

Multple methods to download PDF files in PHP code

1) From <http://www.finalwebsites.com/forums/topic/php-file-download>

"Following works with files bigger than 10 MB on Apache 1.3 (or higher). I added the cache control to open also text files and others (without saving). Use this example code to download files from a protected directory for example."

```
<?php
```

```
// place this code inside a php file and call it f.e. "download.php"
$path = $_SERVER['DOCUMENT_ROOT']."/path2file/"; // change the path to fit
your websites document structure
$fullPath = $path.$_GET['download_file'];

if ($fd = fopen ($fullPath, "r")) {
    $fsize = filesize($fullPath);
    $path_parts = pathinfo($fullPath);
    $ext = strtolower($path_parts["extension"]);
    switch ($ext) {
        case "pdf":
            header("Content-type: application/pdf"); // add here more headers
for diff. extensions
            header("Content-Disposition: attachment;
filename=\"".$path_parts["basename"]."\""); // use 'attachment' to force a
download
            break;
        default;
            header("Content-type: application/octet-stream");
            header("Content-Disposition:
filename=\"".$path_parts["basename"]."\"");
    }
    header("Content-length: $fsize");
    header("Cache-control: private"); //use this to open files directly
    while(!feof($fd)) {
        $buffer = fread($fd, 2048);
        echo $buffer;
    }
}
fclose ($fd);
exit;
// example: place this kind of link into the document where the file
download is offered:
// <a href="download.php?download_file=some_file.pdf">Download here</a>
?>
```

2) From: <http://stackoverflow.com/questions/364946/how-to-make-pdf-file-downloadable-in-html-link>

Instead of linking to the .PDF file, instead do something like

```
<a href="pdf_server.php?file=pdffilename">Download my eBook</a>
```

which outputs a custom header, opens the PDF (binary safe) and prints the data to the user's browser, then they can choose to save the PDF despite their browser settings. The pdf_server.php should look like this:

```

header("Content-Type: application/octet-stream");

$file = $_GET["file"] . ".pdf";
header("Content-Disposition: attachment; filename=" . urlencode($file));
header("Content-Type: application/force-download");
header("Content-Type: application/octet-stream");
header("Content-Type: application/download");
header("Content-Description: File Transfer");
header("Content-Length: " . filesize($file));
flush(); // this doesn't really matter.
$fp = fopen($file, "r");
while (!feof($fp))
{
    echo fread($fp, 65536);
    flush(); // this is essential for large downloads
}
fclose($fp);

```

PS: and obviously run some sanity checks on the "file" variable to prevent people from stealing your files such as don't accept file extensions, add .pdf to the value

3) From <http://eisabainyo.net/weblog/2009/06/30/display-a-download-dialog-for-pdf-in-php/>

Display a download dialog for pdf in PHP

In order to display a download dialog for pdf file rather than opening it in the browser, we can put the following snippet of code in a php file and name the file download.php.

The path to the pdf file is specified in \$filename variable. You can also pass filename as a parameter in the URL but you will need to check for Cross Site Scripting (XSS) and various script injection attempts if you decide to get the filename from the URL paramater.

```

$file = '/path/to/your/file/download.pdf';
header("Pragma: public");
header("Expires: 0");
header("Pragma: no-cache");
header("Cache-Control: no-store, no-cache, must-revalidate, post-check=0, pre-check=0");
header("Content-Type: application/force-download");
header("Content-Type: application/octet-stream");
header("Content-Type: application/download");
header('Content-disposition: attachment; filename=' .
basename($filename));
header("Content-Type: application/pdf");
header("Content-Transfer-Encoding: binary");
header('Content-Length: ' . filesize($filename));
@readfile($filename);
exit(0);
=====

```