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

Asked 1 month ago Modified 1 month ago Viewed 97 times



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



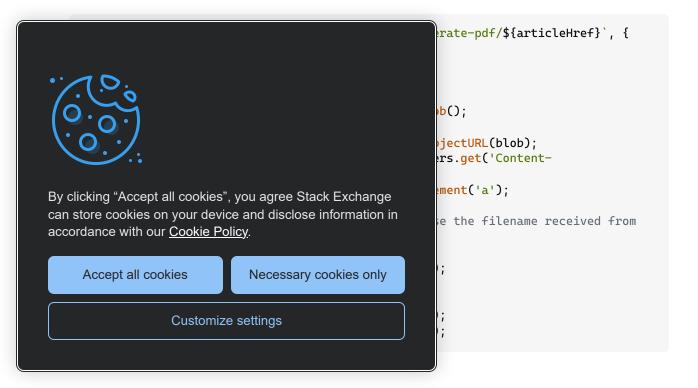
here is my backend code for making pdf-s





```
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



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.

Sorted by:

b 20 at 19:15

What could be a reason? TIA



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1 Answer

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



as

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

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Display PDF in reactJS

Asked 6 years, 8 months ago Modified 12 days ago Viewed 148k times



I am following this package https://www.npmjs.com/package/react-pdf



I got the entire raw pdf data from backend so I was trying with code below.



<ReactPDF file={renderPdf}/>



But it displayed "Failed to load PDF file." I don't wish to save any file in local. The best approach is the display the pdf with the raw data provided by backend.

In terminal, it logged the error:



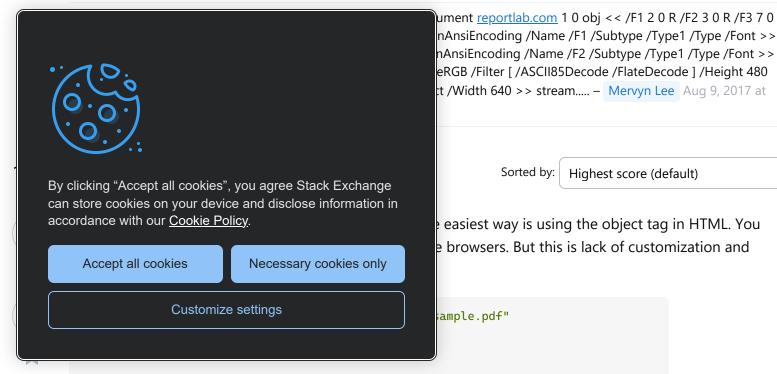
reactjs pdf

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what does renderPdf look like? – Dan O Aug 9, 2017 at 17:18



href="http://africau.edu/images/default/sample.pdf">to the PDF! </object>

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answered Jul 21, 2020 at 13:29



- this is perfect! thans Loudrous Jun 18, 2022 at 14:16
- This works just fine when you just need to embed a PDF, thanks for sharing this answer! Blake Nov 10, 2022 at 15:43
- iOS browsers have a bug that prevents scrolling with this object embed approach Alex von Brandenfels May 15, 2023 at 17:16



it looks like you're passing the PDF data directly to the <ReactPDF> component as the value of the file prop. But according to the docs you need to use an object containing a data property:



<ReactPDF file={{

}} />

data: renderPdf



it seems you can also set file to an object containing a url property, to let ReactPDF fetch the pdf from your backend by itself, if that's easier:

```
<ReactPDF
  file={{
    url: 'http://www.example.com/sample.pdf'
  }}
/>
```

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answered Aug 9, 2017 at 17:46



Dan O **6,060** • 2 • 33 • 52



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token for it to be accepted. - Kaelan O'reily Sep 27, 2023 at

er error. 2nd option is not possible since it will trigger a get on which will send a POST request to retrieve the pdf

pdf" type="application/pdf">



it downloads. doesn't render. – Ajit T Stephen Aug 31, 2023 at 15:05

ohh it renders...sweet – Noopur Phalak Oct 17, 2023 at 11:15

@NoopurPhalak No!! It didn't render. For me this package did the job! npmjs.com/package/@cyntler/react-doc-viewer Original Reference: youtu.be/E0aK6CKsSNg?si=3YTzshMtVsM-alVs Sorry for confusing language in previous comment – Ajit T Stephen Dec 28, 2023 at 10:00 2023 at 10:00 youtu.be/sizeship.s

@AjitTStephen It does render the PDF...it worked for me. Here is my code: <object width="100%" height="100%" data={resume.resume} type="application/pdf" /> Here resume is the google cloud storage link to the PDF. - Noopur Phalak Dec 29, 2023 at 5:30 /

ohh...my links were... aws s3. That would matter? @NoopurPhalak – Ajit T Stephen Dec 29, 2023 at 6:33 🖍



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I solved the problem. I convert the binary data that I received from backend into ArrayBuffer.

4



```
1
```

```
axios.post(//fire your API).then(response =>
          (response.status === 200? response.data : null))
.then(pdfdata => {
        var len = pdfdata.length;
        var bytes = new Uint8Array( len );
        for (var i = 0; i < len; i++){
              bytes[i] = pdfdata.charCodeAt(i);
        }
        const renderPdf = bytes.buffer</pre>
```

Then I actually assign bytes.buffer to renderPDF to perform the rendering. Now it is working flawlessly!

In rendering html from react,

```
import PDF from 'react-pdf-scroll'
<PDF file={renderPdf} scale={1.3} pages={Infinity} />
```

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edited Aug 25, 2017 at 3:19

answered Aug 10, 2017 at 4:22



Hi @MervynLee - Can you please post the full code for your solution? – JoeyHolloway Aug 24, 2017 at 8:33

Hi @JJHolloway, I have posted the code for logic and rendering part in react, anything else? – Mervyn Lee Aug 25, 2017 at 3:19

Thanks @MervynLee -- did you come across an issue where it just says "Loading PDF file..." and never loads the PDF? – JoeyHolloway Aug 25, 2017 at 11:58

@JJHolloway do you mind show the response content returned by server? - Mervyn Lee Aug 27, 2017 at 8:09

4 The library react-pdf-scroll has been deprecated according to the npm website npmjs.com/package/react-pdf-scroll



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prmat of buffer then you can set the file info with a

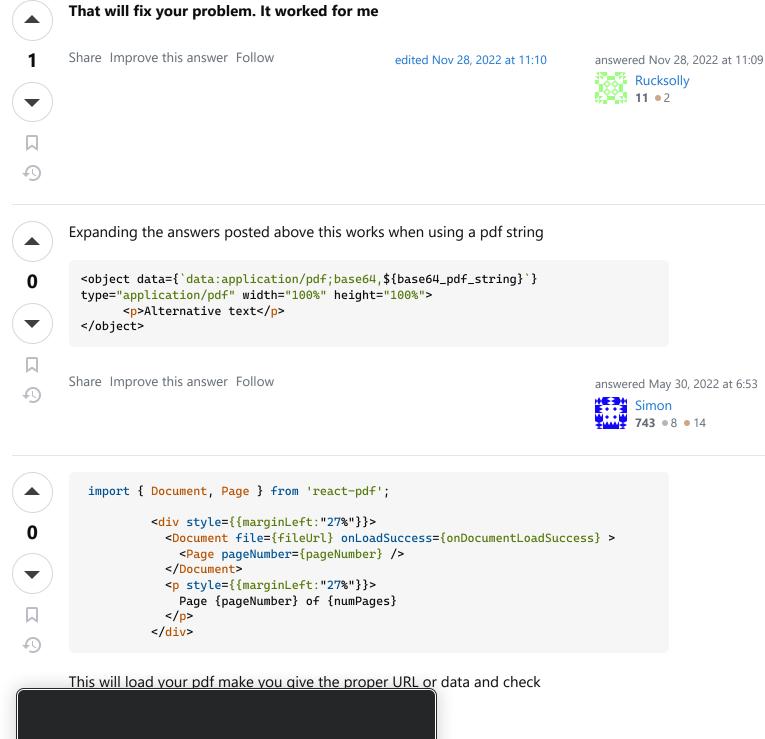
answered May 14, 2019 at 0:17



Willie Smith

11 • 2

/entry.webpack";





answered Jan 27, 2023 at 10:09



Shivam Suchak
231 • 3 • 10

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pdf" type="application/pdf">

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