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

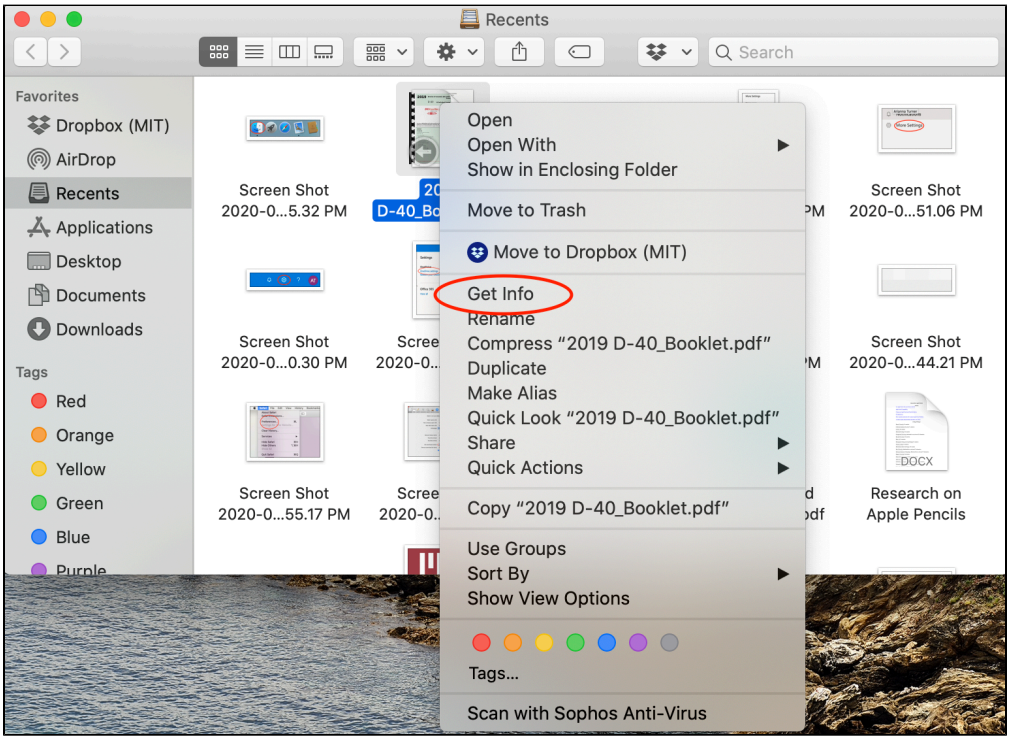
Q: How do I change my operating system's default application for opening PDFs?

Answer

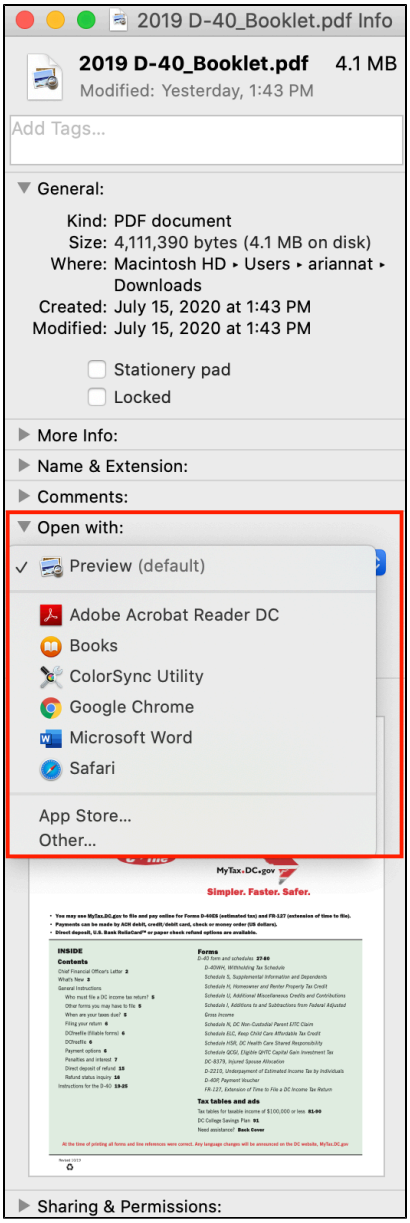
To set a PDF viewer as the default on Mac OS X:

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

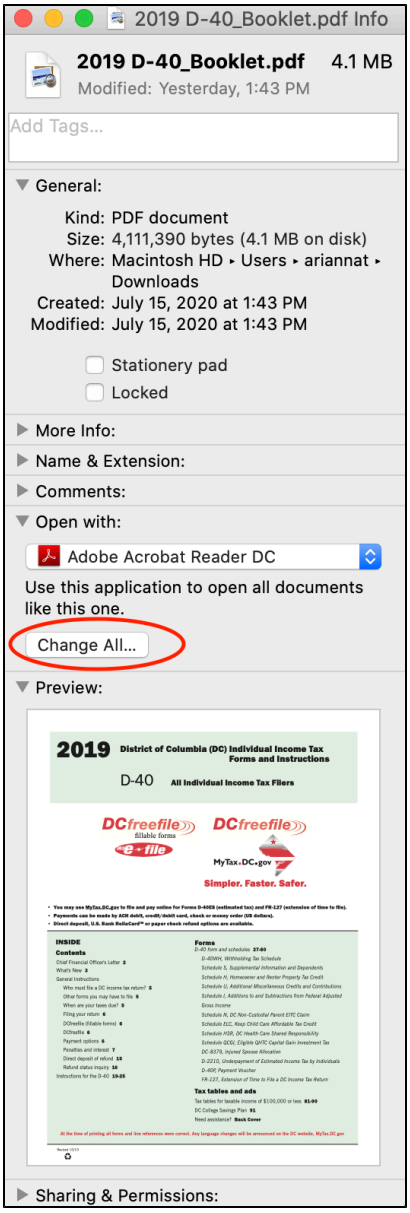
2. Choose **Get Info** from the menu that opens.
   Result: A new window will open with information on that PDF file.

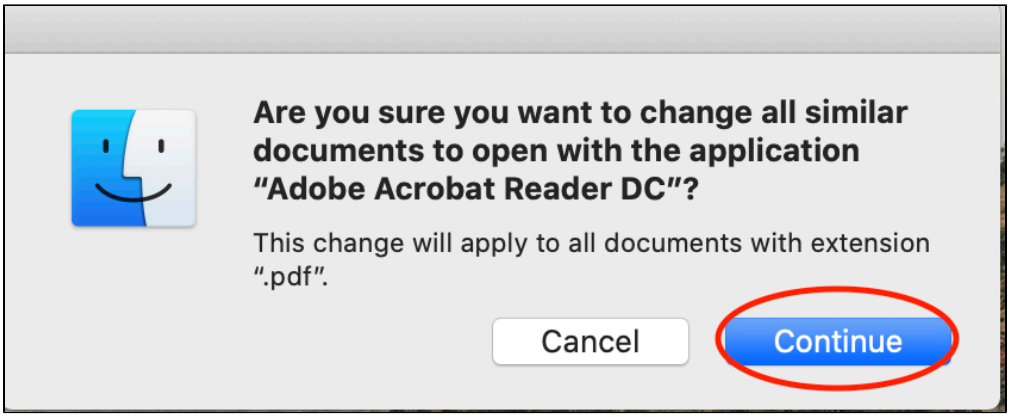


3. From the **Open with:** section in the new window that opens, select your preferred application, such as **Adobe Reader** or **Preview**.
   Result: That application will be selected.



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