offline book named
in folder nag_cd/1/ will start with the next hit of a key.
Press any key to continue . . .

```

Any errors or problems reported?

yes

Follow the suggestions and solve the problems (e.g. name and locate your pdf file correctly) and then start again

Notepad++ Editor

no

hit enter to start your book

Enjoy MZ3

