

How to properly send pdf file generated on server-side to frontend

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I have express app that serves the list of articles. My server generates pdf file for a selected article on a button click.

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here is my backend code for making pdf-s



```
app.get("/generate-pdf/:articleHref", async (req, res) => {
  const articleHref = req.params.articleHref;
  const pdfDoc = await PDFDocument.create();
  const page = pdfDoc.addPage();

  const { width, height } = page.getSize();

  page.drawText("HELLO", {
    x: 50,
    y: height - 50,
    size: 20,
    color: rgb(0, 0, 0),
  });
  const pdfBytes = await pdfDoc.save();

  const currentDate = DateTime.now().toFormat('yyyy-MM-dd');
  const fileName = `${articleHref}_${currentDate}`;

  res.setHeader("Content-Type", "application/pdf");
  res.setHeader('Content-Disposition', `attachment; filename="${fileName}"`);
  res.send(pdfBytes);
});
```

On the frontend side I listen button clicks and initiate pdf generation using this code



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```
generate-pdf/${articleHref}`, {
```

```
blob();
```

```
objectURL(blob);
```

```
ers.get('Content-
```

```
ement('a');
```

```
se the filename received from
```

```
;
```

```
;
```

```
;
```

I get the file to my "Downloads" folder with proper naming and type .pdf But I can't open it because it's broken.

I checked blob.type (application/pdf), content-type header (application/pdf, utf-8) I saved pdf file locally on the server side using fs.writeFileSync(filePath, pdfBytes) - it opened fine. But as soon as I'm trying to generate and get the file from my frontend - the file is broken.

What could be a reason? TIA

node.js

pdf

pdf-generation

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asked Feb 20 at 18:50



Yana Mazo

13 ● 2

1 Answer

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Try passing the blob type that you receive in your await call by changing the below line,

```
const url = window.URL.createObjectURL(blob);
```

as

```
const blobObj = new Blob([blob], { type: blob.type });  
const url = window.URL.createObjectURL(blobObj);
```



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answered Feb 20 at 19:10



David R

15.2k ● 7 ● 57 ● 74

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