PDF link forces download instead of open document

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- Reply with quote (./posting.php?mode=quote&f=3&p=14631197)
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Posted Wed Jun 15, 2016 8:07 am

A website I'm forced to use offers letters as pdf document. They might not want to pay for stamps and/or postage handling. When I click the link I do not get an open pdf document dialogue, but am forced to save the document locally. I then have to go to that location before I can open the document. When I complained about this procedure I got the answer that "this function differs per browser" and was invited to use a different browser...

I am not quite clear what has to happen behind the scenes to offer a pdf document from a database to the user, but forcing the user to another browser is a bit stiff in my opinion.

Anyone care to comment?

Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; WOW64; rv:43.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/43.0 SeaMonkey/2.40

- Reply with quote (./posting.php?mode=quote&f=3&p=14631263)
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Posted Wed Jun 15, 2016 9:07 am

Do other PDFs open in the browser for you?
If not, I like to install pdf.js (https://github.com/mozilla/pdf.js/) in SeaMonkey to open PDFs (it's built into Firefox) - the XPI is here. (http://mozilla.github.io/pdf.js/extensions/firefox/pdf.js.xpi)

Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; WOW64; rv:45.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/45.0 SeaMonkey/2.42

- Reply with quote (./posting.php?mode=quote&f=3&p=14631311)
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Posted Wed Jun 15, 2016 10:45 am

> **libertyernie wrote:**
> Do other PDFs open in the browser for you?

Yes. AFAIK that is not a problem. But I will look into your suggestion. Thanks.

Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; WOW64; rv:43.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/43.0 SeaMonkey/2.40

- Reply with quote (./posting.php?mode=quote&f=3&p=14631347)
- Report this post (./report.php?f=3&p=14631347)

Posted Wed Jun 15, 2016 11:03 am

> A website

URL?

What does the same link do in other browsers?
(It could be something like the mime-type is incorrect, so you're not afforded the option to "open" & can only download.)

Last edited by therube (./memberlist.php?mode=viewprofile&u=33620) on Wed Jun 15, 2016 1:08 pm, edited 1 time in total.

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- Reply with quote (./posting.php?mode=quote&f=3&p=14631395)
- Report this post (./report.php?f=3&p=14631395)

Posted Wed Jun 15, 2016 11:38 am

> **therube wrote:**
> What does the same link to in other browsers?
> (It could be something like the mime-type is incorrect, so you're not afforded the option to "open" & can only download.)

In that case, the Open in Browser (https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/seamonkey/addon/open-in-browser/) extension might help.

Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; WOW64; rv:45.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/45.0 SeaMonkey/2.42

- Reply with quote (./posting.php?mode=quote&f=3&p=14631953)
- Report this post (./report.php?f=3&p=14631953)

Posted Thu Jun 16, 2016 3:37 am

Thanks for the feedback, all. As suggested my therube I opened it in FireFox (dialogue defaulted to save, but with choice to open it in Acrobat Reader) and Edge (displayed box at the bottom with the choices 'Open', 'Open folder' and 'View Downloads'. At the moment I'm in discussion with the help desk of the site.

Other information, running Windows 10, latest patches installed (OS, SeaMonkey, etc).

Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; WOW64; rv:43.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/43.0 SeaMonkey/2.40

- Reply with quote (./posting.php?mode=quote&f=3&p=14632415)
- Report this post (./report.php?f=3&p=14632415)

Posted Thu Jun 16, 2016 11:57 am

> the site

Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 5.1; rv:43.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/43.0 SeaMonkey/2.40
- Reply with quote (./posting.php?mode=quote&f=3&p=14633231)
- Report this post (./report.php?f=3&p=14633231)
Posted Fri Jun 17, 2016 8:59 am

> Looking at the website I found the following HTML code:
> <i class="fa fa-fw fa-download">
>
> In my opinion this mean the developer of the website forces it users to save the document.

Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; WOW64; rv:43.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/43.0 SeaMonkey/2.40
- Reply with quote (./posting.php?mode=quote&f=3&p=14633573)
- Report this post (./report.php?f=3&p=14633573)
Posted Fri Jun 17, 2016 1:10 pm

> **macamba wrote:**
> Looking at the website I found the following HTML code:
> <i class="fa fa-fw fa-download">
>
> In my opinion this mean the developer of the website uses a Font Awesome based download icon for something.

Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:45.0) Gecko/20160504 Firefox/45.1.1 SeaMonkey/2.42-unofficial (+devtools)
- Reply with quote (./posting.php?mode=quote&f=3&p=14633777)
- Edit post (./posting.php?mode=edit&f=3&p=14633777)
- Report this post (./report.php?f=3&p=14633777)
Posted Fri Jun 17, 2016 4:55 pm

> **macamba wrote:**
> In my opinion this mean the developer of the website forces it users to save the document.

> Well, yes, but not because of the HTML code. Website owners get to decide how they want their content treated. The way they do this is by setting MIME types for various file types so that your web browser knows what to do with it. If a PDF file has its MIME type set to application/pdf, then the browser will open the PDF (if that's what you've configured your browser to do). If a PDF has its MIME type set to application/octet-stream, then your browser won't offer to do anything other than download the file. There are other MIME types that will force downloads, too. So, unless you can convince the website owner to change the MIME type to something you like better, you're stuck downloading the file, unless you want to try the extension that libertyernie (http://forums.mozillazine.org/viewtopic.php?p=14631395#p14631395) mentioned.

Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; rv:48.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/48.0 SeaMonkey/2.45a1
- Reply with quote (./posting.php?mode=quote&f=3&p=14635025)
- Report this post (./report.php?f=3&p=14635025)
Posted Sun Jun 19, 2016 8:38 am

> **Andy Boze wrote:**
> ..., unless you want to try the extension that libertyernie (http://forums.mozillazine.org/viewtopic.php?p=14631395#p14631395) mentioned.

> Alas,
>
> > Not available for SeaMonkey 2.40

> I will forward the url to this discussion to the owner of the website. Thanks all.

Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; WOW64; rv:43.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/43.0 SeaMonkey/2.40
- Reply with quote (./posting.php?mode=quote&f=3&p=14635823)
- Edit post (./posting.php?mode=edit&f=3&p=14635823)
- Report this post (./report.php?f=3&p=14635823)
Posted Mon Jun 20, 2016 9:28 am

> **macamba wrote:**
> Alas,
>
> > Not available for SeaMonkey 2.40

> Did you try installing it?
>
> > Maximum officially supported SeaMonkey version for this add-on is 2.4a2. However, it is likely it will work fine also in newer SeaMonkey versions.

> I'm using SM 2.45a1 and the extension installed fine for me.

Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; rv:48.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/48.0 SeaMonkey/2.45a1
- Reply with quote (./posting.php?mode=quote&f=3&p=14636573)

- Report this post (./report.php?f=3&p=14636573)
Posted Tue Jun 21, 2016 9:57 am

> **Andy Boze wrote:**
>
>> **macamba wrote:**
>> Alas,
>>
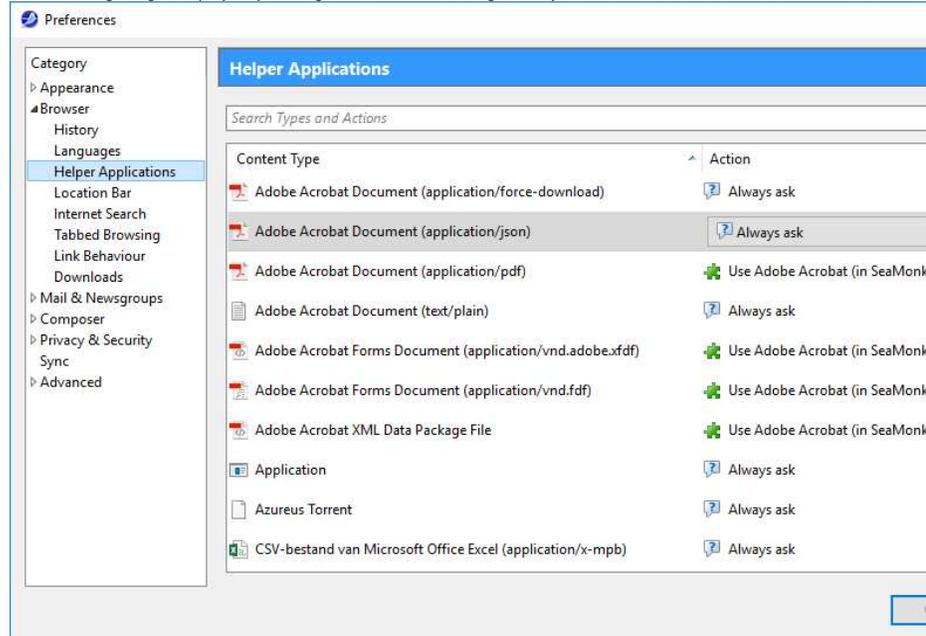>>> Not available for SeaMonkey 2.40
>
> Did you try installing it?

As a matter of fact, I just did. And when I went to the website, and clicked the download link, I still got the download dialogue.

It get's a bit ▌🙁

The webmaster informed me (translated):
whether the message is displayed in the browser, rather than directly downloading, it is a setting of the corresponding browser.

The following images displays my settings. What should I change, if any?

Edit: changed a typo

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☐ Quote the last message
☐ Notify me when a reply is posted
Quote Selected

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