

How to create high quality screenshots for printing

Designers are often asked to produce printed material with high quality screenshots of website pages. Often these images are produced by recreating the web page in Adobe Illustrator or Photoshop, but you can create high quality screenshots from a web browser. Here's how it's done.

Requirements:

- A Mac running OS X with Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Acrobat Pro.
- A large monitor set to its highest resolution (we used an Apple 20" Cinema Display set to 1680 x 1050 pixels).
- Page layout application, for example Quark XPress or Adobe InDesign.

Here's what you do:

- Launch the Safari web browser and visit the website you want for your screenshot. In this example, we went to www.edwardmarston.com
- Resize the Safari window to match the full width of the web page and drag the height of the window to its maximum size.
- Choose 'Print' from the 'File' menu. We set our paper size to A4 portrait and kept the image scale at 100%. The print preview showed us that the full width of our web page would fit comfortably onto an A4 sheet.

Choose 'Save as PDF' from the PDF drop down menu in the bottom left of the Print window. Pick a location on your Mac for the saved file. Quit Safari.

- Drag and drop your PDF onto the Adobe Illustrator application icon. Select Page 1 if there is more than one page and choose to discard any color profile.

The PDF 'screenshot' will now open in Adobe Illustrator.

- Select 'Document Color Mode', 'CMYK Color' from the 'File' menu.

Choose 'Save As' from the 'File' menu and save as an Adobe Illustrator EPS file. Choose 'High Resolution' (or the 'Pass4Press Flattener' if you have it installed) from the Transparency menu and make sure that all fonts are embedded. Quit Illustrator.

- Launch your page layout application and import the EPS 'screenshot'. In Quark XPress, the onscreen EPS image won't look too good – but don't worry about that. You won't need to reduce the image to 'improve' its quality when printed. The image should reproduce perfectly at 100% (or as close to 100% as you can get it – see page 2 of these notes).
- When your layout is complete, save the page as a PDF. In Quark XPress v8, you need to choose 'Export Layout as PDF' from the 'File' menu and select the 'Print Medium' setting to produce your PDF proof.
- Open this PDF in Acrobat Pro and you'll see that you have a good quality 'screenshot'. Print this PDF to your color proofer and you'll find that the image will print to a high quality. (The image will also color separate correctly).

This solution won't work for all websites as many have special scripts which simplify the page for printing, but if you've also designed the web page, you can alter the code temporarily to make this solution work.



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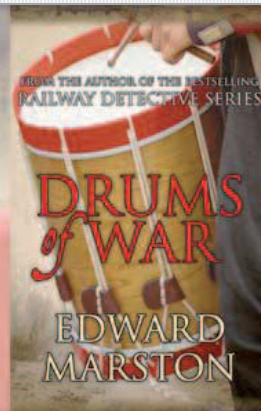
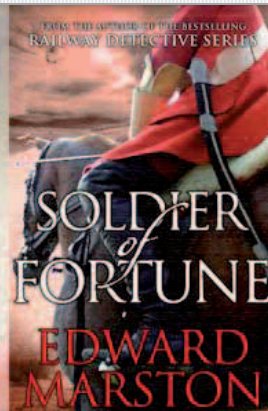
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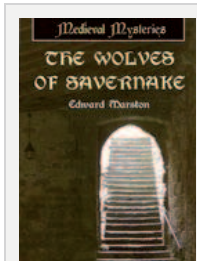
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Dates

24 March 2010,
Essex Book Festival

Edward Marston will be giving the Annual Dorothy L. Sayers Lecture as part of the Essex Book Festival on Wednesday, March 24. His subject is Secret Sleuths and he will find literary detectives in unlikely places. Witham Library, Essex at 7:45pm.

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About the author

Edward Marston was born and brought up in Wales. He read Modern History at Oxford then lectured in the subject for three years before becoming a full-time freelance writer. His first historical mystery, **The Queen's Head**, was published in 1988, launching the Nicholas Bracewell series.

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