NUMBER DROPPER

Description
Add a serialised number to a page based on a location specified in a template document.

Features of the app
- Numbers are added to blank pages in a pdf generated by the app.
- The number can be incremented by a preset increment.
- A prefix can be added to the number string.
- The font to be used can be derived from a variable, a fixed font from a font repository, or the font name used in the pdf template, which is found by internal processes in the app.
- The font size can be derived from a variable or the size of the font used in the pdf template.
- A number specified in multiple positions on the template file is supported.

General app info
Only true type fonts are supported.

The name of the font used in the pdf for the variable place holder should match exactly the font name as seen in the font resource directory before the .ttf extension.

Template pdf setup
The template pdf will either need to be manipulated in Acrobat so that a layer called Number with a sample text line in exactly the position the serialised number should appear. This sample text should be in the desired font and font point size required.

This can be achieved by importing a pdf that only has the sample text in the position it is needed in into the template pdf, through the Import as Layer method under the drop down for the layers palette in Acrobat.

Another alternative is to use Pitstop Pro in Acrobat & setup the sample text in the position it is needed, assigning to a layer called Number.

The other alternative is to generate a pdf from a application that can maintain the layer structure into pdf format.
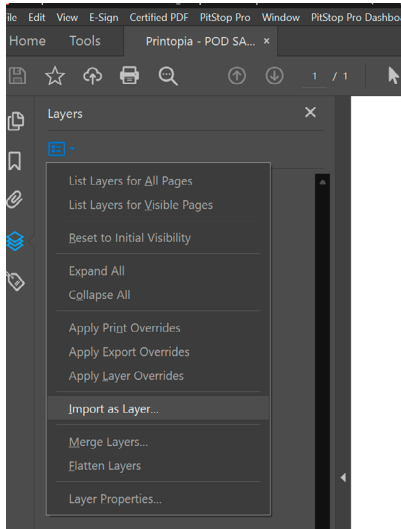
Debugging
If a font cannot be found for the serialised number, a default of Helvetica will be used.
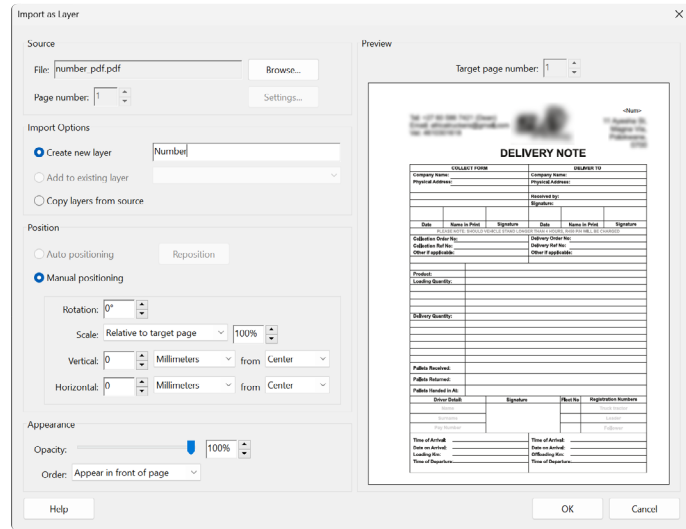
If the above situation arises, the app can be set to output debugging information. This will output the actual font name & font name as seen internally by the app to the Switch messages screen. This should help to problem solve why the correct font is not being used for the output.

The debugging information will be attached as a JSON dataset to the outgoing pdf named, __dbg_vdp. This debugging information will be attached by default to jobs that throw an error.
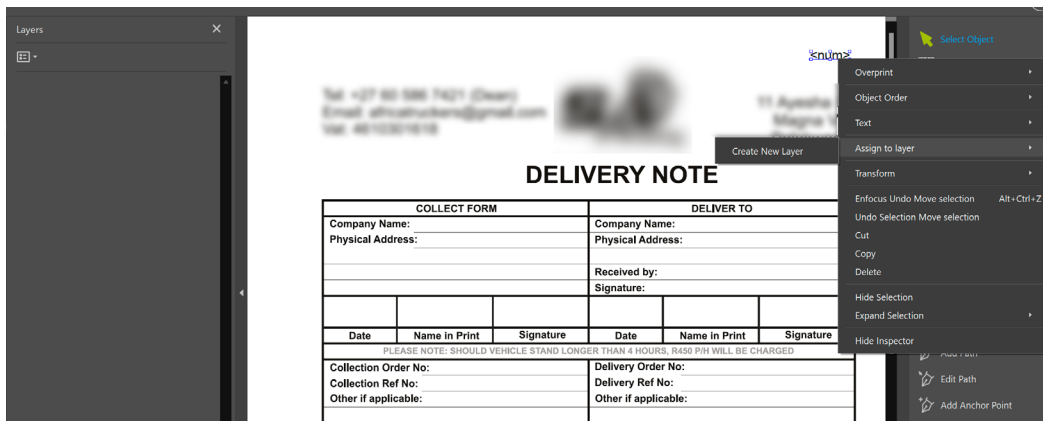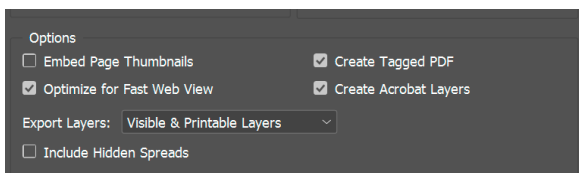
Screenshots for setup of sample text

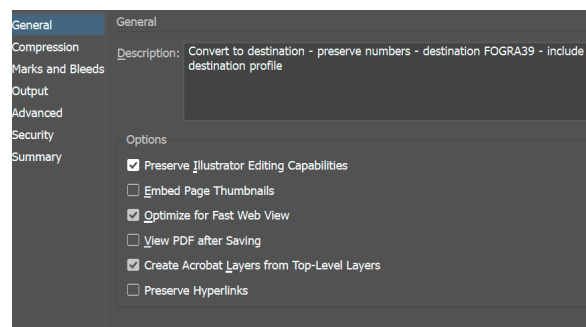Import as Layer menu item - Acrobat

Import as Layer dialogue setup - Acrobat

Add item to layer with Pitstop Pro

Indesign create layers on pdf export

Illustrator create layers on save as pdf

Overview of configurator options

Element	Options	Element Type	Description
Name		String	Name of script element in Switch.
Description		String	Description of element in Switch.
Set suffix for overlay file	**overlay**	String	Name appended to the pdf generated that contains the numbering. This enables the file to be differentiated from the template file.
Set suffix for master file	**master**	String	Name appended to the template pdf.
Font repository	Single line text/Choose folder	String	Indicate location of custom font folder. Only shown if Use custom font resource location is Yes.
Use font name from a variable or a fixed font?	**No**;Yes	No/Yes drop-down	If No the font name generated from internal logging will be used.
Select font	Single line text;Single line text with variables;Select from library	String	Select how to impart font name information. Only shown if Use font name from a variable or a fixed font? is Yes.
Use font size from variable?	**No**;Yes	No/Yes drop-down	If No font size will generated from app internal logging.
Font size	Single line text;Single line text with variables	String	Select how to impart font size information. Only shown if Use font size from variable? is Yes.
Font alignment	Single line text;Single line text with variables	String	Set font alignment. Should be same as that set in template pdf.
Color of character string	Default;Custom	Drop-down list	Indicate if default color to be used(100% K), or if a custom color should be used
	C,M,Y,K	String	Set custom font color. Use a range of 0 - 100 for values. Only shown if Color of character string is Custom.
Start value		String	Start value of numbers
Width of character string	Single line text;Single line text with variables	String	Set the number of characters for string. String will be padded by default with 0's
Increment by	Single line text;Single line text with variables	String	The amount the serialised string is to be incremented by.
Number of overlay pages		String	Set number of required pages.
Set prefix for string?	**No**;Yes	No/Yes drop-down	Indicate if string to be prefixed.
Prefix for string	Single line text;Single line text with variables	String	Set the prefix. Only shown if Set prefix for string? is Yes.
Debugging output	**No**;Yes	No/Yes drop-down	Indicate if debugging information to be output. Logs warnings to messages & attached debugging data as JSON dataset to job, named __dbg_vdp.