



The Industry supported PDF/A Conformance Checker
Version 1.28, 27/04/2025

veraPDF Desktop Graphical User Interface

Quick Start Guide

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Introduction

The veraPDF Consortium provides the implementation of the Industry supported PDF/A Conformance Checker.

The veraPDF Conformance Checker is implemented using the veraPDF Library. The veraPDF Library is the software library that provides the functionality and APIs for PDF/A and PDF/UA Validation, Policy Checking, Metadata Fixing, and Feature Extraction.

The veraPDF Desktop Graphical User Interface (GUI) is the executable program that provides access to the veraPDF API and Library on a desktop computer or workstation.

This Quick Start Guide explains the basic concepts of veraPDF Conformance Checker and helps you to get started with veraPDF Desktop GUI.

Glossary

Human-readable Report: a HTML report generated from a Machine-readable Report in a format suitable for human interpretation.

Machine-readable Report: a structured report in XML format, independent of language and localization, generated for automated processing rather than human readability.

Metadata Fixer: the component which allows for simple fixes of the metadata embedded in the file, making them compliant with the standard specification.

PDF Document: a binary file claiming conformance with ISO 32000-1:2008 (for PDF/A-2, PDF/A-3 and PDF/UA-1), ISO 32000-2:2020 (for PDF/A-4 and PDF/UA-2) or to the Adobe specification of PDF 1.4 (for PDF/A-1).

PDF Document Metadata: PDF Document-level metadata stream containing the XMP package and the entries of the PDF Info dictionary.

PDF Feature: any property of the PDF Document or any of its structural elements such as pages, images, fonts, color spaces, annotations, attachments, etc.

PDF Features Report: a Machine-readable Report containing the description of the PDF Features extracted from a PDF Document.

PDF/A Flavor: PDF/A Part+Level. Possible PDF/A Flavors are: 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 2u, 3a, 3b, 3u, 4, 4f, 4e. Possible PDF/UA Flavors are: ua1, ua2.

PDF/A Level: Level a, b, or u conformance as defined by the PDF/A Parts 1, 2, 3. Default level (no letter), levels f and e for PDF/A Part 4.

PDF/A Part: Part 1: ISO 19005-1:2005; Part 2: ISO 19005-2:2011; Part 3: ISO 19005-3:2012; Part 4: ISO 19005-4:2020.

PDF/UA Part: Part 1: ISO 14289-1:2014; Part 2: ISO 14289-2:2024.

PDF/A or PDF/UA Validation: the process of testing whether the PDF Features of a PDF Document conform to the requirements for a particular PDF/A or PDF/UA Flavor. The Validation process generates a Validation Report.

PDF/A or PDF/UA Validation Report: a Machine-readable Report containing the results (all errors and notifications) of PDF/A or PDF/UA Validation.

Validation Profile: a structured file describing the set of validation tests to be performed during Validation for a particular PDF/A or PDF/UA Flavor.

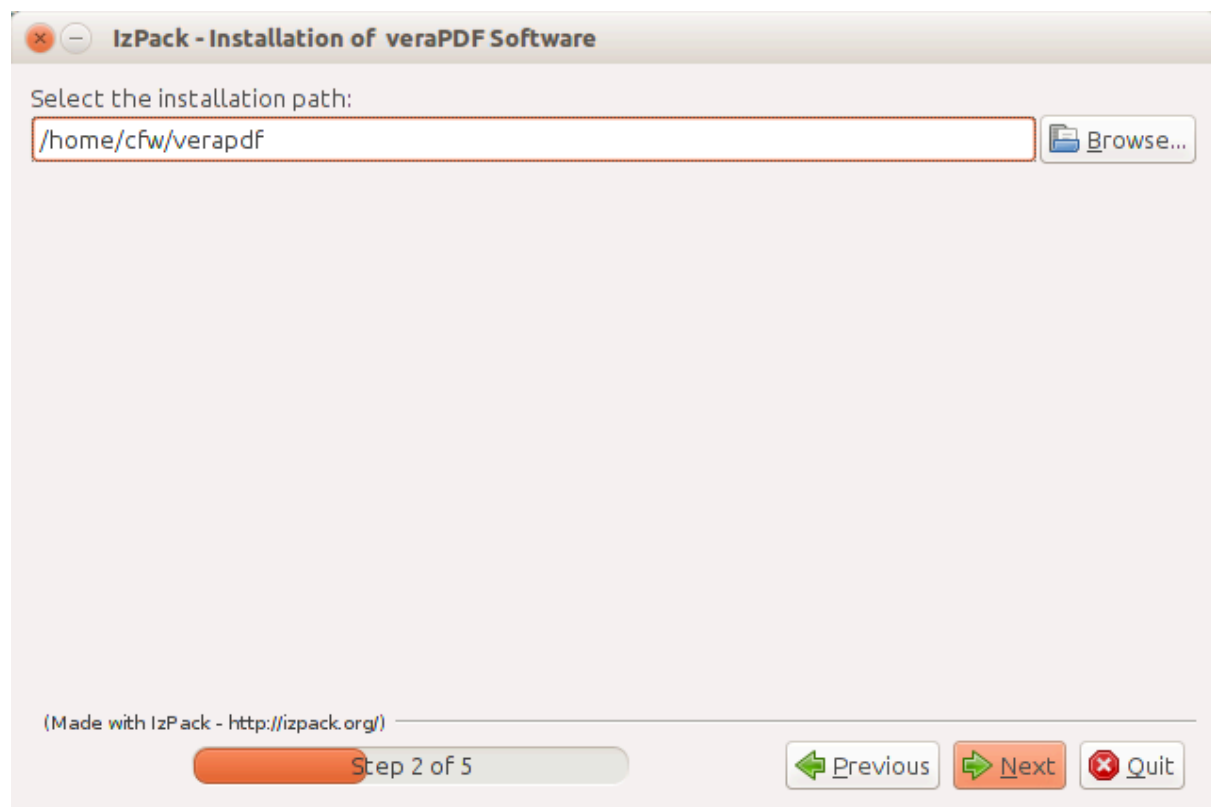
The veraPDF Desktop GUI overview

The veraPDF Desktop GUI provides convenient access to the features of veraPDF Conformance Checker. It allows configuring input parameters of PDF/A or PDF/UA Validation (PDF Document, Validation Profile, validation settings), performing actual validation and checking the resulting Machine-readable and Human-readable Reports.

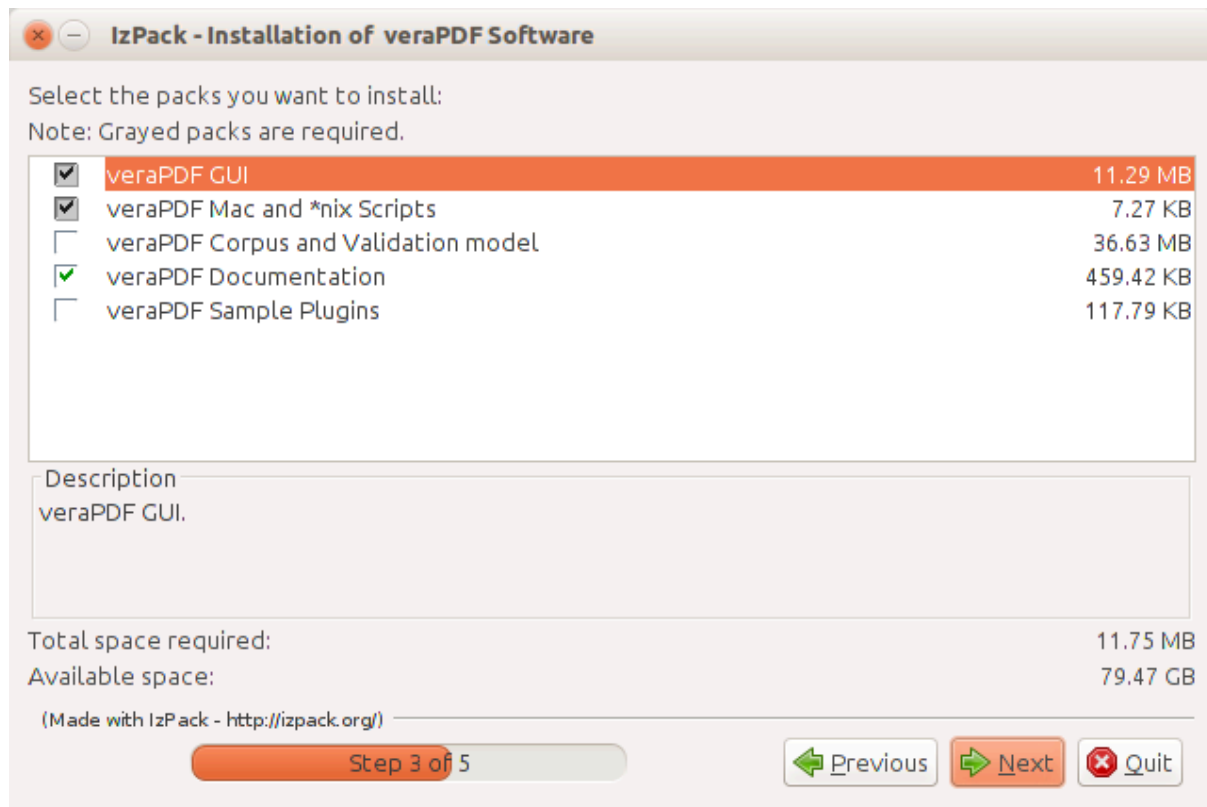
Installing veraPDF Desktop GUI

The veraPDF Desktop GUI is a Java application that is distributed as a single jar file that is the application installer. The installer includes the application binary files and supplementary resource files: Validation Model description, test PDF Documents and Validation Profiles.

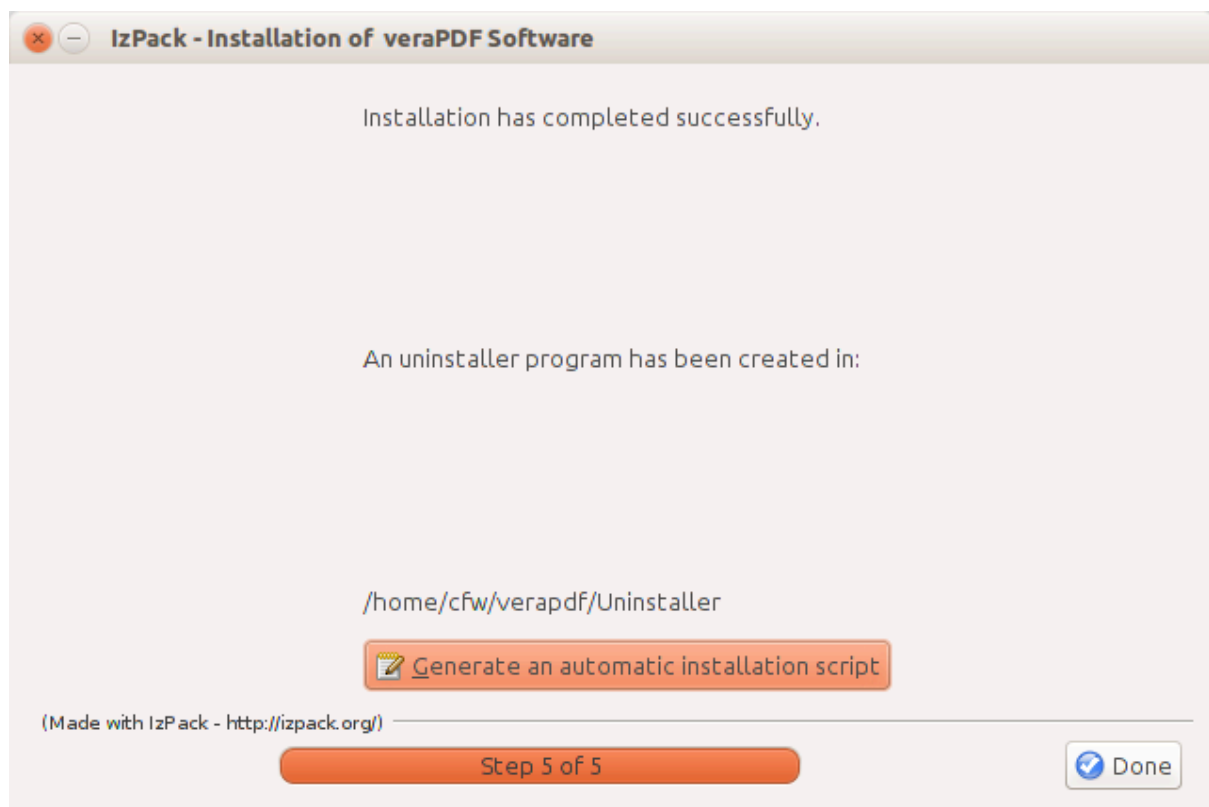
Installation of the application is basically copying the data from the installer package to the local computer. It consists of several steps. At the beginning of the installation it is possible to specify the installation folder:



On the next step it is possible to define which components of the veraPDF Desktop GUI are installed:



When all the selected components are installed it is possible to generate installation script that allows repeating the installation on other computers:



After installation is completed the Validation Model description files are located in the 'model' subfolder of the application installation folder, and the Validation Profiles are in the 'profiles' subfolder.

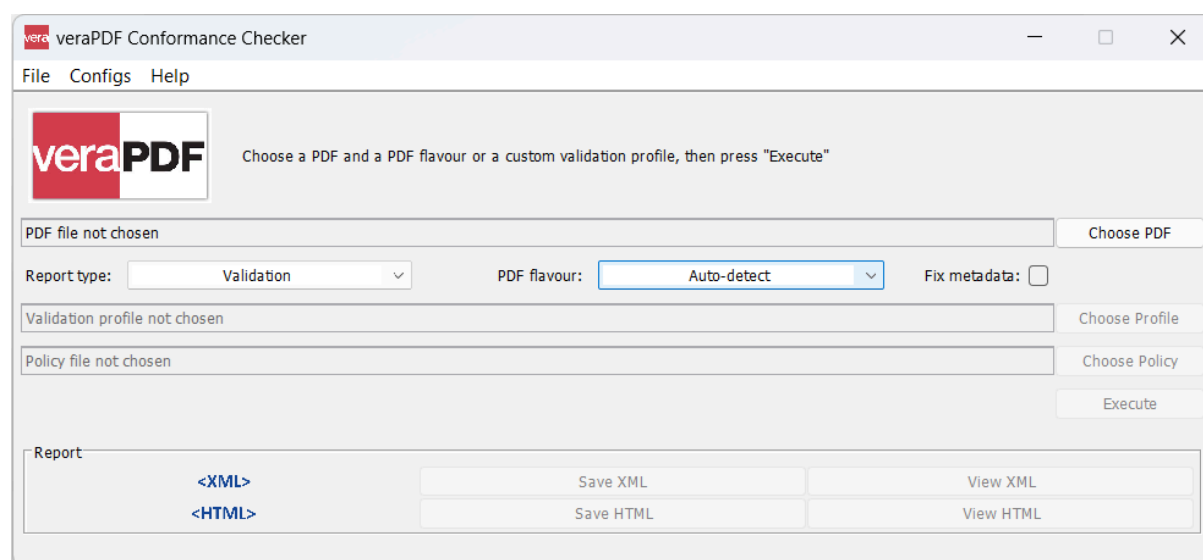
The implementation of the veraPDF Library, Desktop GUI and other relevant software components are located in the 'bin' subfolder.

Using veraPDF Desktop GUI

The application installation folder contains the script that shall be executed to launch veraPDF Desktop GUI application. The script name depends on the platform:

- on Mac OSX and Unix systems: *verapdf-gui*
- on Windows systems: *verapdf-gui.bat*

When the application is started the following user interface is displayed:

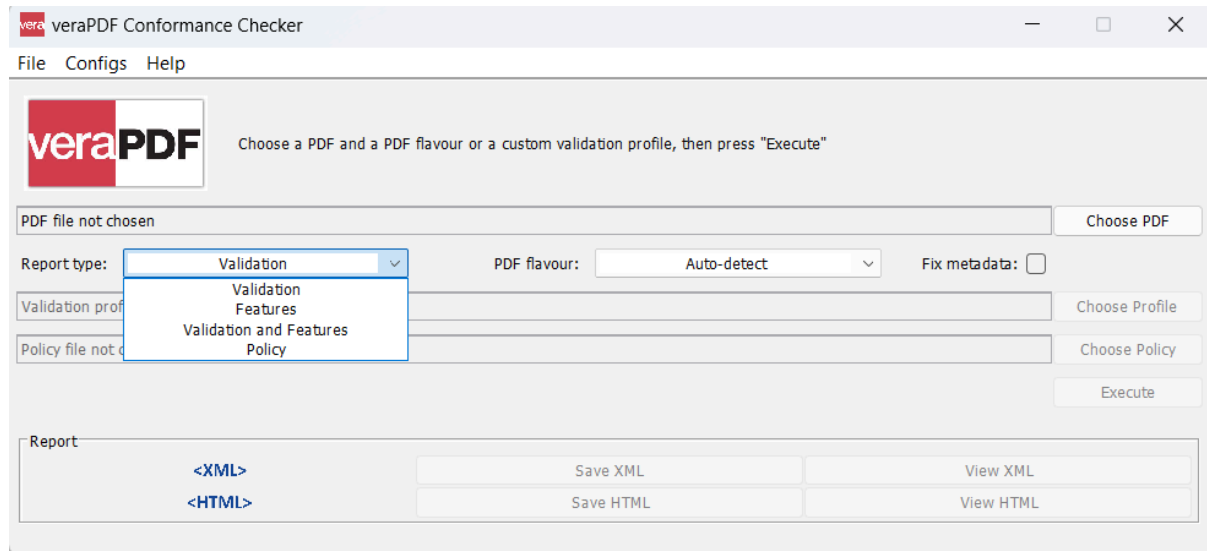


The main controls of the user interface are described in the table below:

Control	Description
'Choose PDF' button	Specifies the input PDF Document(s)
'PDF Flavour' dropdown list	Specifies the input PDF Flavour. Available options: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Auto-detect - The veraPDF software will detect the PDF/A and PDF/UA Flavours based on the document metadata and use the appropriate profiles.• PDF/A-1a, PDF/A-1b, PDF/A-2a, PDF/A-2b, PDF/A-2u, PDF/A-3a, PDF/A-3b, PDF/A-3u,

	<p>PDF/A-4, PDF/A-4e, PDF/A-4f, PDF/UA-1, PDF/UA-2 - Use the corresponding validation profile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custom Profile - Enables the Choose Profile button allowing the user to load an external validation profile
'Report type' dropdown list	<p>Specifies the types of the Machine-readable Reports included into the resulting Report. Available options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Validation</i> - (default option) only Validation Report is included into the resulting Report • <i>Features</i> - only PDF Features Report is included into the resulting Report • <i>Validation & Features</i> - both Validation Report and PDF Features Report are included into the resulting Report • <i>Policy</i> - Validation Report, PDF Features Report and Policy Report are included into the resulting Report
'Execute' button	<p>Starts validating the specified PDF Document for the conformance to the requirements of the specified Validation Profile Becomes enabled when PDF Document(s) are specified</p>
'Fix metadata' checkbox	<p>Specifies if the PDF Document Metadata shall be automatically fixed by Metadata Fixer in order to make it compliant with the standard specification</p>
'Choose Profile' button	<p>Specifies the input Validation Profile Becomes enabled when option 'Custom Profile' chosen in 'PDF Flavour' dropdown list</p>
'Choose Policy' button	<p>Specifies the input policy schematron file. Becomes enabled when option 'Policy chosen' in 'Report type' dropdown list</p>
'Save XML' button	<p>Saves the resulting Machine-readable Report in XML format Becomes enabled after the validation is completed</p>
'Save HTML' button	<p>Saves the resulting Human-readable Validation Report in HTML format Becomes enabled after the validation is completed</p>
'View XML' button	<p>Opens the resulting Machine-readable Report in default XML viewer application Becomes enabled after the validation is completed</p>
'View HTML' button	<p>Opens the resulting Human-readable Validation Report in default HTML viewer application Becomes enabled after the validation is completed</p>

The Machine-readable XML Report may consist of Validation Report, PDF Features Report and Policy Report. However Human-readable HTML Report includes only Validation and Policy information.



When the required input parameters - PDF Document(s) - are specified the 'Execute' button becomes enabled.

The main window allows specifying the basic settings of the validation process: the type of the data included into the resulting Machine-readable Report and if automatic metadata fixing is enabled.

The additional 'Configs' menu item provides access to the advanced settings:

Settings

Include passed rules:

☐

Add logs to xml report:

☐

Add detailed errors to report:

☒

Halt validation after failed checks:

Display failed checks for rule:

Save repaired files with prefix:

Save repaired files into the folder:

Choose

Validation Profiles wiki root:

Default flavour:

PDF/A-1B

▼

Logging level:

WARNING, SEVERE

▼

OK

Cancel

The advanced settings are described in the table below:

Setting	Description
Include passed rules	If checked the passed validation rules are included into the resulting Validation Report in addition to the failed rules. This setting is unchecked by default to reduce the size of the resulting Report.
Add logs to xml and html reports	Specifies if the logs generated during validation will be added into the Report.
Add detailed errors to report	If checked, the detailed error message for every failed rule will be shown in the resulting Validation Report.
Halt validation after failed checks	Specifies the maximum number of failed checks to be performed for all rules in the Validation Profile Validation is halted once the number of failed checks is reached in order to speed up validation.
Display failed checks for rule	Specifies the maximum number of failed checks to be reported for each rule from the Validation Profile. The specified value is used as the limit for the number of failed checks that shall be included into

	the resulting Report to reduce the size of the Report.
Save repaired files with prefix	Specifies the prefix that is added to the name of the original PDF document when saving it after automatic metadata fixing was performed. This setting is relevant only when 'Fix metadata' option is enabled.
Save repaired files into the folder	Specifies the output folder for saving the PDF Documents after automatic metadata fixing was performed. This setting is relevant only when 'Fix metadata' option is enabled.
Validation Profiles wiki root	Specifies the base URL of the veraPDF validation profiles wiki. This provides contextual information about validation issues.
Default flavour	Specifies built-in Validation Profile default flavour, e.g. 1b . This flavour will be applied if automatic flavour detection based on a file's metadata doesn't work. Possible Values: [PDF/A-1A, PDF/A-1B, PDF/A-2A, PDF/A-2B, PDF/A-2U, PDF/A-3A, PDF/A-3B, PDF/A-3U, PDF/A-4, PDF/A-4F, PDF/A-4E, PDF/UA-1, PDF/UA-2, WTPDF 1.0 Accessibility, WTPF 1.0 Reuse].
Logging level	Enables logs with level: OFF; SEVERE; WARNING, SEVERE (default); CONFIG, INFO, WARNING, SEVERE; ALL.

Processing and Reporting

A Validation Profile describes the tests that shall be performed during the validation. These tests are represented by rules that define certain restrictions on the PDF Document features. When validation is performed the restrictions from the rules are checked for the relevant objects from the PDF Document. A check may either fail or pass. In case of large Documents the number of passed and failed checks may be big so the settings described above allow reducing the number of redundant checks and thus optimizing validation time and the size of the resulting Report.

When all the required settings are specified the validation may be started by pressing the 'Execute' button. During the processing the progress bar is displayed.

After the validation is finished the resulting statement is shown like in the example image below:

The screenshot shows the 'veraPDF Conformance Checker' application window. The title bar includes the application name and standard window controls. The menu bar has 'File', 'Configs', and 'Help'. The main area features the 'veraPDF' logo and a instruction: 'Choose a PDF and a PDF flavour or a custom validation profile, then press "Execute"'. Below this, there are three input fields: a file path 'PDF_A-1b\6.3 Fonts\6.3.3.1 General\veraPDF test suite 6-3-3-1-t01-fail-a.pdf' with a 'Choose PDF' button, a 'Report type:' dropdown set to 'Validation', a 'PDF flavour:' dropdown set to 'Auto-detect', and a 'Fix metadata:' checkbox. Further down are 'Validation profile not chosen' with a 'Choose Profile' button, and 'Policy file not chosen' with a 'Choose Policy' button. A red error message states 'PDF file is not compliant with Validation Profile requirements'. To the right of this message is a blue 'Execute' button. At the bottom, a 'Report' section contains links for '<XML>' and '<HTML>', and buttons for 'Save XML', 'View XML', 'Save HTML', and 'View HTML'.

It is possible to save or view the resulting Machine-readable or Human-readable Reports by pressing the corresponding button.