

# MDX

Learn what MDX is, and how you can use it when creating content for your Gatsby site.

## What is MDX?

MDX is an extension to Markdown that lets you include JSX in Markdown documents. MDX makes it possible to include React components in your Gatsby blog posts and pages.

Markdown defines a plain text syntax for HTML elements such as **h1**, **strong**, and **a**, but still supports inline HTML. An example Markdown document follows.

```
# Hello world!
```

You can use Markdown to create documents for *[Gatsby]* (<https://www.gatsbyjs.com/>).

```
<figure class="chart">
  <object data="chart.svg" type="image/svg+xml"></object>
  <figcaption>MDX adoption has increased 120% since last year.</figcaption>
</figure>
```

MDX takes this one step further, and makes it possible to use JSX in your Markdown documents. Try making the `figure` element into a `Figure` component.

```
export const Figure = props => {
  return (
    <figure class="chart">
      <object data={props.data} type="image/svg+xml"></object>
      <figcaption>{props.caption}</figcaption>
    </figure>
  )
}
```

Now you can import this component into your Markdown document.

```
import { Figure } from './components/Figure';

# Hello world!
```

You can use Markdown to create documents for `[Gatsby](https://www.gatsbyjs.com/)`.

```
<Figure data="chart.svg" caption="MDX adoption has increased 120% since last year." />
```

If you're creating a Gatsby site from scratch, you can use `npm init gatsby` to kick off a new site with MDX. At the question “Would you like to install additional features with other plugins?” choose the option “Add Markdown and MDX support”.

### Learn more about MDX

- MDX official site
- Adding Components to Markdown with MDX from the Gatsby docs
- Introducing JSX from the React documentation