

Protect My Docs

Document watermarking protection utility

Version 3.0

This guide covers all features of Protect My Docs: interface, watermark, export, protection, email optimization and preferences.

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1. Overview

Protect My Docs is a desktop utility for applying customized text watermarks to images and PDF documents, then exporting protected files with encryption options and email optimization.

1.1 Use Cases

- Protection of confidential documents (contracts, reports, proposals)
- Marking documents with company name or status (DRAFT, CONFIDENTIAL)
- Protecting photos or images before sharing
- Batch processing with identical watermark
- Secure export with AES-128 password or AES-256 ZIP archive
- Reducing PDF file size for email sending

1.2 Formats and Platforms

Accepted formats	PDF, PNG, JPG/JPEG, BMP, TIFF, WebP
Export format	Individual PDF, merged PDF, or ZIP archive
Platforms	Windows (primary), macOS, Linux

2. User Interface

The interface consists of a control sidebar on the left and a preview panel on the right.

2.1 Sidebar

Organized in sections from top to bottom:

Simple / Extended Mode Switch

Toggle at the top of the sidebar. Instantly switches between modes without restarting.

SOURCE FILES Section

List of loaded files (File, Type, Pages). Add, Remove, Clear buttons. Drag and drop accepted.

WATERMARK TEXT Section

Free text field for the text repeated on each page. Default: CONFIDENTIAL.

STYLE Section

Font / Size	System font dialog (both modes)
Opacity	Slider 5%–100%
Angle	Slider 0°–90° (Extended Mode)
Spacing	Slider 50%–300% (Extended Mode)
Color	System color picker

EXPORT Section

Extended Mode only. Choose between individual files and merged PDF. Export button.

2.2 Preview Panel

Real-time watermark preview on the selected file (250 ms debounce).

The ◀▶ buttons navigate between files. A position indicator (e.g. 2 / 5) is shown.

The image automatically adapts: full height for portrait, full width for landscape.

2.3 Menu Bar

File Menu

Add (Ctrl+O)	Opens file selection
Clear (Ctrl+W)	Clears list (confirmation)
Export (Ctrl+S)	Launches export
Quit (Ctrl+Q)	Closes app (confirmation)

Preferences Menu

Choose language	4-language submenu
Simple / Extended Mode	Toggles mode
Dark / Light Mode	Toggles theme

Help Menu

About	Application information
♥ Make a donation	Opens PayPal

3. Features

3.1 Loading Files

Images are automatically converted to A4 PDF internally.

- Image formats: PNG, JPG/JPEG, BMP, TIFF, WebP
- Document format: PDF (all versions, multi-page)
- Simple Mode: one file at a time — Extended Mode: multiple selection
- Drag and drop accepted — duplicates automatically ignored

 *PDFs encrypted with third-party passwords cannot be processed directly.*

3.2 Watermark Customization

The watermark is arranged in a staggered pattern (alternately offset) across the entire page surface.

Text	Free text, typed directly
Font / Size	Any TrueType/OpenType font on the system, in both modes
Opacity	5% (near invisible) to 100% (opaque)
Angle	0° (horizontal) to 90° (vertical) — Extended Mode
Spacing	Factor from 50% to 300% — Extended Mode
Color	Any color via the system picker

 *The preview rendering is identical to the exported PDF.*

3.3 PDF Export

Individual Files

Each source generates a [name]_filigrane.pdf file in the chosen destination folder.

Merged PDF (Extended)

All files assembled into a single PDF named by the user.

Progress

A progress bar shows page-by-page progress. Export runs in a separate thread.

4. Simple and Extended Modes

Accessible via the switch at the top of the sidebar or Preferences menu. Instant change, saved automatically.

SIMPLE MODE	EXTENDED MODE ✦
1 file at a time	Multiple files
Font, opacity, color	Font, opacity, angle, spacing, color
Individual export	Individual + merged PDF + ZIP
No protection	PDF (AES-128) or ZIP (AES-256) + email optimization

The visual switch and Preferences menu always remain synchronized.

5. Export and Protection

In Extended Mode, a dialog appears before each export to choose the protection method and optimization options.

5.1 Protection Methods

Two options to choose from:

<input type="checkbox"/> Encrypt PDFs (AES-128)	The password is embedded directly in each PDF. Compatible with all PDF readers.
<input type="checkbox"/> Archive in a ZIP	All exported PDFs are grouped in a ZIP archive. If pyzipper is installed, the ZIP is protected with an AES-256 password.

5.2 Password Rules

- Empty field = export without protection (valid for both methods)
- Only spaces = rejected
- Fewer than 6 non-space characters = rejected
- Both fields must be identical

5.3 Opening a Protected File

Protected PDF: the reader (Adobe, Foxit...) prompts for the password on opening. Protected ZIP: 7-Zip, WinRAR or the system utility prompts for the password on extraction.

⚠ *The password is not recoverable. Store it in a secure password manager.*

5.4 Email Optimization

In the same export dialog, choose an optimization level to reduce PDF file size:

None (maximum quality)	PDF exported without resolution modification
72 dpi — Very light	~50 KB/page — ideal for images or photos
96 dpi — Light	~100 KB/page — good balance for text+image documents
150 dpi — Balanced	~200 KB/page — good readability, reasonable size

i *Optimization requires pymupdf (recommended) or Pillow. Applied after watermarking and before encryption.*

6. Display Themes

Two themes accessible via Preferences > Dark Mode / Light Mode. Instant change, saved automatically.

Dark Mode	Dark background — comfortable in low-light environments
Light Mode	Light background — ideal in bright light
Persistence	The theme is retained between sessions

7. Available Languages

Four languages selectable in Preferences > Choose language. Immediate change, no restart.

French (fr)	Default language
English (en)	English
Spanish (es)	Spanish
German (de)	German

i *Translations cover the entire interface and are centralized in i18n.py.*

8. Preferences

Automatically saved to a JSON file with each change.

8.1 Location

Windows	%APPDATA%\ProtectMyDocs_prefs.json
macOS / Linux	~/.ProtectMyDocs_prefs.json

8.2 Saved Parameters

lang	Language code
theme	Theme (dark/light)
mode	Mode (simple/extended)
font_name / font_size	Font and size
color	Color [R,G,B]
wm_text	Watermark text
opacity / angle / spacing	Opacity, angle, spacing

9. Keyboard Shortcuts

Ctrl+O	Add files
Ctrl+S	Export
Ctrl+W	Clear list
Ctrl+Q	Quit
Delete	Remove selected file
↑ / ↓	Navigate list
◀ / ▶	Previous / next file

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