

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.

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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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```
...enerate-pdf/${articleHref}`, {
  ...
  blob();
  ...bjectURL(blob);
  ...rs.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

Sorted by: Highest score (default)



0



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

p 20 at 19:15



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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>

33

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:

```
URIError: Failed to decode param '/%PDF-
1.4%EF%BF%BD%EF%BF%BD%EF%BF%BD%EF%BF%BD%20ReportLab%20Generated%20PDF%20document%20
Bold%20/Encoding%20/WinAnsiEncoding%20/Name%20/F2%20/Subtype%20/Type1%20/Type%20/For
V'
```

reactjs

pdf

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edited Apr 9, 2019 at 10:03

Ryuujo

613 ● 2 ● 9 ● 27

asked Aug 9, 2017 at 16:41



Mervyn Lee

2.117 ● 6 ● 30 ● 55

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



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```

document reportlab.com 1 0 obj << /F1 2 0 R /F2 3 0 R /F3 7 0
nAnsiEncoding /Name /F1 /Subtype /Type1 /Type /Font >>
nAnsiEncoding /Name /F2 /Subtype /Type1 /Type /Font >>
eRGB /Filter [ /ASCII85Decode /FlateDecode ] /Height 480
t /Width 640 >> stream..... - Mervyn Lee Aug 9, 2017 at

```

Sorted by: Highest score (default)

The easiest way is using the object tag in HTML. You can use it in all the browsers. But this is lack of customization and

sample.pdf"



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

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answered Jul 21, 2020 at 13:29



[Dhanuka Perera](#)

1,583 ● 3 ● 20 ● 32

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



15



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

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

token for it to be accepted. – [Kaelan O'reily](#) Sep 27, 2023 at

```
pdf" type="application/pdf">
```



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answered Jun 17, 2019 at 12:27



Nikit Barochiya

1,041 ● 12 ● 15



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

@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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▲

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

```
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
```

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

 **Mervyn Lee**
2,117 ● 6 ● 30 ● 55

- Hi @MervynLee - Can you please post the full code for your solution? – [JoeyHolloway](#) Aug 24, 2017 at 8:33
- Hi @JHolloway, 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
- @JHolloway 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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format of buffer then you can set the file info with a

answered May 14, 2019 at 0:17

 **Willie Smith**
11 ● 2

```
entry.webpack";
```



That will fix your problem. It worked for me

1

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edited Nov 28, 2022 at 11:10

answered Nov 28, 2022 at 11:09



Rucksolly

11 ● 2



Expanding the answers posted above this works when using a pdf string

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```
<object data={`data:application/pdf;base64,${base64_pdf_string}`}
type="application/pdf" width="100%" height="100%">
  <p>Alternative text</p>
</object>
```



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answered May 30, 2022 at 6:53



Simon

743 ● 8 ● 14



0

```
import { Document, Page } from 'react-pdf';

<div style={{marginLeft:"27%"}}>
  <Document file={fileUrl} onLoadSuccess={onDocumentLoadSuccess} >
    <Page pageNumber={pageNumber} />
  </Document>
  <p style={{marginLeft:"27%"}}>
    Page {pageNumber} of {numPages}
  </p>
</div>
```



This will load your pdf make you give the proper URL or data and check

answered Jan 27, 2023 at 10:09



Shivam Suchak

231 ● 3 ● 10



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mobile devices.

```
pdf" type="application/pdf">
```

Finally found a working solution

```
<iframe src={pdf_url} />
```

Hope This works.

Nice day coding!

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answered Jun 9, 2021 at 20:27



[Ayush Sharma](#)

41 ● 1



-1



```
<iframe src="https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=YOUR_PDF_URL&embedded=true"
frameborder="0" height="500px" width="100%"></iframe>
```

In the above iframe, in the src (replace YOUR_PDF_URL), which will work.

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edited Jun 16, 2022 at 15:45

answered Jun 15, 2022 at 7:11



[Naveen Kamath](#)

47 ● 1 ● 6



-1



well other than using Document and page from react-pdf . You also need to use pdfjs. I don't know what or how it does but after using pdfjs . I could load my pdf. Just do

```
pdfjs.GlobalWorkerOptions.workerSrc =
`//cdnjs.cloudflare.com/ajax/libs/pdf.js/${pdfjs.version}/pdf.worker.min.js`;
```

and then

```
intent-center">
.7 : 0.6} />
```

answered Apr 4 at 9:41



[devacius the one above all](#)

1 ● 1



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