

# "Acrobat\_PDF\_Handler" Anki Add-on User Manual

## A. Why using this add-on?

This add-on is written to especially call and run Acrobat PDF (or generally any program) from Anki environment. It allows you to link and open PDF files with specific parameters (see section B, 3.2 below) in Anki. It handles all links which start with "acrobat /A" as PDF links and opens them in acrobat viewer window. This allows you to use parameters while calling pdf files, such as opening pdf files at specific pages or destinations, adjusting zoom, view, etc. These could not be achieved via Anki default link handler.

In addition, opening links in acrobat gives you the opportunity to use its tools such as highlighting, editing, adding comments, etc.

## B. How to use this add-on:

In order to use this add-on you should first install the add-on in Anki. It is easily done by copying .py file to the add-on folder in Anki (you can find folder location by checking "Tools" menu -> "Add-ons" -> "Open Add-ons Folder"). In addition, you should have adobe acrobat installed on your computer and follow 3 following steps:

1. Add acrobat path to "Environment Variables Path" in windows. In windows 10 it is as below:
  - 1.1. find the location of "acrobat.exe" file and copy it (it would be something like: "C:\Program Files (x86)\Adobe\Acrobat DC\Acrobat")
  - 1.2. Right click on 'my computer' and select 'properties'. In the opened window select 'Advanced system settings' and then select 'advanced' tab. select 'environment variables..' and choose 'path' and click 'edit'. Select 'new' and paste the copied file location there. 'Ok' all windows.
  - 1.3. **Check:** run windows command (type 'cmd' in start). Type 'acrobat' in the command line. An acrobat pdf viewer window should be opened. If you faced any error, fix it, otherwise this add-on may not work.
2. Set the name of the program in the very first line of the code (in the \*.py file, first line without '#' at the beginning). It is the name of the ".exe" file:  
"acrobat.exe" -> set 'acrobat '. Use "SPACE" as end character.
3. Define local pdf links with "acrobat /A" at the beginning in Anki (for PARAMETER refer to section 3.2 below):  
Link location = acrobat /A "PARAMETER=parameter" "PATH".
  - 3.1. Normally links are defined in Anki as below in HTML (by pressing ctrl+shift+x in card editor, the HTML editor will be opened):

1- With ' : <a href='Link Location'> Link Text </a>

2- with " : <a href="Link Location"> Link Text </a>

When defining link by ' (case 1), you can use " in the 'Link Location' text. However, when case 2 is utilized (by "), it is not permitted to use " inside the "Link Location" text. Therefore, use '&quot;,' instead of ". The link creation in these two cases is as below:

```
<a href='acrobat /A "PARAMETER=parameter" "PATH"'> Link Text </a>
```

```
<a href="acrobat /A &quot;PARAMETER=parameter&quot;
&quot;PATH&quot;"> Link Text </a>
```

### Examples:

**Open a PDF file:** Below links open 'test.pdf' file. Since no parameter is defined (see 3.2), file will be opened at default page with default settings.

1- <a href='acrobat /A " " "C:/test path/test.pdf"'> Link Text </a>

2- <a href="acrobat /A &quot; &quot; &quot; C:/test path/test.pdf &quot;";"> Link Text </a>

**Open a PDF file at specific page:** Below links open test.pdf at page 2. Other settings will be default.

1- <a href='acrobat /A "page=2" "C:/test path/test.pdf"'> Link Text </a>

2- <a href="acrobat /A &quot;page=2&quot; &quot;C:/test path/ test.pdf &quot;";"> Link Text </a>

**Attention:** Avoid using \ in the "Link Location" which may causes problem with python (type C:/ and not C:\).

**Attention:** there are Anki Add-ons which create links automatically (such as 'Power Format Pack'). Make sure whether they use "... " or '...' format and insert proper text in each case. For example, Power Format Pack Add-on, uses " " for creating links. Therefore, use format number 2 in above examples, if you prefer using this add on for creating links.

**Attention:** acrobat links will be opened in review or preview modes. They do not work in edit cards mode!

**3.2. Parameters:** there are various parameters which can be used while calling acrobat. A list could be found at "https://www.adobe.com/content/ dam/acom /en/devnet/acrobat/pdfs/pdf\_open\_parameters.pdf". For example, if you want to call a pdf file at page 2 with 125% zoom, the link would be:

```
<a href='acrobat /A "page=2 & zoom=125" "C:/test path/test.pdf"'> Link Text </a>
```

**3.3. Check Link entry:** Using characters such as ", ', \, /, &, etc., which are reserved characters in HTML or python, may cause some problems during using this add-on. Sometimes the links are shortened and some parts are altered by Anki, because of these clashes. Check Html editor, after defining links to check and avoid such problems. In addition, a facility has been considered in order to check the link which has been handed over to this add-on: After clicking on each acrobat link, a pop-up window will show the 'original' and 'modified' links. Check the 'modified' link. It should be exactly your entered link without 'acrobat' at the beginning. If it is not, check the link entry.

Disable this facility, at the Anki start-up, when you feel you no longer need it! You will be asked "Show Link Locations While Opening PDF Links with Acrobat\_PDF\_Handler Add-on?" during Anki start. Select "No".

4. This add-on do not tamper other links (links without 'acrobat /A' inside them). Therefore, your previous links will work as they did before. In addition, you can continue defining and running links as before. Even pdf files can be linked as before and they will be handled by Anki itself rather than this add-on.

For example, below link will be opened by system default pdf viewer and this add-on will not handle it:

```
<a href='file:///C:/test path/test.pdf'> Link Text </a>
```

## C. Compatibility:

This Add-on has been tested with Anki Version 2.0.52, Qt 4.8.4 PyQt 4.10. It is presumed that it will also work with newer versions. However, in case of updating Qt, PyQt in newer versions of Anki, following parts in the code (in the \*.py file) may require modifications. In Anki see "Help" menu-> "About", to check the version of your softwares.

```
from PyQt4.QtGui import QDesktopServices
```

```
from PyQt4.QtCore import QUrl
```

**DISCLAIMER:** the author does not guarantee the operation of the add-on nor its dependability. It is not responsible for any damage to your computer or assets, and/or any data loss caused by using this program.