

How to repair or restore corrupted PDF files

If you can't open the PDF file, it may be corrupted and if you haven't backed up the data yet, this is a nightmare. Therefore the article will help you recover or repair corrupted PDF files with Windows tools and techniques. The following methods can completely recover the PDF file, restore the original state or only extract the elements in the file.

If you can't open the PDF file, it may be corrupted and if you haven't backed up the data yet, this is a nightmare. Therefore the article will help you recover or repair corrupted PDF files with Windows tools and techniques. The following methods can completely recover the PDF file, restore the original state or only extract the elements in the file.

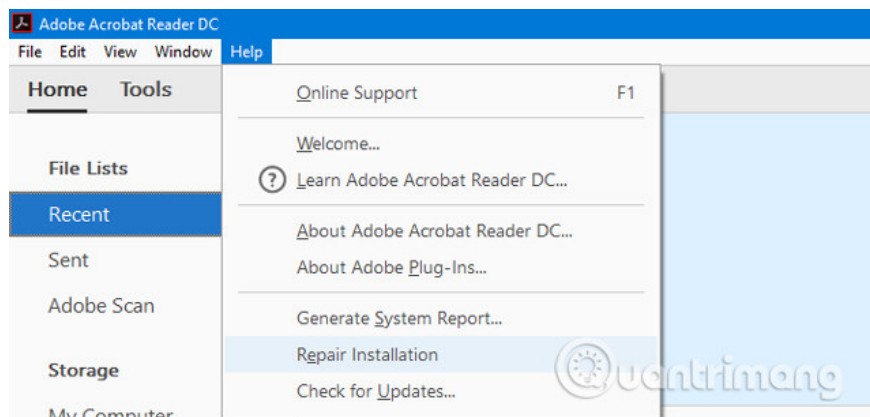
Error checking PDF reader software

Are you sure the problem is in the PDF file? Perhaps the error is due to PDF reader software?

Edit PDF reader software Adobe Acrobat Reader

The most popular PDF reader is Adobe Acrobat Reader. The PDF file was created by Adobe in the 1990s and became an open standard in 2008. If using Adobe Acrobat Reader, try some quick remedies later.

First, check the version of the PDF reader by launching it and accessing **Help> Check for Updates** . You will be notified that the program has been updated or that an update needs to be installed. If there is an update, install it and try opening the PDF again.

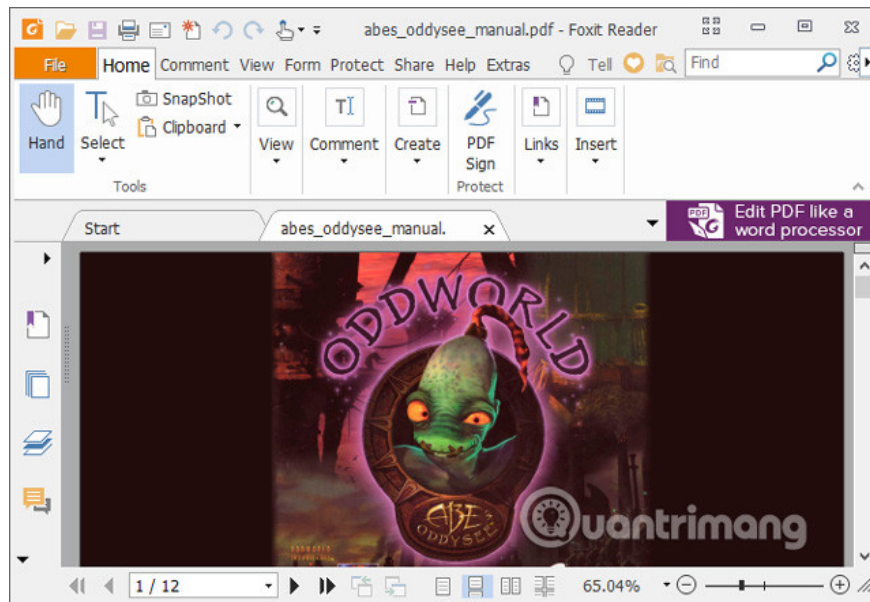


If this doesn't work, you can try navigating to **Help> Repair Installation** . This is probably because the files that the program relies on to run are corrupted and this method will try to patch them.

The above is still not possible? You can press **Windows + I** key and click on **Apps** , search for **adobe acrobat reader** , click on it in the list and select **Uninstall** . Then download and install the latest version. If you still cannot open the PDF file, you should try another PDF reader software.

Use an alternative PDF reader software

Adobe Acrobat Reader is not the only option to view PDF files. You should try another program to see if the PDF file can be opened. You can refer to the best Free PDF Software on Windows and Mac.



You may also find that Okular and Evince can read your PDF files when other software cannot. This is because they use a different display method than other software to view PDF files.

If you still have problems, your PDF file is corrupted or corrupted. Take measures below.

Repair or restore PDF files

Restore the PDF file version first

If you have ever used this PDF file, you can restore its old version. Windows 10 has a built-in backup utility. You can access it by pressing **Windows + I** and navigating to **Update & Security > Backup**.

If you don't use the **Backup** feature, you can't use it to recover PDF files. Therefore, it is advisable to activate it now to prevent these situations from happening. If you have enabled this feature, you can use the **File History** feature to return to the previous version of the PDF file by right-clicking on it and selecting **Restore previous versions** .

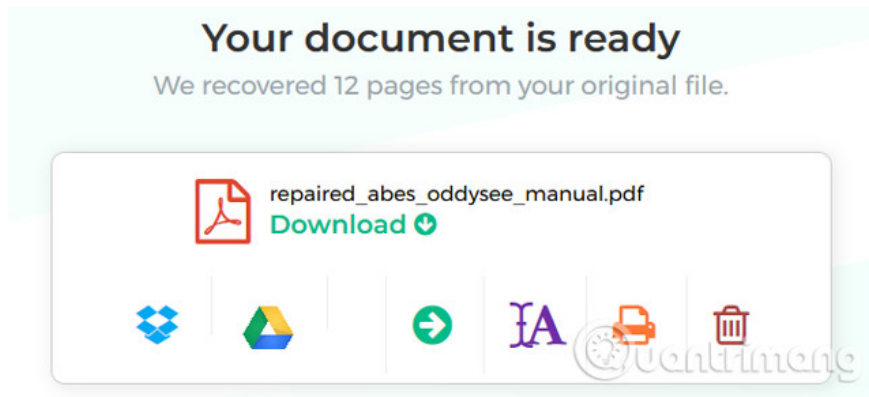
This will display a list of all older versions of the file in the backup. You can open the copy to check it and then use the **Restore** button to restore it.

A similar technique is to use a data recovery program like Recuva, which will scan the drive and find old files that have not been deleted from the system. If you have an old copy of the PDF file that you deleted, this technique can be effective.

See also: [How to use Recuva to restore and retrieve data after it has been deleted](#)

Use PDF repair applications and utilities

You can use some applications to repair PDF files. Some tools do not require installation and only run on browsers like PDFaid, Repair PDF and PDF Tools Online.



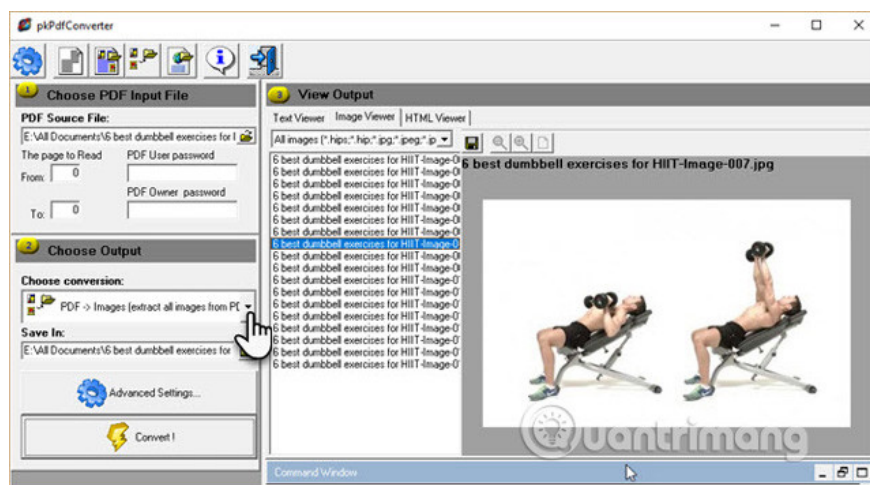
You can also try specialized file repair programs like FileRepair1. This program will scan PDF, identify errors and fix if possible.

Extract data from PDF file

If you can't edit the whole PDF file, you can still extract elements like text and images.

For text, you can use programs to convert PDFs into Word files and allow to get the text in them. You can use the PDF to Word Converter online tool provided by Nitro. Depending on the corrupted PDF file, sometimes you will get strange characters.

See also: [5 ways to extract text from PDF files most effectively](#)



If your PDF file contains images, try following the instructions on how to extract images from PDF. Same as above the results you get will vary depending on the file is broken.

Hopefully these methods are useful even though they are not able to recover everything, but at least you get the important data of the file.

I wish you all success!

See more:

1. 5 online tools to remove pdf file limits
2. Recovering unsaved Word files, retrieving Word, Excel and PowerPoint files before saving
3. How to remove logos in PDF files

You finished reading the article "**How to repair or restore corrupted PDF files**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.