

# How to convert markdown file into html and pdf files using github api

---

On Ubuntu/Debian systems. 3 different ways:

## Using only `pandoc`

---

### Install

`pandoc` used natively latex to compile. latex is heavy to install.

pandoc installation :

```
sudo apt update
sudo apt install pandoc
```

### Usage

```
pandoc some_file.md -s -o some_file.pdf
```

The result is clear but do not have the nice github style. Classic latex style is used.

It's fast and command line only.

See [compile\\_markdown\\_pandoc.pdf](#) file to see the result on this file.

## Using `grip` and Firefox or Chrome

---

Use grip to convert the markdown file into html render and firefox or chrome to save it as pdf.

### Install

`grip` needs to be installed. it's needing an active Internet connexion to use Github API.

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install -y grip
```

the html-pdf conversion needs firefox or chrome installed.

## Usage

`grip` is used to render the file on a local server (localhost).

1. Start `grip` using the following command :

```
grip some_file.md
```

Once it is running a message will appears :

```
* Serving Flask app 'grip.app'
* Debug mode: off
WARNING: This is a development server. Do not use it in a production deployme
* Running on http://localhost:XXXX
```

Where `xxxx` is a port.

2. Open `http://localhost:XXXX` on Firefox or Chrome. Ctrl+Click to open with default navigator.
3. Ctrl+P (or Parameters>Print...) to save open the print windows. Select Save to pdf as Destination.
4. (Optional) The looks is better with *Print headers and footers* unchecked and *Print backgrounds* checked.
5. Click on Save and chose a file name and path.

This way needs to open firefox or chrome and save to pdf using graphical interface. It is the better looking way.

See [compile\\_markdown\\_grip\\_firefox.pdf](#) file to see the result on this file with Firefox and [compile\\_markdown\\_grip\\_chrome.pdf](#) with Chrome.

## Using `grip` and `wkhtmltopdf`

---

It is using `grip` to convert the markdown file into a html file. it's needing an active Internet connexion to use Github API. Then `wkhtmltopdf` convert it into a pdf file.

### Install

`grip` needs to be installed.

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install -y grip
```

`wkhtmltopdf` needs to be installed.

```
sudo apt-get update -y
sudo apt-get install -y wkhtmltopdf
```

### Usage

1. `grip` is used to export the markdown file into a html file.

```
grip some_file.md --export some_file.html
```

2. `wkhtmltopdf` is used to convert the html file into a pdf file

```
wkhtmltopdf some_file.html some_file.pdf
```

This way is a command line only process, it's looks great but needs an active Internet connexion ( `grip` use github renderer).

See [compile\\_markdown\\_grip\\_wkhtmltopdf.pdf](#) file to see the result on this file.