

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 PDF Conversion

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 PDF conversion creates single pages with one image per page with the help of the <pages> element from the batchpages plugin. Every page of the PDF file is converted into a FLASH page (swf file), scaled to the page size of the book and positioned on a single page.

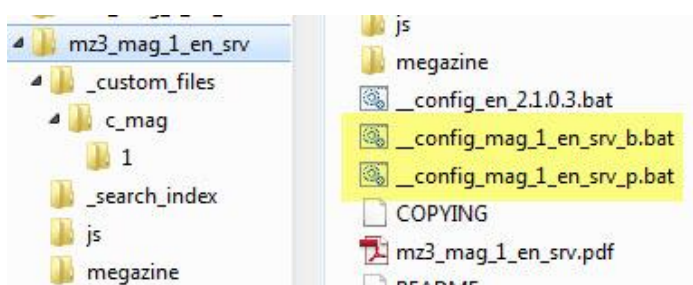
Alternatively to this approach also single pages and spreadpages can be built with the >page> and <spreadpage> elements. A simple change of one parameter in the MZ3 tool configuration file __config is sufficient:

`SET make_what=p` (p like page or s like spreadpage, instead of b for batchpages)

Download and Installation MZ3 PDF Conversion (Online)

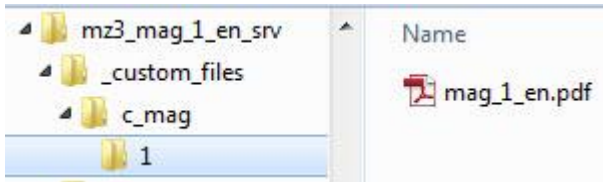
After downloading the [Demo Package](#) (PDF conversion Online), this has to be unpacked in a new folder. Name and location can be freely chosen. Then all folders and files needed for the demo photo book are available, including the template for the MZ3 Tool configuration file `__config_en_2.1.x.x.bat`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

`__config_mag_1_en_srv_p.bat` for a title with single pages
`__config_mag_1_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

The sample PDF file is provided in the folder _custom_files/c_mag/1/ and must be named as the book and version name used to define the path names (book name = mag, version name = 1).

MegaZine3 Software

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

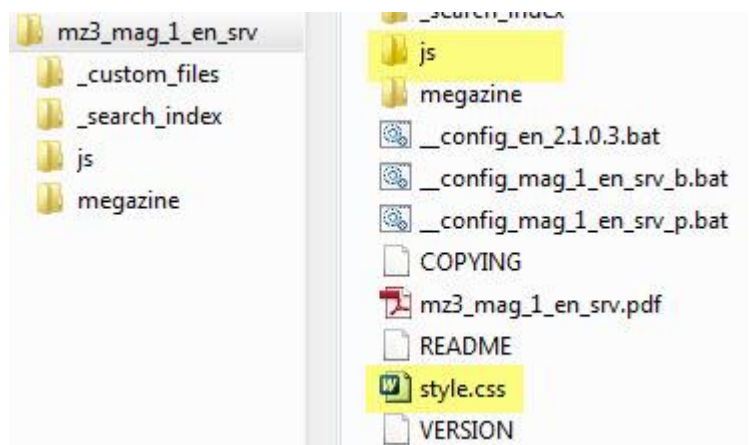
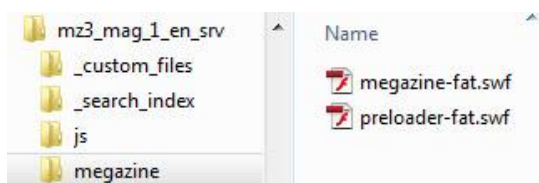
For the online version some more files and folders compared to the offline version are needed:

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 title out of a PDF file

A MZ3 title out of a PDF file is created in starting one of the __config_mag_1_en_srv_x.bat files (click/double click). A new message window opens with a lot of messages giving details about the building process.

Important:

Before starting the __config batch file, the [swftools](#) must be installed. If this was not done yet, please do so now. The program pdf2swf, which is part of swftools, is called by the __Config file to do the PDF conversion. Please check the [special tutorial](#) about swftools, which provides a download link and explains the installation.

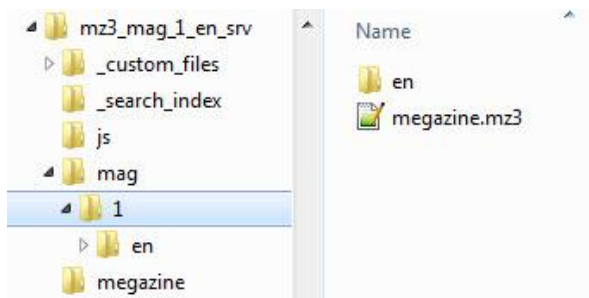
If the conversion finishes without error, the created MZ3 title will be presented in the FLASH player after a click on any key in the message window.

If you are interested in some details of the configuration run, keep on reading with the next paragraph. Otherwise you can skip and continue with "Use your own PDF Files"

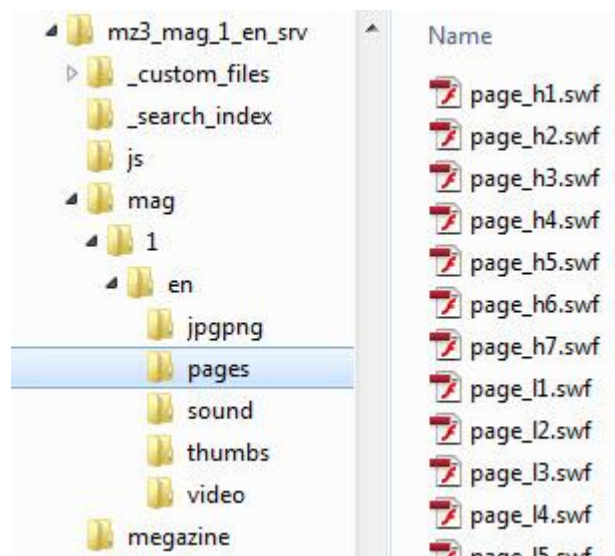
What is happening behind the scenes...

Assumption: book name = *mag*, version name = 1, language = en

- A folder named as the book is created: *mag/*
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 *mag/* then holds a folder names as the version (in this case: 1): *mag/1/*
- In the folder *mag/1/* a language folder *en/* is created and then the folder *pages/*
- The program *pdf2swf*, which is part of the *swftools*, is called with a set of predefined parameters and converts the parameterized number of pages. The resulting *swf* files (FLASH pages) are placed into the *pages/* folder
- The MZ3 configuration file *megazine.mz3* is built and put into the *mag/1/* folder.



The folder *mag_cd/1/megazine/en/pages/* then contains all converted PDF pages in FLASH format as *swf* files; in two different qualities: l (low) and h (high)



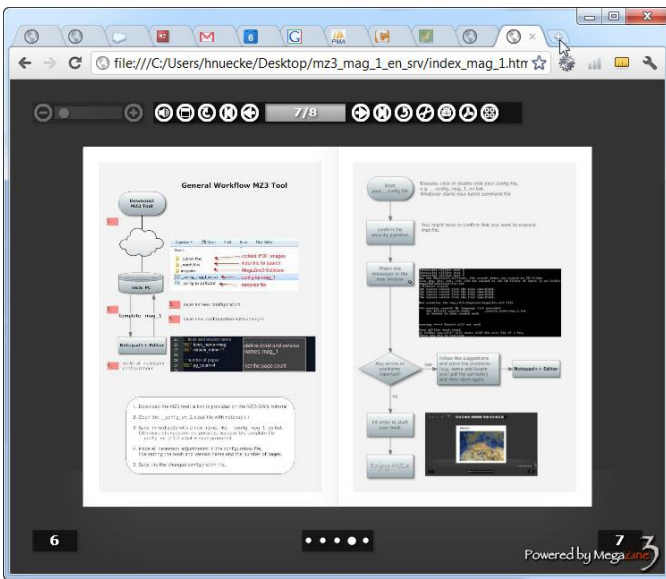
After all steps of the `__config` batch files have successfully finished, the MZ3 title is built and can be started with a single click of any key. Then the default browser is called in opening the

index_mag_1.html file

and a windows opens in the browser with the preloader that then starts the MegaZine3 software, which will present all converted PDF pages as MZ3 title.

```
Your online book named "mag_1"
will start via a call of
"index_mag_1.html"
in the root directory "C:\Users\hnuecke\Desktop\mz3_mag_1_en_srv"
with the next hit of any key
Press any key to continue . . .
```

Depending on the __config file chosen, a title with either <page> elements or one single <pages> element will be created. The appearance is the same since all pages have the same ratio (portrait), which usually is the case with PDF files.



The next two screenshots show an excerpt of the 2 magazine.mz3 configuration files.

The first image shows some rows of the MZ3 configuration file with several <page> elements, configured as: *SET page_type=p*

```

<!-- The following lines define 7 single pages; chapter tags had been included -->
<!-- ** page 1 **-->
<page buffer="true" stiff="true" print="../mag/1/en/pages/page_h1.swf">
  <img width="679" keepar="true">
    <src>../mag/1/en/pages/page_l1.swf </src>
    <src scale="1.5">../mag/1/en/pages/page_h1.swf</src>
  </img>
</page>
<!-- ** page 2 **-->
<page buffer="true" print="../mag/1/en/pages/page_h2.swf">
  <img width="679" keepar="true">
    <src>../mag/1/en/pages/page_l2.swf </src>
    <src scale="1.5">../mag/1/en/pages/page_h2.swf</src>
  </img>
</page>
<!-- ** page 3 **-->
<page buffer="true" print="../mag/1/en/pages/page_h3.swf">
  <img width="679" keepar="true">
    <src>../mag/1/en/pages/page_l3.swf </src>
  </img>
</page>

```

The next is a screenshot of the magazine.mz3 created with the configuration *SET page_type=b*

```

<!-- This is the chapter defining content making use of the batchpages plugin. -->
<!-- A very efficient way to define pages. Hundreds of pages in different languages
<chapter
  pages="scale('../mag/1/en/pages/page_{num}.swf');
  scale('../mag/1/en/pages/page_h{num}.swf', 1.5);
  print('../mag/1/en/pages/page_h{num}.swf');
  count(1,7);
  settings(true, false, false, true, false)">
<!-- The end of the batchpages chapter -->
</chapter>

```

Use your own PDF Files

Instead of the sample PDF file provided with the demo package you can use your own PDF file. For that you need to copy your PDF file 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. *catalogue*.

In this folder another folder named as your version needs to be created, e.g. *sept2011*.

Example: *_custom_files/c_catalogue/sept2011/*

Your PDF file must be copied into this folder and named accordingly. The name must be identical in book and version name with those used for the folder, preferably with the language identifier at the end:

Example: *catalogue_sept2011_en.pdf*

Keep in mind that the book and version names chosen also must be set as *book_name* and *version_name* in the *__config_catalogue_sept2011_en.bat* file.

And be aware that latest your server will differentiate capital and lower case letters ;-)

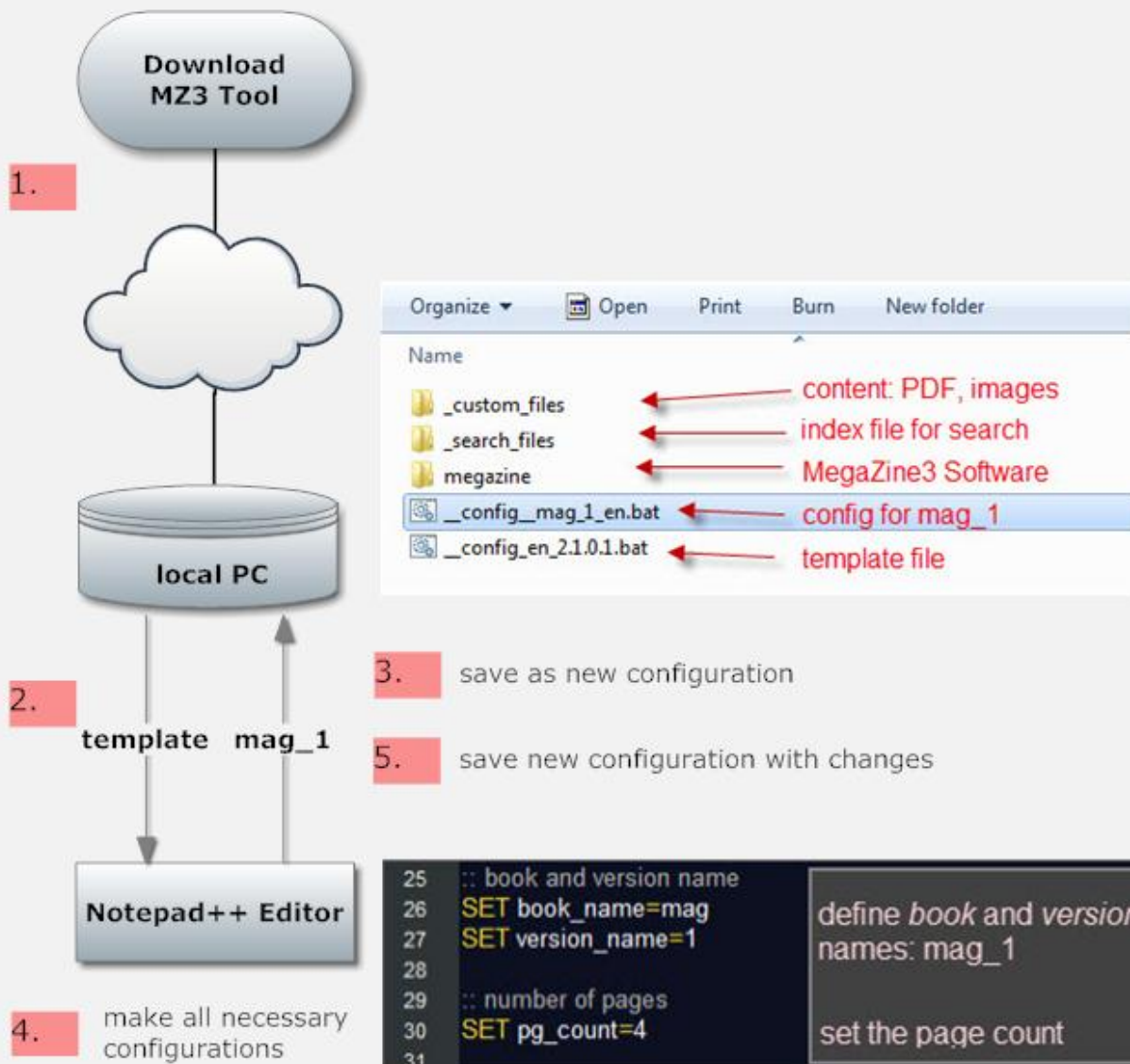
Additional help and features

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.

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

