

How to cofigure nginx to serve a pdf file?

Asked 3 years, 2 months ago Modified 3 years, 2 months ago Viewed 9k times

I'm trying to serve a pdf file by making a configuration in nginx but I get the following error in the page: 404 Not Found

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The configuration is like this:

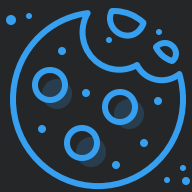
```
server {  
  
    listen 3002;  
    index index.html;  
    server_name _;  
  
    location / {  
  
        root /var/www/html/pdf_carpet;  
        try_files $uri /index.html = 404;  
    }  
}
```

pdf_carpet is where the pdf file is.

What could I do or change to be able to serve a pdf file in nginx?

P.S. It works with html files.

nginx



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at 16:17

asked Jan 23, 2022 at 16:11



Coder20

65 ● 1 ● 7

the location to `location = / { ... } .`

put it like this: `server { listen 3002; index /var/www/html/pdf_carpet/file.pdf; add_header S $uri /index.html = 404; } } – Coder20 Jan`

ing to? Remove it. And how are you trying to ent (without the `try_files` directive) your ain_or_IP>:3002/pdf_carpet URL.

And since you are serving a PDF file, add the `default_type application/pdf;` directive to that location. – [Ivan Shatsky](#) Jan 23, 2022 at 17:40

Now works but it downloads the file. I want to display the file in the page, not to download it. How could I do that? – [Coder20](#) Jan 23, 2022 at 18:05

1 Answer

Sorted by: Highest score (default) ▾



Here is the full location block that should show the PDF file in the browser window under the `http://<your_domain_or_IP>:3002/pdf_carpet` URL:

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```
location = /pdf_carpet {
    alias /var/www/html/pdf_carpet/file.pdf;
    default_type application/pdf;
    add_header Content-Disposition 'inline';
}
```



Update



If an URI for accessing the PDF file ends with the slash (or it is a root URI as a special case), the above config would not work since an index file name will be appended to such an URI by the nginx (making `location = /path/ { ... }` not match the `$uri` internal nginx variable). For such a case another technique can be used:

```
location = / {
    root /var/www/html/pdf_carpet;
    rewrite ^ /file.pdf break;
    add_header Content-Disposition 'inline';
}
```



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19:20

answered Jan 23, 2022 at 18:12



[Ivan Shatsky](#)

15.8k ● 2 ● 25 ● 51

... I shouldn't need to put the direction for the `http://<your_domain_or_IP>:3002` – [Coder20](#)

`location = /pdf_carpet { ... }` as I suggested in

error – [Coder20](#) Jan 23, 2022 at 18:50

`html/pdf_carpet/file.pdf; default_type`

[Coder20](#) Jan 23, 2022 at 18:56

... configuration (`ngx_http_index_module` see

`/var/www/html/pdf_carpet/file.pdfindex.html" is not a directory` message). See an update to the answer for the solution. – [Ivan Shatsky](#) Jan 23, 2022 at 19:22

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