Get Highlight Text

Read me first!

You may run the *GetHighlightInstaller* from within the zip file.

You may find that Widows and your anti-virus program throw a few roadblocks at you when using the installer. If you persevere, i.e., follow their directions, the plugin will be installed. You will find a new item on the Menu Bar (**NDS**) with a dropdown listing *GetHighlightText* and any other installed NDS plugins

Overview

Purpose

This plugin gets all text under highlights in a document or documents in a folder. It can also get the content text seen in Popups associated with the highlights, as well as text for sticky notes. It gets text in embedded files in documents, too.

Functions

This function gets all text under highlights in all pages of an open document of all files in the documents in a folder of the open document and writes it to a text file, one line for each highlight's text. It also gets text contents for highlight and sticky note annotations. If PDF files are embedded, their information is also captured in the text output, but not the PDF file output.

Content can be output to a text file named *CommentText.txt* and is in the same folder as the open file. All previous text is removed from the *CommentText.txt* file before new data is written. Content can also be output to a PDF file named *CommentText.pdf* and is in the same folder as the open file. If the file already exists, it is overwritten.

The PDF file report is more comprehensive. It displays the color of highlights, adds context lines around the highlighted text, and also provides a link back to the comment, highlight or note. It always formats the information in its report.

The filename is written before all of its highlights and is only written if the file has highlights. If the file is embedded, it has the text "(embedded)" after the file name and specifies the parent file.

You can also specify that headings appear in the content, indicating page numbers and headings for highlights and notes.

1 User Interface

The user interface consists of one menu item (*NDS | Get highlight text...*). Clicking the menu item displays the dialog.

Here is what the individual elements do.

Content section

This section allows you to specify what content you want to output.

Highlight text: Include highlight text in the output file(s). Checked by default.

Highlight text notes: Include text from notes associated with highlights in the output file(s). In the output, these are preceded by the text "NOTE:".

Notes: Include sticky note text in the output file(s).

Headings: Include headings for page numbers and the like in the output.

Output format section

Here you specify the format of the output file. You can output to both text and PDF.

Text: Output to a text file. Default.

PDF: Output to a PDF file.

General section

Current file: Path of file currently processed.

Process open file: Get highlights on all pages of the open file.

Process folder: Get highlights on all pages of all files in the folder of the open file, including the open file, going down the number of levels indicated in the adjacent ***Number levels*** field.

Number levels: Number of levels of folders below folder of currently open file to process. If 0, process the files in the folder of the open file; if 1, process files in the folder and immediate subfolders of the open file, and so on.

Close: Close the dialog.

2 Process

Open the file in which you wish to collect highlight text and click the menu item *NDS | Get highlight text...*. Click either ***Process open file*** or ***Process folder*** to get highlight and content text. A progress monitor shows progress through the pages of the document.

When the process completes, if you have output to a text file, you see a confirmation dialog with the message:

Open highlight text file? filename

where filename is the text file containing the highlight text. Click ***Yes*** to open the highlight file, ***No*** to not open it.

If you have output to a PDF file, you see a confirmation dialog with the message:

Open highlight PDF file? filename

where filename is the PDF file containing the highlight text. Click ***Yes*** to open the highlight file, ***No*** to not open it.

You can output to both text and PDF at the same time.

None of the files examined are modified or saved by the plugin.

3 Logging

Messages are logged to the *CommentText.txt* file in the open file's folder.

The following messages are logged:

- *Could not open file: filename*. The specified file could not be opened. This would occur if it were password protected, for instance.
- *** FILE: filename*. Filename of file containing highlights.
- *** File: filename/filename (embedded)*. Filename of file containing highlights in embedded file.
- ** PAGE: page label (page number)*. Page containing highlights and notes.
- Can't open embedded file: 'filename'. This embedded file couldn't be opened.

4 Messages

The plug-in checks for various errors. Some errors are detected prior to processing. These are displayed in a dialog box.

Here is a list of messages, mostly to indicate errors.

- *Open file to process*. There's no open file from which to collect highlight text. Open a PDF file to indicate the file processed.
- *Open comments text file? filename*. The process has completed collecting highlight text/notes in the text file at *filename*. Click ***Yes*** to open the highlight text file; ***No*** to not open it.
- *Open comments PDF file? filename*. The process has completed collecting highlight text/notes in the PDF file at *filename*. Click ***Yes*** to open the highlight PDF file; ***No*** to not open it.
- *Page has too many highlights*. A page has more highlights than the plug-in can handle. Inform engineering of the problem.
- *Page has too many notes*. A page has more notes than the plug-in can handle. Inform engineering of the problem.
- *You must output highlight text, highlight text notes, and/or notes*. In the ***Content*** section, you must select at least one of ***Highlight text***, ***Highlight text notes***, or ***Notes***.
- *You must output to text and/or PDF*. In the ***Output format*** section, you must select at least one of ***Text*** or ***PDF***.
- *Can't create PDF report*. Generate PDF report was checked, but the PDF report couldn't be created.