

# How do I change my operating system's default application for opening PDFs?

**Q: How do I change my operating system's default application for opening PDFs?**

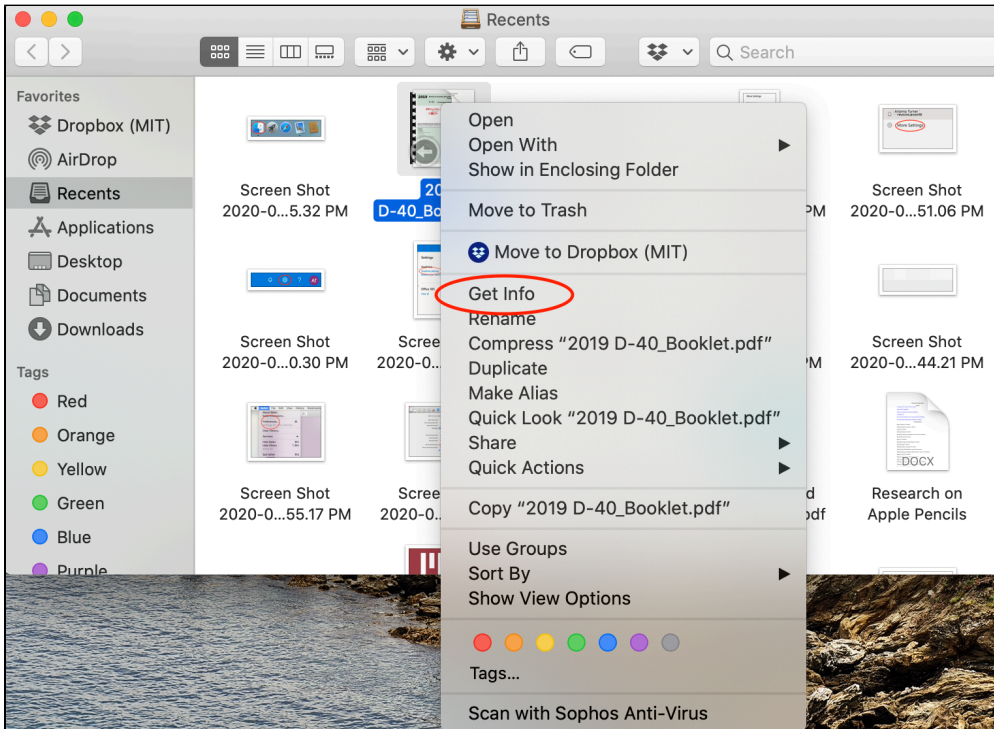
## Answer

**To set a PDF viewer as the default on Mac OS X:**

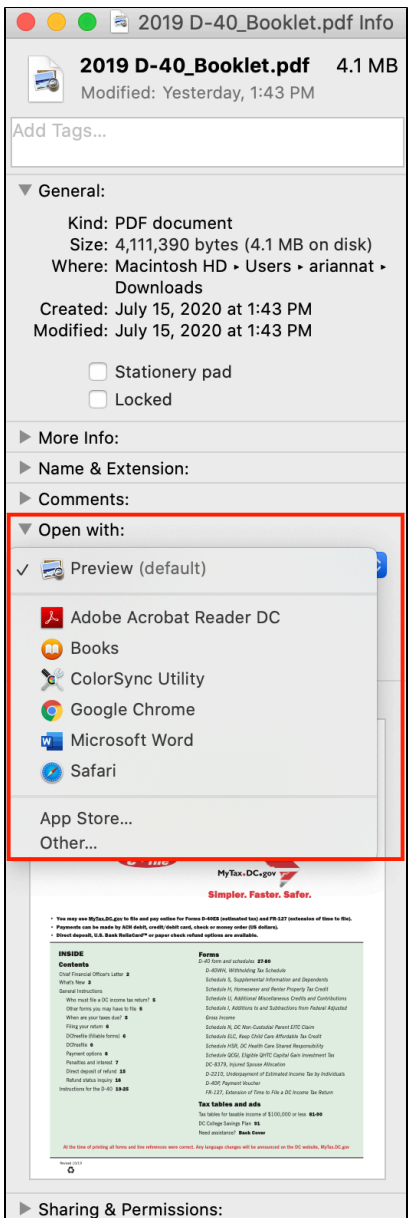
1. Select any PDF file from **Finder**. **Control-click** to open the menu.  
*Result: A menu will open next to the file name.*



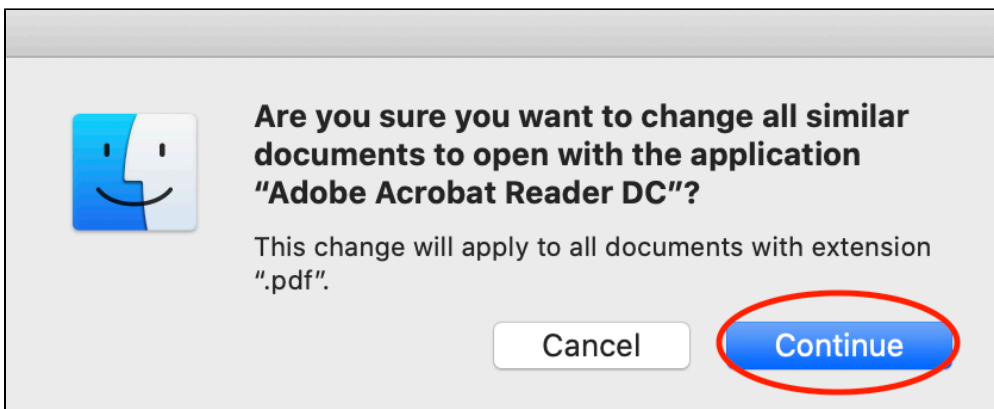
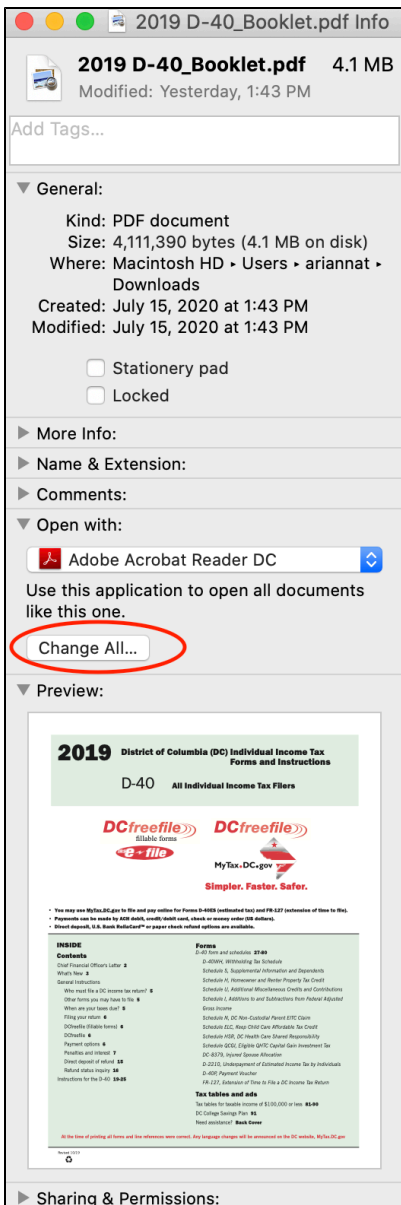
2. Choose **Get Info** from the menu that opens.  
*Result: A new window will open with information on that PDF file.*



3. From the **Open with:** section in the new window that opens, select your preferred application, such as **Adobe Reader** or **Preview**.  
*Result: That application will be selected.*



4. Click the **Change All** button. In the subsequent dialog box, click **Continue**.  
*Result:* The application that you selected will be the location in which PDFs open.



## To set a PDF viewer as the default on Windows

- If no other PDF viewer is installed, once Adobe Reader is installed, it becomes the default.
- To set a preferred PDF viewer as the default:
  - Windows 7:
    1. Follow the menu path **Start > Default Programs > Associate a file type or protocol with a specific program**

2. Highlight **.pdf**, then click **Change**.
  3. Choose your preferred PDF viewer, such as **Adobe Reader**.
- In Windows XP
    1. Follow the menu path **Start > Control Panel > Folder Options > File Types**.
  - In Windows 10  
See: [Tech Minute's Instructions](#)

## See also:

<http://pcsupport.about.com/od/fixtheproblem/ht/defprogramxp.htm>