

Linux User Group at UTA

www.luguta.org

Introduction to Markdown

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Introduction to Markdown



- Quick and easy way to create documentation with basic formatting
- Easy to write as most formatting commands are intuitive and chosen to look like what they mean
- Markdown plain text is easy to read and visually corresponds to the rendered HTML
- Popularly used in creating README documents and in web forums
- Available on all platforms and major websites

Example

Markdown:

HTML:

Results in a
web browser:

Heading

=====

Sub-heading

Paragraphs are separated
by a blank line.

Text attributes **italic**,
****bold****, ``monospace``.

A [link](http://example.com).

Shopping list:

- * apples
- * oranges
- * pears

Numbered list:

1. apples
2. oranges
3. pears

The rain---not the reign---in
Spain.

```
<h1>Heading</h1>
```

```
<h2>Sub-heading</h2>
```

```
<p>Paragraphs are separated  
by a blank line.</p>
```

```
<p>Text attributes <em>italic</em>,  
<strong>bold</strong>,  
<code>monospace</code>.</p>
```

```
<p>A <a href="http://example.com">link</a>.</p>
```

```
<p>Shopping list:</p>
```

```
<ul>  
<li>apples</li>  
<li>oranges</li>  
<li>pears</li>  
</ul>
```

```
<p>Numbered list:</p>
```

```
<ol>  
<li>apples</li>  
<li>oranges</li>  
<li>pears</li>  
</ol>
```

```
<p>The rain&mdash;not the  
reign&mdash;in Spain.</p>
```

Heading

Sub-heading

Paragraphs are separated by a blank line.

Text attributes *italic*, **bold**, monospace.

A [link](#).

Shopping list:

- apples
- oranges
- pears

Numbered list:

1. apples
2. oranges
3. pears

The rain—not the reign—in Spain.

Syntax

Headings (<H1>Text</H1> etc.):

# H1		H1
## H2		H2
### H3		H3
#### H4	→	H4
##### H5		H5
##### H6		H6

Alternatively, for H1 and H2, you can use underlines:

Alt-H1
=====

Alt-H2

Syntax

Italics:

**italic text* or _italic text_*

Bold:

****bold text** or __bold text__**

Note: The _ for emphasis can be a headache with variable_names etc. Try escaping with _.

Syntax

Simple numbered lists:

1. Item 1
2. Item 2
3. Item 3

Simple unordered lists:

- * Item 1
- * Item 2
- * Item 3

Simple numbered lists:

1. Item 1
2. Item 2
3. Item 3

Simple unordered lists:

- Item 1
- Item 2
- Item 3

Can use *, or -, or + for unordered lists

Syntax

Nested lists:

1. Item 1

1. Item 1.1

2. Item 1.2

2. Item 2

3. Item 3



1. Item 1

1. Item 1.1

2. Item 1.2

2. Item 2

3. Item 3

Use two spaces for each level of nesting

Syntax

Inline links:

[Link text](link url)

I love the [LUG website](http://www.luguta.org/)

Results:

I love the LUG website

I love the [LUG website](http://www.luguta.org/)

Note: Omitting the http:// from the link makes it a relative link.
So be sure to keep it when linking to another website.

Syntax

Bibliography style links (for listing longer URLs at the end):

[Link text][id]

[id]: the link's URL

Example:

Visit the [LUG website][lug] and also sign up on our [mailing list][list].

...

[lug]: <http://www.luguta.org/>

[list]: <https://listserv.uta.edu/cgi-bin/wa.exe?SUBED1=LUGUTA&A=1>

Visit the [LUG website](http://www.luguta.org/) and also sign up on our [mailing list](https://listserv.uta.edu/cgi-bin/wa.exe?SUBED1=LUGUTA&A=1).

Syntax

Images – similar to links but with an exclamation mark

Inline-style:

![alt text](image address)

Reference-style:

![alt text][id]

[id]: link

Example:

![A cat eating a cupcake][cat]

[cat]: <http://catsoncupcakes.com/catsoncupcakes.jpg>



Syntax

Paragraph and line breaks:

- An empty line signifies a new paragraph.
 - Two spaces at the end of a line signify a forced line break.
- Line breaks are useful around images.

Code:

Inline code can be put in backticks ``my_variable_name``.
It appears in `monospace` and ignores any other formatting.

For a block of code, use a tab at the start of each line.

Use Cases

- If you host a project on Github, it's and Markdown files are automatically rendered in HTML. Like:
<https://github.com/jquery/jquery/blob/master/README.md>
- If you don't like WYSIWYG HTML editors and don't want to learn HTML syntax, you can use Markdown to author web pages.
- Forums like stackoverflow.com support Markdown syntax in questions and answers.

Links

- Original Markdown page:
<http://daringfireball.net/projects/markdown/basics>
- Python markdown module:
<https://pythonhosted.org/Markdown/>
- Markdown help for
 - Github - <https://help.github.com/articles/github-flavored-markdown>
 - Stackoverflow - <http://stackoverflow.com/editing-help>