



AZURE • MICROSOFT GRAPH

Graph's convert-to-PDF doesn't return a PDF

A convenient-looking Graph call that quietly leaks your access token — and the two-client fix.

The expectation vs. the reality

Converting a SharePoint document to PDF from an Azure Function looks like a one-liner. It isn't.

1

What Graph advertises

Ask for the file's content with `?format=pdf` and you get a PDF back.

2

What actually happens

You get a 302 redirect to a pre-authenticated storage URL.

3

Why that matters

How your HTTP client handles that redirect turns into a security decision.

The trap

302

redirect — and auto-follow forwards your token with it

Auto-redirect is the default

Most HTTP clients follow a 302 automatically, without asking.

It carries your header

So your Graph Authorization header is forwarded to the storage URL ...

...which never needed it

A quiet credential leak, hiding behind a convenient-looking API.

The fix: two HTTP clients

CLIENT 1 — TALK TO GRAPH

Auto-redirect turned off.

Captures the 302 and reads the Location header.

Never hands the token onward.

CLIENT 2 — DOWNLOAD BYTES

Unauthenticated by design.

Fetches the PDF from the storage URL.

Token stays exactly where it belongs.

TAKEAWAY

“Follows redirects” is a security decision, not a convenience setting.

It's worth knowing where your credentials travel by default. Bonus gotcha: resolve the site id first — Graph won't combine colon-addressing with a root: segment in one call.