

# Documenting Tools: Markdown

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An introduction to Markdown and related software by [Dr. Yi-Xin Liu](#) at Fudan University (lyx@fudan.edu.cn).

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## What is Markdown?

**Markdown** is a **lightweight markup language** for creating formatted text using a **plain-text** editor.

- John Gruber and Aaron Swartz created Markdown in 2004 as a markup language that is **appealing to human readers in its source code form**.
  - Its key design goal was **readability**, that the language be readable as-is, without looking like it has been marked up with tags or formatting instructions, unlike text formatted with 'heavier' markup languages, such as Rich Text Format (RTF), HTML, and XML.
  - Markdown file often ends with extension **.md**.
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## What is it used for?

- README files and software documentation (Github, etc.)
  - Programming notebook systems (Jupyter notebook, etc.)
  - Forum & blog posts (Discourse, Zhihu, etc.)
  - Static site generators (Jekyll, etc.)
  - Note taking software (Obsidian, etc.)
  - Slideshow (Marp, etc.)
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## Things you can format

- Headings
- Lists: unordered, ordered, nested
- Emphasis: italic, bold, strikethrough
- Links
- Images
- Blockquote
- Horizontal rules
- Footnote
- Blocks of code\*, Blocks of math expressions\*, Task lists\*, Table\*

\*: GFM and other Markdown variants

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## Demo and exercises of Markdown

- Go to VS Code and follow demonstration there.
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## What is Obsidian?

**Obsidian** a powerful **knowledge base** on top of a **local folder** of plain text Markdown files. It is a note taking software. And it is completely **FREE!**

Features of Obsidian:

- Everything is connected: backlinks, outgoing links, graph view
- Extensively extensible: plugins, themes, and custom CSS.
- Notes for your grandchildren: future-proof format, total control, always available.

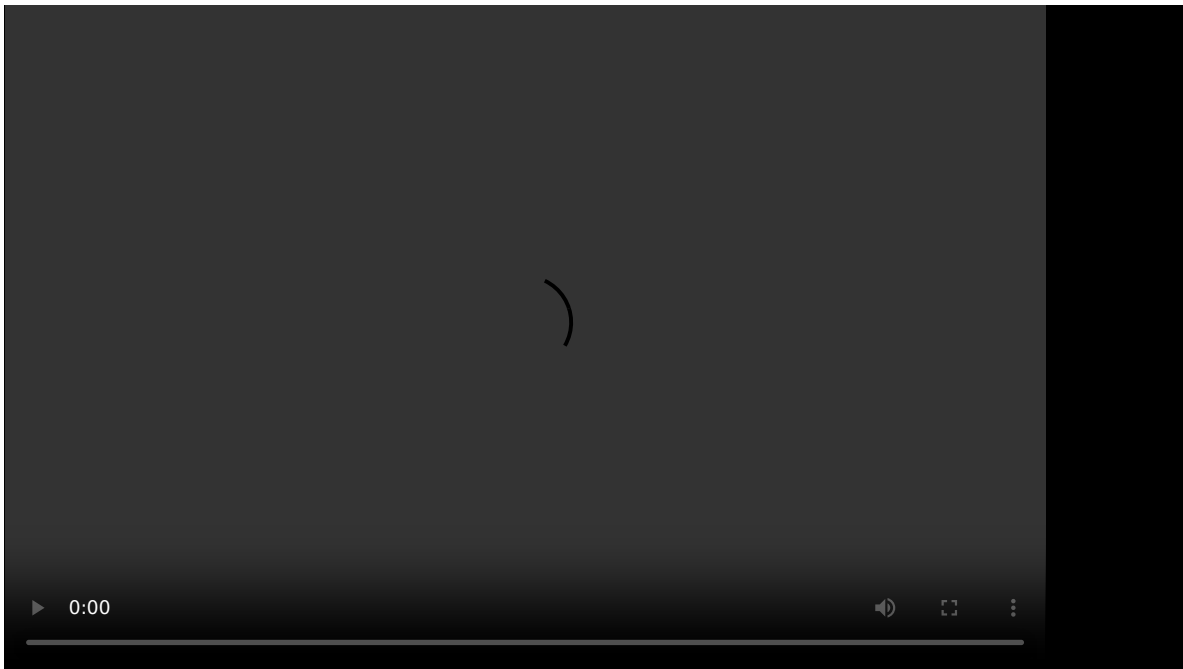
Obsidian is branded as

**A second brain for you, forever.**

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## Getting started with Obsidian

- [Use Obsidian \(BEST Markdown editor\) for note taking and tech docs!](#) (17:55)



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#### Demo and exercises of Obsidian

- Go to [Obsidian official website](#) and install Obsidian to your computer.
- Follow the demonstration.

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### What is Marp?

[Marp](#) (also known as the Markdown Presentation Ecosystem) provides an intuitive experience for creating beautiful slide decks. You only have to focus on writing your story in a Markdown document.

All slides in this course are made using Marp!

Features of Marp:

- Based on CommonMark
- Built-in themes and CSS theming
- Directives and extended syntax
- Export to HTML, PDF, and PowerPoint
- Full open-source and FREE.

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#### Demo and exercises of Marp

- Install the Marp extension for VS Code.
- Follow the demonstration.