

Prompt: Fix Broken PDF Download ("Failed to load PDF document" Error)

Title: Fix broken PDF generation and download endpoint returning invalid PDF file

Prompt:

I'm getting the error "**Failed to load PDF document**" when I try to open the downloaded PDF from my Markdown-to-PDF web app.

Please debug and fix the PDF generation and response in my Next.js / Node API. The issue is likely that the API route is returning raw binary data without proper headers or encoding.

- Here's what you need to do:**
1. Inspect the `/api/generate-pdf` route (or whichever route sends the PDF).
 2. Ensure that the PDF generation library (`puppeteer`, `md-to-pdf`, or `pdfkit`) returns a **binary buffer**, not a base64 string or HTML.
 3. Make sure the response includes the correct headers:

```
return new Response(pdfBuffer, {  
  status: 200,  
  headers: {  
    "Content-Type": "application/pdf",  
    "Content-Disposition": "attachment; filename=document.pdf",  
  },  
});
```

4. If the API uses Express or Node's `res` object instead of the Fetch API:

```
res.setHeader("Content-Type", "application/pdf");  
res.setHeader("Content-Disposition", "attachment;  
filename=document.pdf");  
res.send(pdfBuffer);
```

5. Remove any JSON encoding (like `res.json(pdf)` or `Response.json(pdf)`), because that corrupts binary data.
6. Verify that `pdfBuffer` is not empty (`pdfBuffer.length > 0`).
7. Test by downloading and opening the file — it should open correctly in Chrome or Adobe Reader.
8. Add error handling:

```
if (!pdfBuffer || pdfBuffer.length === 0) {  
    return new Response("PDF generation failed", { status: 500 });  
}
```

Expected outcome:

- The endpoint returns a valid binary PDF file with proper `Content-Type` and `Content-Disposition` headers.
- The downloaded PDF opens successfully in any PDF viewer.
- No “Failed to load PDF document” errors occur.