# Displaying PDF in React app

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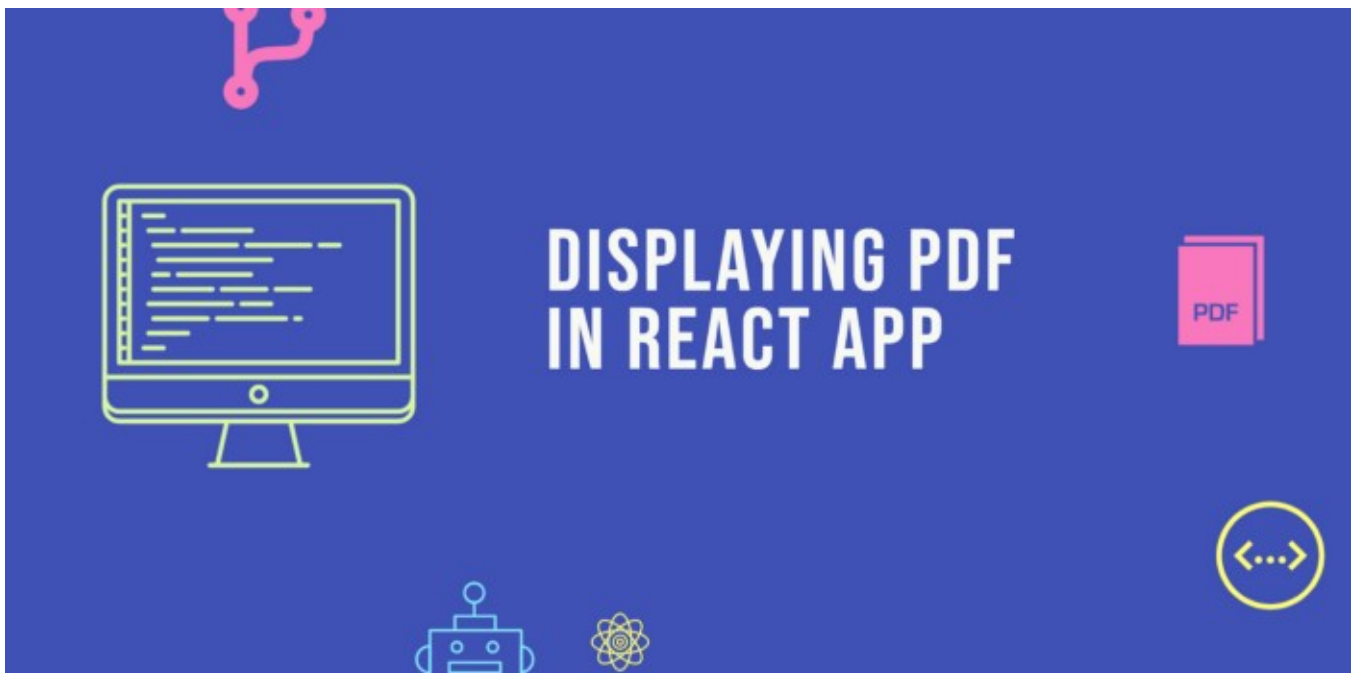


I want to show you an easy and simple way to display `PDF` files using React in the browser. I will be using a library called react-pdf. This library is capable of rendering `PDF` files given an URL or a local file inside the project or base64 encoded version.

To get started, create a simple `React` application using Create React App. To do this you can run the following commands:

```
npx create-react-app display-pdf-app
cd display-pdf-app
npm start
```

After this, add the `react-pdf` library to the project using the following command:

```
npm install --save react-pdf
```

To render the `PDF` file, `react-pdf` has a Document component where you need to pass a file prop. Then inside the Document component, you need to create a Page component. Simple isn't it? Sample code:

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

import samplePDF from './test.pdf';

export default function Test() {
  return (
    <Document file={samplePDF}>
      <Page pageNumber={1} />
    </Document>
  );
}
```

The final project structure will look like this:

**package.json**
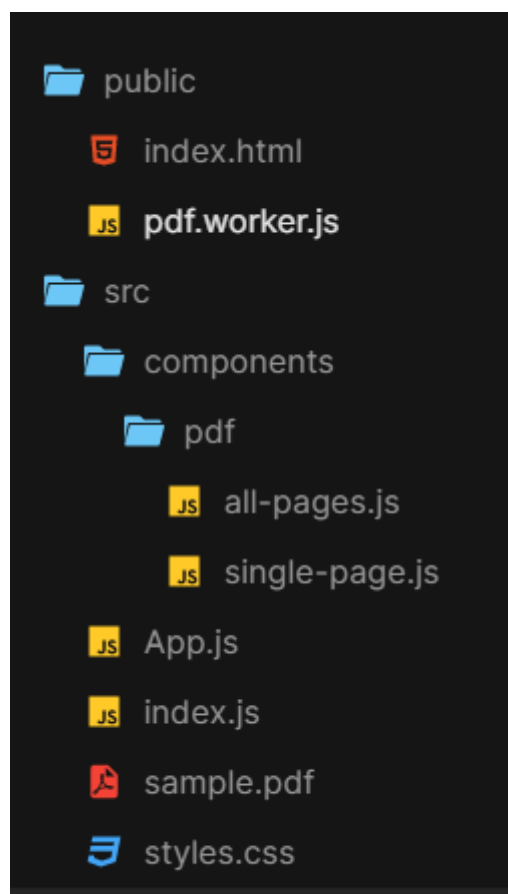
Let's start with creating `single-page.js` and `all-pages.js` inside the `components - pdf` folder with the following contents:

- `single-page.js`

```
1   import React, { useState } from "react";
2   import { Document, Page } from "react-pdf";
3
4   export default function SinglePage(props) {
5     const [numPages, setNumPages] = useState(null);
6     const [pageNumber, setPageNumber] = useState(1); //setting 1 to show fisrt page
7
8     function onDocumentLoadSuccess({ numPages }) {
9       setNumPages(numPages);
10      setPageNumber(1);
11    }
12
13    function changePage(offset) {
14      setPageNumber(prevPageNumber => prevPageNumber + offset);
15    }
16
17    function previousPage() {
18      changePage(-1);
19    }
20
21    function nextPage() {
22      changePage(1);
23    }
24
25    const { pdf } = props;
26
27    return (
28      <>
29        <Document
30          file={pdf}
31          options={{ workerSrc: "/pdf.worker.js" }}
32          onLoadSuccess={onDocumentLoadSuccess}
33        >
34          <Page pageNumber={pageNumber} />
35        </Document>
36        <div>
37          <p>
38            Page {pageNumber || (numPages ? 1 : "--")} of {numPages || "--"}
```

```
39        </p>
40        <button type="button" disabled={pageNumber <= 1} onClick={previousPage}>
41          Previous
42        </button>
43        <button
44          type="button"
45          disabled={pageNumber >= numPages}
46          onClick={nextPage}
47        >
48          Next
49        </button>
50      </div>
51    </>
52  );
53 }
```

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- all-pages.js

```
1   import React, { useState } from "react";
2   import { Document, Page } from "react-pdf";
3
4   export default function AllPages(props) {
5     const [numPages, setNumPages] = useState(null);
6
7     function onDocumentLoadSuccess({ numPages }) {
8       setNumPages(numPages);
9     }
10
11    const { pdf } = props;
12
13    return (
14      <Document
15        file={pdf}
16        options={{ workerSrc: "/pdf.worker.js" }}
17        onLoadSuccess={onDocumentLoadSuccess}
18      >
19        {Array.from(new Array(numPages), (el, index) => (
20          <Page key={`page_${index + 1}`} pageNumber={index + 1} />
21        ))}
22      </Document>
23    );
24 }
```

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Now navigate to `App.js` and replace the content with the following code:

```
1   import React from "react";
2
3   import SinglePagePDFViewer from "./components/pdf/single-page";
4   import AllPagesPDFViewer from "./components/pdf/all-pages";
5
6   /* This is required only if the project file is located
7   inside the app. Otherwise you can use the external link of the pdf file*/
8   import samplePDF from "./sample.pdf";
9
10  import "./styles.css";
11
12  export default function App() {
13    return (
14      <div className="App">
15        <h4>Single Page</h4>
16        <SinglePagePDFViewer pdf={samplePDF} />
17
18        <hr />
19
20        <h4>All Pages</h4>
21        <div className="all-page-container">
22          <AllPagesPDFViewer pdf={samplePDF} />
23        </div>
24
25        <hr />
26      </div>
27    );
28  }
```

**App.js** hosted with ❤️ by **GitHub**　　　　　**view raw**

As you have noticed we have to create buttons to change the page of the document in `single-page.js` component. This is because `react-pdf` does not provide a user interface.

The full project code can be found here github and you can see the demo below:

```
App.js
1   import React from "react";
2
3   import SinglePagePDFViewer from "./components/p
4   import AllPagesPDFViewer from "./components/pdf
```

```
5
6    /* This is required only if the project file is
7    inside the app. Otherwise you can use the exter
```

· · ·

If you get the following error in console:

```
Uncaught SyntaxError: Unexpected token <

http://project_server.dev/app_folder/d58d9dd3a5c5f2a8eafb.worker.js

...
```

then follow the steps below:

1. Copy `node_modules/pdfjs-dist/build/pdf.worker.js` to `public/pdf.worker.js`

2. `options={{workerSrc: "pdf.worker.js"}}` Add this props inside the `Document` component from `react-pdf` . [It is already done in the above project. ]

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**Reference**

- https://github.com/wojtekmaj/react-pdf

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