**Creating ePub with Pandoc and Calibre**

**1. Get a clean copy of each of the “chapters.”**

You’ll need a clean, plain-text copy of each of the documents that will go into your e-book. You might have them in your blog, in an HTML file, or perhaps in a [LaTeX](http://chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/getting-started-with-latex/23092) file. Either Markdown or HTML is fine. In this case, since I don’t have the originals of these posts, I’m going to use Pandoc to grab them from the web and convert them to[Markdown](http://chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/markdown-the-syntax-you-probably-already-know/35295). (I explained how to do this in [the previous post about Pandoc](http://chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/pandoc-converts-all-your-text-documents/38700).) Let’s grab Billie’s post and turn it into Markdown; you’d do the same thing for the other two posts.

pandoc -s -r html http://chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/writers-bootcamp-the-draw-method/23097 -o ch01.hara.markdown

You’ll have to delete the junk from the files, such as the *Chronicle’s* navigation bar, but this is easy. We’re left with three files, one each for the post by [Billie](https://github.com/lmullen/ProfHacker-Pandoc-E-book-Demo/blob/master/ch01.hara.markdown), [George](https://github.com/lmullen/ProfHacker-Pandoc-E-book-Demo/blob/master/ch02.williams.markdown), and [Mark](https://github.com/lmullen/ProfHacker-Pandoc-E-book-Demo/blob/master/ch03.sample.markdown).

**2. Create the front matter**

Our e-book will need a little metadata. First we’ll make a simple text file which will be our title page. We’ll call it title.txt. It will have these two lines for the title and author. (See the [file on GitHub](https://github.com/lmullen/ProfHacker-Pandoc-E-book-Demo/blob/master/title.markdown).)

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We’ll also need to provide the equivalent of a copyright page, which gives some information about the book. This is also a simple two-line text file, which we’ll callmetadata.xml. (See the [file on GitHub](https://github.com/lmullen/ProfHacker-Pandoc-E-book-Demo/blob/master/metadata.xml).)

<dc:rights>The copyright status of this e-book is ambiguous.</dc:rights> <dc:language>en-US</dc:language>

**3. Stitch the e-book together with Pandoc**

Now that we have all the parts of the e-book, we can stitch it together with one Pandoc command. You would type this into the command line. (The \s tell the shell that you are breaking one long command into several lines.) The first line calls pandoc, tells it where to find metadata.xml. The second line tells pandoc to output (-o) an EPUB file namedmy-favorite-profhacker-posts.epub. The remaining lines list the parts of the book in order.

pandoc -S --epub-metadata=metadata.xml \ -o my-favorite-profhacker-posts.epub \ title.txt \ ch01.hara.markdown \ ch02.williams.markdown \ ch03.sample.markdown

And that’s all there is to it: you’re a twenty-first-century Gutenberg. You can [*download our new e-book*](https://github.com/downloads/lmullen/ProfHacker-Pandoc-E-book-Demo/my-favorite-profhacker-posts.epub) from GitHub. Now you have an e-book in the [EPUB](http://idpf.org/epub) format, which works on Nooks, iPads, iPhones, and iPods, and which you can easily convert to the MOBI format for Kindle using [Calibre](http://chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/converting-ebooks-with-calibre/29389).