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Given article text here Windows 11 offers a built-in feature that allows users to preview various file types like photos, videos, and PDFs directly from the File Explorer without opening the file. However, previewing sometimes encounters issues with PDF files even after ensuring the correct settings are applied. Several factors might contribute to this problem, including not having turned on the right settings in File Explorer, using an outdated or incompatible PDF reader, or having a corrupted PDF file. To resolve the issue, it's essential to check the PDF reader settings and ensure that the preferred app is set as the default for handling PDF files. Firstly, users should verify their thumbnail and preview pane settings in File Explorer by going to the "View" tab, clicking on "Options," and adjusting the "Always show icons, never thumbnails" setting. Additionally, ensuring that the preview pane is enabled can also resolve the issue. For those using Adobe Reader DC, a compatible PDF reader that supports thumbnails, they should enable this feature in the settings by going to the "Edit" menu, selecting "Preferences," and ticking the box for "Enable PDF thumbnail previews in Windows Explorer." You're struggling to view thumbnails for your PDF files in Windows 11? Try these solutions first. SumatraPDF lets you preview PDFs with thumbnails out of the box. Install it and make sure the option is enabled during installation. If not, you'll need to reinstall. Alternatively, use Microsoft PowerToys to enable PDF preview on File Explorer. Just install PowerToys, add the "Enable PDF preview" add-on, and restart your computer. Another option is to use Microsoft Edge as your default PDF viewer. Simply right-click a PDF in File Explorer, choose "Open with", and select Edge. If thumbnails still aren't appearing, try updating your PDF reader or opening the file with another reader to check if it's damaged. Ensure the file has the correct .pdf extension and that your preferred reader is set as the default app for PDFs. Finally, check your system permissions to ensure your user account has the necessary rights to view files in the folders you're checking. The software assists in managing your personal computer by providing technical support and guidance.

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