How You Can Build a Self-Hosted PDF Download System (That Earns!)

What You’ll Learn:

How to create your own PDF download site no Firebase, no 3rd-party dashboards.

How to earn from every download using interstitial ads (AdSense or others).

How to build and manage everything yourself using Next.js.

�� Why This System?

Most people use 3rd-party file hosting like Up-4Ever, FilesMonster, or WeTransfer and earn pennies.

But when you host the downloads yourself, you:

�� Keep 100% of earnings.

�� Avoid limits, storage issues, and third-party rules.

Control the full user experience.

�� What You Need:

Basic knowledge of Next.js (App Router preferred)

A hosting platform like Vercel or Netlify

Approved AdSense account

PDF files to offer for download

�� Step-by-Step Guide:

1. Setup Your Next.js Project

Create a new app with the App Router.

```
npx create-next-app@latest your-project-name
```

Enable TypeScript if possible.

2. Create a Public Folder for Your PDFs

Put all your downloadable PDFs inside the public/downloads folder.

For example:

```
public/
 └── downloads/
      ├── resume-template.pdf
      ├── skincare-guide.pdf
```

3. Create a Local JSON File with Your Products

In your app folder, create a JSON file like this:

```
[
  {
    "id": 1,
    "title": "Skincare Guide",
    "filename": "skincare-guide.pdf",
    "category": "Health",
    "slug": "skincare-guide"
  }
]
```

This will act as your mini database.

4. Build a Download Page with Ad Redirection

Each time someone clicks Download, redirect them first to a full-page ad (AdSense auto ads or manual interstitial).

You can:

Use a dedicated route like /ads/[slug]

Show ads here (AdSense full-page auto ads or matched content ads)

After 5–7 seconds, redirect to the real download file.

Example logic (inside server component or route handler):

```
setTimeout(() => {
  window.location.href = `/downloads/${filename}`;
}, 7000);
```

5. Design an Admin Panel (Optional)

If you want to:

Upload PDFs from your browser

Add/edit JSON entries

Track downloads

you can build a protected admin dashboard using Next.js Server Actions + a login form.

But you can also manage JSON manually if you're a solo creator.

6. Place AdSense Ads on the Right Pages

Use a mix of:

�� Auto Ads (enabled from AdSense dashboard)

�� Manual Display Ads on:

Home page

Product listing

Download page (above or below button)

After-ad redirect page

Make sure ads are:

Not blocking user experience

Not on empty/low-content pages

�� Tips to Maximize Earnings:

Share download pages on forums, blogs, Pinterest, and YouTube

Optimize titles and thumbnails for clicks

Avoid unnecessary steps keep the flow clean

Track top-performing files and double down

�� You’re Ready!

That’s it no Firebase, no external dashboards.

Just you, your downloads, and a self-owned earning system.

If you follow this step-by-step, you'll:
Own your site
Own your files
Earn on every single click