

## **ABOUT PDF FUNCTIONALITY in Mt. Cuba Center Connect**

A PDF (Portable Document Format) is a file format, developed by Adobe Systems Incorporated. As much as we would like, computers can NOT understand EVERY file format available. In most cases, you will have to download software from Adobe's website, in order for your computer to "decode" these file formats (such as .pdf in this case). We have provided a link to Adobe's site, do download the latest PDF reader.

We chose to use .pdf technology in Mt. Cuba Center Connect for three main reasons.

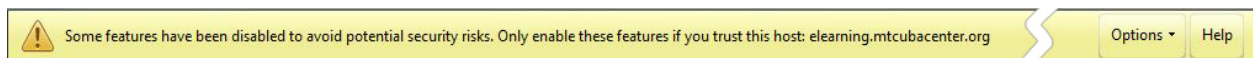
1. It speeds development time.
2. It provides Copyright and Security features.
3. It is freely available and is on almost all devices.

With that said, various operating systems (such as Windows, Mac, and even different internet browsers) have their own way of handling .pdf documents. Unfortunately various manufactures have chose to implement the technology in different ways. Compounding this is the rising security threats on the internet which have necessitated warning messages and other, not so helpful, error messages and restrictions. Below, you will find helpful information on how Windows, Mac OSX, and Mobile devices handle .pdf documents, and how to best set up your system.

### **Windows:**

In order to view our class, you need an internet browser (that's how you're viewing this page right now). There are many different types of internet browsers, such as: Internet Explorer, Firefox, Google Chrome, Safari, to name a few. If you've never installed a new internet browser on your Windows computer, there is a very good chance that you're using Internet Explorer (that's the icon that looks like an "e" with a ring around it).

If you click on one of our interactive PDFs, such as the "List of Ferns," where you can click on the pictures to hear the pronunciation of the plant names, you will most likely get a "warning" at the top of the screen, saying: "Some features have been disabled to avoid potential security risks. Only enable these features if you trust this host: [elearning.mtcubacenter.org](http://elearning.mtcubacenter.org)"



This warning is generated by Adobe Acrobat Reader. It is a generic warning that will display with ANY document that has interactivity, such as this one, and is not limited to Mt. Cuba's PDF documents. In this case, the warning pops up because we have embedded audio files in the document. It is perfectly safe to "trust" this document.

To allow the .PDF to play the audio files, simply click on the "options" button on the top right, and select "trust this host always," or "trust this host one time only." This is not because our document is unsafe, nor because Windows has detected a virus. It is simply that Adobe has notified you that the document may contain additional data, which may or may not be "security risks." Your corporate security policy or your antivirus software may well override the "trust this host always" option and make you explicitly choose to "trust" the document every time you open despite clicking "trust always".

## **MAC OSX**

Mac OSX has a version of .pdf reader built right into the operating system called “preview.app”. By default all .pdf documents will open with “preview.app”. Unfortunately while preview.app is good at displaying text it does not support any interactive documents. You will need to download the official Adobe Reader app for free at adobe websites (<http://www.adobe.com/products/reader.html>) to use the interactive functions of the .pdf format. You do not need any of the paid upgrade options to view interactive documents. Once you download and install the reader you may need to change the file associations, so OSX knows to open .pdf documents with the new software. You can find information on how to this by following the procedures on this website <http://osxdaily.com/2009/10/25/change-file-associations-in-mac-os-x/>.

## **Mobile Devices**

Some mobile devices (such as the iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch) do not support all of the features of adobe .pdf format. If you are viewing our course on one of these devices, you will be able to VIEW these PDFs, but you will not be able to interact with them (such as clicking on certain pictures to play sounds, etc...). In order to use our documents interactively, you will need to download an additional “application” to your mobile device, so that you may take full advantage of our documentation. Right now no one reader restores all of the functionality of a desktop computer. Hopefully Adobe will address this limitation in the near future. If a better technology comes along we will certainly use it for our interactive documents in Mt. Cuba Center Connect!

If you feel you need additional support please send an email to [support@mtcubacenter.org](mailto:support@mtcubacenter.org).