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Viewing PDF Files in Safari

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If you use Mac OS X, you probably also use Safari for web browsing. If you don't, you should consider it—Safari is blazingly fast and offers a superior user experience compared to Netscape and Internet Explorer. There was one feature of the other two Web Browsers that Safari didn't offer, however—the ability to view a PDF file within the browser window. This was possible by installing a browser plug-in in Netscape or Internet Explorer.

With the proliferation of PDF files on the web for documentation, literature and brochures, as well as PDF-rich sites such as our own Hawaii Digital Library (www.HiDiLi.com), viewing PDF files within a Web Browser is more than just convenient—it's essential.

Recently, I came across a plug-in for Safari that not only allows the viewing of PDF files within Safari, but also has expanded features that far surpass the plug-in available for other Browsers. The PDF Browser Plug-In, by Schubert-It, delivers a simple yet elegant way to view PDF files within Safari. You can download the plug-in software at www.schubert-it.com/pluginpdf/. Once installed, the PDF Browser plug-in turns your web browser into the best PDF viewer available. With the help of PDF Browser Plug-in, you can view PDF documents directly in your web browser, print them, and save them to disk.



The PDF plug-in tool bar allows you to open a PDF file in Acrobat or Preview, Save, Print, View pages individually or continuously, zoom in or out, move throughout the PDF document, and rotate a PDF page—all within Safari.

A small application, called "PDF Browser Plugin Settings", is also available, which allows you to change the background color of the browser window when a PDF file is displayed. You can find the application at www.schubert-it.com/download/.



PDF Browser Plugin Settings

A site license for the PDF Browser Plug-In is just \$69, but is free for private use at home for not-for-profit activities and for use at educational institutions for not-for-profit activities.

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