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Howto Open a PDF file under Linux / FreeBSD

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PDF is an acronym for Portable Document Format. It is a proprietary file format developed by Adobe Systems for representing two-dimensional documents in a device independent and resolution independent format. You can open pdf file using graphical as well as command line tools (i.e. without GUI). Linux supports following PDF viewer under X window:

- Gnome pdf viewer (gpdf)
- KDE pdf viewer (kpdf)
- xpdf
- Official Adobe acrobat reader



[1]

Graphic pdf viewer under Linux/FreeBSD

If you are using Gnome desktop...

Open a shell prompt and type the command:

```
$ gpdf file.pdf
```

OR

```
$ evince file.pdf
```

If you are using KDE desktop...

Open a shell prompt and type the command:

```
$ kpdf file.pdf
```

You can also click on K icon > Select Graphics > Select PDF viewer



[2]

Console pdf viewer under Linux/FreeBSD

Console pdf viewer

As far as I know there is no console based PDF viewer exists. But you can use the following trick to open a PDF file:

a) First install pdftohtml - A command-line tool for converting pdf-files into html and other formats.

Debian User install pdftohtml using following command:

```
# apt-get install pdftohtml
```

Red Hat/Fedora user install pdftohtml using following command:

```
# yum install pdftohtml
```

FreeBSD user install pdftohtml using following command:

```
# pkg_add -v -r pdftohtml
```

OR use ports collection:

```
# cd /usr/ports/textproc/pdftohtml
# make; make install
```

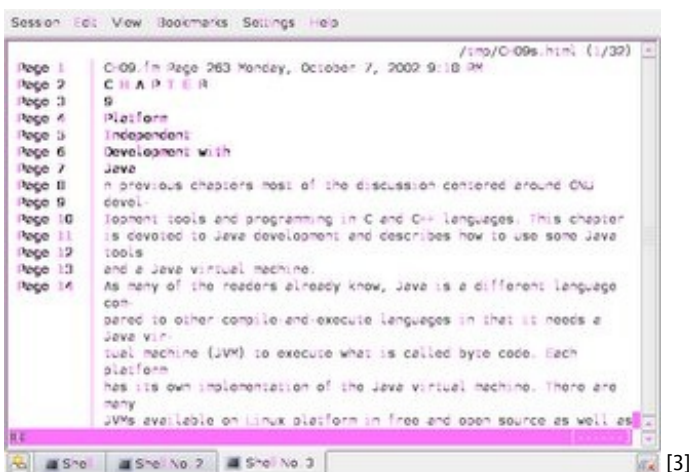
The idea is very simple you will use a pdftohtml program to convert a PDF file into html, xml and png images and then display them using text browser such as elinks or lynx. This is useful when you works on remote server or if GUI is not available:

For example to convert CH09.PDF file you need to type the following set of commands:

```
$ pdftohtml CH09.PDF
$ lynx CH09.html
```

OR

```
$ elinks CH09.html
```



You can also convert a PDF file to text file using following command:

```
$ pdftotext CH09.pdf
$ vi CH09.txt
```

See also

=> You can get Official Adobe acrobat reader [here](#) ^[4] for UNIX/Linux oses.

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