

# fountain-parser v.0.1.0.0 README

## Synopsis

fountain-parser is a small parser library for the [Fountain](#) screenplay format, fully supporting 1.1 version [syntax](#) and producing a simple, easy to grok AST.

fountain-parser is written in [Haskell](#) and it uses the [Megaparsec](#) library for parsing.

## Disclaimer

Currently, this is *pre-alpha* software, not yet usable in productive form.

This software is distributed under the *BSD Three-Clause license*. See the [LICENSE](#) file for more details.

## Motivation

The “*Developers*” section of the Fountain site provides a link to a [parsing library](#) in Objective C. This already presents a portability issue: there *are* projects that make it possible to bridge Objective C and Haskell, but they’re platform- or framework-specific. It also employs a multi-pass strategy where every stage creates a modified version of the source, and it’s heavily reliant on *Regular Expressions*.

Thus, to create a light-weight, performant and portable solution, it’s necessary to start from scratch.

fountain-parser aims to power a series of command-line utilities for conversion from Fountain to a series of convenient formats, (.OTF, .TEX) without intervention from thirds.

## My software already supports Fountain

Of course. The [“Apps” section](#) of the Fountain site lists a few that also import or export the format. **The caveat:** most are either cloud-based and/or proprietary. By favoring (mostly) open formats, *fountain-parse* allows integration into many FLOSS tools, helping the creation of compound documents (such as production bibles) and entirely non-proprietary workflows.

## Implementation Specifics

- As per spec:
  - This library expects Fountain text to be encoded in UTF-8.
  - Tabs are converted into **four** spaces.
  - Your line-spacing is respected.
  - Initial spaces are ignored everywhere except in non->centered< action lines.
  - A line with two spaces doesn't count as an empty line.
- All parsing functions expect Text inputs. File I/O is left to the application or framework.
- Formatting (boldface, underline) found in such entities as character names or scene headings is ignored.
- Vertical tabs and form-feed characters are interpreted as line changes. For vertical spacing, use multiple blank lines and/or the Fountain form feed character sequence ( “===” ) instead.
- Unicode spaces are turned into the vanilla space, except for the *hair space*, which is discarded.
- The parser discards notes, boneyards, sections and synopses. Only printable content is retained.

## Building

GHC 9.6.7 and Cabal 3.0 (or greater) are required to compile and run the test suite (once implemented.)

The project uses the GHC2021 language default. While it might be possible to compile it in earlier versions than 9.6.7, this default is only available since 9.2.1., so that constitutes a hard version limit for those who might wish to experiment.

Some of the included scripts require Linux or a Linux-like environment (e.g., [MSYS2](#).)

## Contact

Please [create an issue](#) if you find a bug.

I can be reached directly at *10951848+CübOfJúdãhsLîòn ă(t) users/noreply/gīthub/còm* (without accents and replacing slashes by periods.)