

# FOP: Quick Start Guide

**Everything you need to start using and appreciating Apache FOP quickly.**  
Version 964711

**Table of contents**

1 FOP Essentials.....2  
2 Hello World with FOP.....2

## 1 FOP Essentials

The goal of this **Quick Start Guide** is to help novice users get Apache FOP up and running quickly. Typically, you'll need to:

1. [Download FOP](#)
2. [Build FOP](#) (you can skip this step if you download the binary distribution!)
3. [Configure FOP](#)
4. [Run FOP](#)

Here are some links to help you find out what FOP can do, as well as how and where to get help:

- [Calling FOP from a Java Application](#)
- [Using FOP in Servlets](#)
- [Using FOP in an 'Ant' Build Script](#)
- [XSL-FO Compliance](#) (what FOP supports and what it doesn't)
- [FAQs](#)
- [Getting Help](#)
- [Mailing Lists](#)

Once you've familiarized yourself with the basics, you can get more detailed information, in the detailed [FOP product documentation](#).

## 2 Hello World with FOP

This section walks you through a "Hello World!" page with Apache FOP. We're assuming you download the binary distribution and that you have a Java Runtime Environment (version 1.4 or later) installed.

1. Unpack the downloaded binary distribution to a directory of your choice (for example, C:\FOP if you're on Windows). Let's call that directory <fop-home>.
2. Get a command prompt in the <fop-home> directory and write:  
Windows: `fop -fo examples/fo/basic/readme.fo -awt`  
Unix: `./fop -fo examples/fo/basic/readme.fo -awt`
3. If all went well, this should open a window showing you a "readme"-style document. This is just to verify that FOP runs correctly.
4. Now, take your favorite XML editor and create a small XML file like the following. Replace "Frank" with your own first name to make it a bit more personal and save it as `name.xml`:

```
<name>Frank</name>
```

5. To produce a PDF file from this XML file, we need an XSLT stylesheet that converts the XML to XSL-FO. This is the first step in the processing chain. The second step will be done by FOP when it reads the generated XSL-FO document and formats it to a PDF document. You can copy the following minimal XSLT stylesheet, which takes your first name and produces a "Hello World!"-style document (save it as `name2fo.xsl`):

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<xsl:stylesheet version="1.0"
  xmlns:xsl="http://www.w3.org/1999/XSL/Transform"
  xmlns:fo="http://www.w3.org/1999/XSL/Format">
  <xsl:output method="xml" indent="yes"/>
  <xsl:template match="/">
```

```
<fo:root>
  <fo:layout-master-set>
    <fo:simple-page-master master-name="A4-portrait"
      page-height="29.7cm" page-width="21.0cm" margin="2cm">
      <fo:region-body/>
    </fo:simple-page-master>
  </fo:layout-master-set>
  <fo:page-sequence master-reference="A4-portrait">
    <fo:flow flow-name="xsl-region-body">
      <fo:block>
        Hello, <xsl:value-of select="name"/>!
      </fo:block>
    </fo:flow>
  </fo:page-sequence>
</fo:root>
</xsl:template>
</xsl:stylesheet>
```

6. Finally, let's put the previous two steps together: Go back to the command prompt and enter the following command:  
Windows: `fop -xml name.xml -xsl name2fo.xsl -pdf name.pdf`  
Unix: `./fop -xml name.xml -xsl name2fo.xsl -pdf name.pdf`
7. You've produced your first PDF with Apache FOP! Please open `name.pdf` in your favorite PDF viewer.