

Integrating React with PDF.js Express Viewer JavaScript PDF library

This guide will help you **integrate PDF.js Express Viewer into a React application** on the browser. You can also checkout a ready to go sample on GitHub.

Get the React sample source code here

Prerequisites

- Node.js and npm

Node.js is not required for PDF.js Express Viewer
PDF.js Express Viewer does not require Node, npm, or node_modules. It is only recommended to run the samples.

Free license key required.

To use PDF.js Express Viewer you do need a **free license key**. Please [get your free Viewer key here](#) if you do not have one.

1. Install PDF.js Express Viewer NPM module

Run the following command in your Terminal or Command Line:

```
npm i @pdftron/pdfjs-express-viewer
```

2. Copy static assets

Next we must copy the static assets required for WebViewer to run. The files are located in `node_modules/@pdftron/pdfjs-express-viewer/public` and must be moved into a location that will be served and publicly accessible. In React, it will be `public` folder.

Inside of a [GitHub project](#), we automate the copying of static resources by executing `copy-webviewer-files.js`.

3. Place WebViewer into a component

- Import WebViewer into your component.

```
import WebViewer from '@pdftron/pdfjs-express-viewer';
```

- Create a reference where WebViewer will be placed or mounted.

```
const MyComponent = () => {  
  const viewer = useRef(null);  
  
  return (  
    <div className="MyComponent">  
      <div className="header">React sample</div>  
      <div className="webviewer" ref={viewer}></div>  
    </div>  
  );  
};
```

- Inside of `useEffect` hook or `componentDidMount` lifecycle method initialize WebViewer. Ensure that the path property in the constructor points to where you copied static assets `node_modules/@pdftron/pdfjs-express-viewer/public` in React `public` folder.

```
const MyComponent = () => {  
  const viewer = useRef(null);  
  
  useEffect(() => {  
    WebViewer(  
      {  
        path: '/webviewer/lib',  
        initialDoc: '/files/pdftron_about.pdf',  
      },  
      viewer.current,  
    ).then((instance) => {  
      // now you can access APIs through the WebViewer instance  
      const { Core } = instance;  
  
      // adding an event listener for when a document is loaded  
      Core.documentViewer.addEventListener('documentLoaded', () => {  
        console.log('document loaded');  
      });  
  
      // adding an event listener for when the page number has changed  
      Core.documentViewer.addEventListener('pageNumberUpdated', (pageNumber) => {  
        console.log(`Page number is: ${pageNumber}`);  
      });  
    });  
  }, []);  
  
  return (  
    <div className="MyComponent">  
      <div className="header">React sample</div>  
      <div className="webviewer" ref={viewer}></div>  
    </div>  
  );  
};
```

- Run the app by running `npm start`.

You can now checkout other guides like [how to open your own documents](#) or [how to disable certain features](#).

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