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# How to use XSL FO to Generate a PDF from an XML Instance

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This is a summary page that gives a high level view of how to generate a PDF document from an XML Instance using an XSL FO style sheet.

## [Shell XSL File](#)

For quick generation of the pdf:

1. Download the [Apache FOP engine](#) or another [XML Style Language Formatting Object](#) processing engine
  - If in Unix, also download the hash files for the download to verify the file
2. Unzip the file into an appropriate directory
  - Suggestions are:
    - For Windows: C:\Program Files\FOP
    - For Unix: /opt/FOP
3. Add it's containing folder to the class path to be able to execute when needed
4. Download the XML instance and the XSL FO
  - View of raw [XSL FO style sheet](#)
5. Open a command line session, browse to the folder with the XML Instance and XSL FO Style Sheet
6. Run the command:
  - Windows:

```
fop -xsl SummonsAndRuleNISI.xsl -xml example-document.xml -pdf  
SummonsAndRuleNisi.pdf
```

- Unix:

```
./fop.sh -xml example-document.xml -xsl SummonsAndRuleNISI.xsl -pdf  
SummonsAndRuleNISI.pdf
```

- For more information about what the commands and options mean for Apache FOP look here: [Apache FOP Commands - AppDev](#)



Successful output looks like:

	<pre>[INFO] Using org.apache.xerces.parsers.SAXParser as SAX2 Parser [INFO] FOP 0.20.5 [INFO] Using org.apache.xerces.parsers.SAXParser as SAX2 Parser [INFO] building formatting object tree [INFO] setting up fonts [INFO] [1] [INFO] Parsing of document complete, stopping renderer</pre>
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7. Check the PDF file produced for errors.

- Example of successful PDF file for the [Summons and Rule NISI example](#)