displaying a pdf from a local drive in shiny

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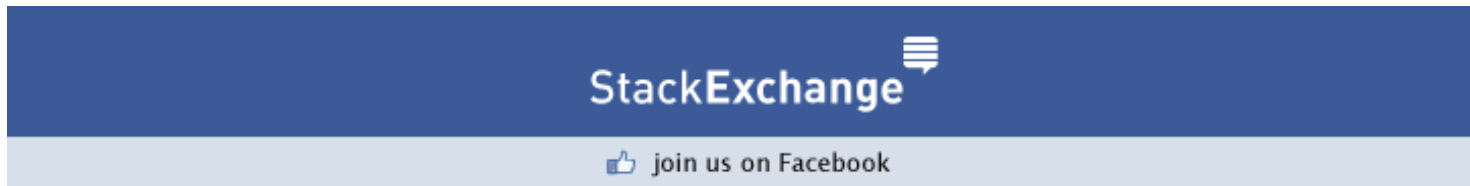
I'm still new to r and shiny, and i'm stumped with what should otherwise be simple logic. I am trying to display pdf files in imageOutput widgets but with no luck. Could someone steer me in the right direction?

sample ui.R

```
shinyUI(pageWithSidebar(
mainPanel(
  selectInput("sel_ed",
            label = "View outputs for Ecodistrict:",
            choices = c(244,245,247,249),
            selected = NULL,
            multiple = FALSE),

  imageOutput("imp_pdf",width="500px",height="500px")
))
```

sample server.R

```
shinyServer(function(input, output, session) {

importance <- function(inputSpecies){
img_dir <- pdf(paste(inputSpecies,"\\models\\MATL\\MATRF_Importance",sep=""))
}

output$imp_pdf <- renderImage({importance(input$sel_ed)})
```

```
})
```

Most of the errors i get have to do with expected character vector arguments, or atomic vectors. I know that shiny is more or less designed to render AND display images or plots but there has to be a way to display pdf's that are already on a local drive..

r   image   pdf   shiny   displayobject

> may not be related, but you can use `/` for paths instead of \\ even in windows – beroe Oct 19 '13 at 19:16 ✎
>
> I think there is no ready made component at the moment. But of course you can display pdf in a webpage. If it can be done in a webapge then shiny can be adapted to do it. See github.com/mozilla/pdf.js – xiaodai Oct 20 '13 at 12:42 ✎

1 Answer

To embed a PDF viewer (the default PDF viewer of your web browser, pdf.js on mozilla for example) in your Shiny ui, you can use an iframe which the src will be the path to your PDF.

Here is 2 differents ways to include an iframe in your interface :

in the Ui you can directly add an `iframe` tag with an absolute src attribute as bellow :

```
tags$iframe(style="height:600px; width:100%", src="http://localhost/ressources/pdf/R-
Intro.pdf"))
```

Or get an URL from the ui in the server , write the `iframe` tag with the input URL and return the HTML code in a htmlOutput in the ui :

Ui :
```
textInput("pdfurl", "PDF URL")
```

```
htmlOutput('pdfviewer')
```

Server :

```
output$pdfviewer <- renderText({
    return(paste('<iframe style="height:600px; width:100%" src="', input$pdfurl, '"></iframe>',
sep = ""))
```

Note that when pages are loaded with a HTTP(S) protocol (the case of the Shiny app) for
security reasons you can't framed locals files with their "file:" URLs. If you want to display
locals pdf you should access to them with a `http(s):` URL, so you have to save them in your
www directory (a local web server) and access to files with their `http(s):` URLs (the URL will
be something like `http://localhost/.../mypdf.pdf`) as in the second iframe of my example.
(Then you can't use a fileInput directly, you have to format it)

Ui.R :

```
library(shiny)

row <- function(...) {
  tags$div(class="row", ...)
}

col <- function(width, ...) {
  tags$div(class=paste0("span", width), ...)
}

shinyUI(bootstrapPage(

  headerPanel("PDF VIEWER"),

  mainPanel(

    tags$div(
      class = "container",

      row(
        col(3, textInput("pdfurl", "PDF URL"))
      ),
      row(
        col(6, htmlOutput('pdfviewer')),
        col(6, tags$iframe(style="height:600px; width:100%",
```

```
src="http://localhost/ressources/pdf/R-Intro.pdf"))
      )
    )
  )
))
```

Server.R :

```
shinyServer(function(input, output, session) {

  output$pdfviewer <- renderText({
      return(paste('<iframe style="height:600px; width:100%" src="', input$pdfurl, '">
</iframe>', sep = ""))
    })

})
```
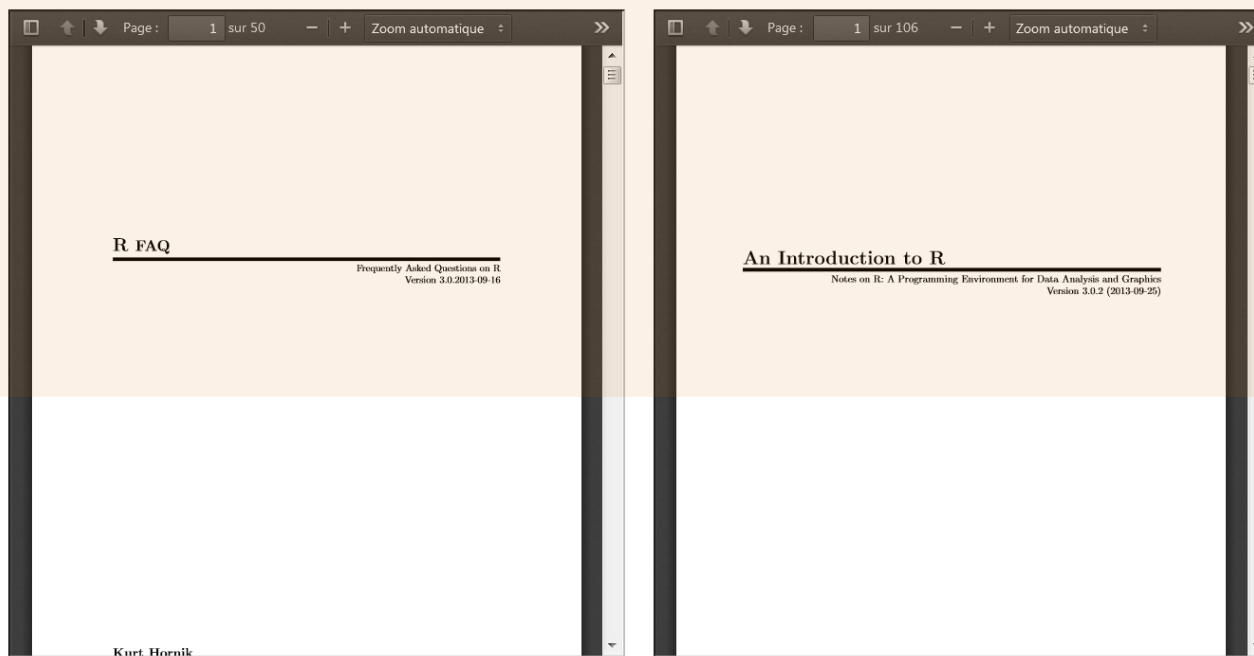
The web pages with the PDF viewers :

PDF VIEWER

PDF URL

roject.org/doc/manuals/R-FAQ.pdf

Hope this help.

answered Jan 9 '14 at 15:55

Julien Navarre
2,785 ● 2 ● 9 ● 38