I'm human

If you were using Windows 7 32-bit before upgrading to Windows 10 or 11, you may know that it supported thumbnail previews for PDF files in File Explorer. However, this feature seems to be missing in the newer operating systems, although they do offer some alternatives like viewing PDFs in Edge browser and saving text files as PDFs using Microsoft Print to PDF. If you're looking to get back the thumbnail preview for PDF files on your Windows 10 or 11 PC, there are a few third-party tools that can help. Two free utilities mentioned here will enable thumbnail support for PDF files in File Explorer. Many users already use Adobe Acrobat Reader DC to open and read PDFs, but not everyone knows it can also be used to preview and show thumbnails of PDF files in Windows 10's File Explorer. The tool generates high-quality thumbnails compared to others. To use this feature, you'll need to download and install the Acrobat Reader DC, set it as your default PDF reader, and then go to Edit > Preferences > General and check "Enable PDF thumbnail previews in Windows Explorer." This should give you thumbnail preview for PDF files. Alternatively, you can also try using Nitro Reader or PDF Preview for Windows 10. Nitro Reader is another free tool that allows you to enable thumbnail preview for PDF files after setting it as your default PDF reader. On the other hand, PDF Preview for Windows 10 is a free add-in specifically designed to show thumbnail previews and previews of PDF files in File Explorer. However, keep in mind that this utility won't work with password-protected PDFs. Note: If you encounter any issues with thumbnail preview not showing up, refer to the guide on clearing and resetting thumbnail cache in Windows 10 or fixing thumbnail previews not working in Windows 10. PDF Preview for Windows 10 Not Showing Thumbnails If you have a 32-bit or 64-bit system but use Windows 7 or 8, you need to download PDF Preview for Windows 7/8 from the developer's official page. However, PDF Preview is not available for Windows 7 and 8. To install PDF preview in Windows 10/11, visit the developer's official page, download the latest version, run the setup file, and set it as the default PDF reader. The thumbnail feature requires setting the PDF viewer as the default reader. If you don't see thumbnails for PDF files in File Explorer or on your desktop, you can try to fix this by enabling a feature from Adobe Acrobat app or using PowerToys. First, download Adobe Acrobat and set it as your default PDF reader. Then, open the app, select Edit > Preferences, enable Enable PDF thumbnail previews in Windows Explorer, and click OK. However, this may require an internet connection. Alternatively, you can use PowerToys to extract thumbnails for all types of files, including PDFs. To do this, download and install PowerToys, add the File Explorer Add-ons tool, and enable Portable Document Format (PDF) thumbnail previews. To get PDF thumbnails back on Windows, follow these steps: First, navigate to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Wow6432Node\Classes\CLSID\. If you can't find the {DC6EFB56-9CFA-464D-8880-44885D7DC193} file, create a new key with that name. Then, double-click on the AppID file and enter {534A1E02-D58F-44f0-B58B-36CBED287C7C} in the Value data option. Restart your PC and check if PDF thumbnails are visible. If not, ensure thumbnails aren't turned off in File Explorer by disabling the Always show icons, never thumbnails option. The thumbnail cache can sometimes get stuck, so try removing it: Open Settings > System > Storage > Temporary files, deselect all options except Thumbnails, and click Remove files. After that, your PDF thumbnails should be visible. Additionally, you can enable the preview pane in File Explorer to view the first 10 pages of a PDF without opening the app. To do this, open File Explorer, select View > Show, and enable Preview Pane. This feature is also useful for other file types like photos, videos, and documents. If you're still having trouble with PDF thumbnails, ensure they are enabled in Adobe Acrobat, Power Toys, or Registry Editor. Also, make sure to remove the thumbnail cache and check if thumbnails are turned on in File Explorer. Do not show thumbnails in File Explorer as they often display the default app set to open/read the file. This issue can be seen with PDF files, where thumbnails might not appear even if the file is compatible. However, this limitation applies to many file types due to Windows 10's support issues for displaying thumbnails. Two simple ways to fix the problem: 1. Install Adobe Acrobat Reader and configure it as your default app. Then enable the 'Enable PDF thumbnail previews in Windows Explorer' option from its preferences. This should allow you to view a thumbnail of the PDF file when viewing its location within File Explorer. 2. If the above method fails, try editing the Windows registry by entering specific commands into the run box and modifying certain settings related to Adobe Acrobat Reader. Alternatively, consider using a different free app like Sumatra PDF reader to get a preview of your PDF files in the Preview Pane of File Explorer.

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