MarkdownDoc

User Guide

Version: 1.2.6

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Table of Contents

1 MarkdownDoc User Guide	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.1.1 Version history	1
1.1.1.1 1.2.6	1
1.1.1.2 1.2.5	1
1.1.1.3 1.2.4	1
1.1.1.4 1.2.3	1
1.1.1.5 1.2.2	2
1.1.2 How markdown is MarkdownDoc?	2
1.2 File specifications	2
2 Command Line	4
2.1 General	4
2.2 PDF Generator	4
2.3 HTML Generator	5
2.4 Markdown Generator	5
3 Maven Plugin	6
3.1 generatorOptions	6
3.2 pdfGeneratorOptions	7
3.3 htmlGeneratorOptions	9
3.4 mdGeneratorOptions	10
4 Library	11
4.1 Usage	11
4.1.1 Parsers	11
4.1.1.1 se.natusoft.doc.markdown.parser.MarkdownParser	11
4.1.1.2 se.natusoft.doc.markdown.parser.JavadocParser	11
4.1.1.3 se.natusoft.doc.markdown.parser.ParserProvider	12
4.1.2 Generators	12
4.1.2.1 se.natusoft.doc.markdown.generator.PDFGenerator	13
4.1.2.2 se.natusoft.doc.markdown.generator.HTMLGenerator	13
4.1.2.3 se.natusoft.doc.markdown.generator.MarkdownGenerator	13
4.1.2.4 se.natusoft.doc.markdown.util.MDDocFileHandler	13
5 The mddoc file type	14
5.1 .mddoc format (myfile.mddoc)	14
6 Simple Markdown Reference	16
6.1 Headings	16
6.2 Paragraphs	16
6.3 Italics	16
6.4 Bold	16
6.5 Blockquote	16
6.6 Lists	16
6.6.1 Unordered lists (* or -)	16
6.6.2 Ordered list (n.)	17
6.7 Code block (pre formatted with a fixed width font)	17
6.8 Horizontal rule	17
6.9 Links	17
6.10 Images	17
6.11 backslash (\)	18
7 Licenses	19
7.1 Project License	19
7.2 Third Party Licenses	19
8 License Texts	20
	20

8.2 GNU Affero General Public License version v3

1.1 Introduction

MarkdownDoc is a tool that basically does what the name sounds like. My intention with this tool was to be able to document my java opensource tools in markdown and be able to generate both html and PDF from it using a maven plugin.

So why not use mavens site plugin which does support markdown? Since maven3 the site plugin is not what it used to be and these days generating a whole site for your project seems a bit much. Both Bitbucket and GitHub supports markdown documentation right off in a nice and easy way. I want to choose where to put my documentation (ok, most locations in maven can be configured) and I also had the following requirements:

- Be able to generate one PDF document from a whole collection of separate markdown documents so that I can spread them out in different subproject for multi maven project projects. If you are reading this in PDF format this PDF have been put together from multiple sources.
- Be able to generate a table of contents and a title page.
- I just wanted to do it my way OK! :-)

It does also provide a java -jar executable variant. The main functionality is available as a library.

In short MarkdownDoc provides the following:

- Markdown document model.
- Markdown parser.
- Javadoc comment parser.
- PDF generator.
- HTML generator.
- Markdown generator.
- java -jar commandline executable.
- Maven plugin.

Thanks to John Gruber for the brilliant markdown document format, and to iText Software Corp. for making an excellent easy to use PDF library and making it available as open source.

1.1.1 Version history

1 1 1 1 1.2.6

Added the new .mddoc format, which makes command line useage easier, but it is also supported by the maven plugin and the library has a utility that completely handles this format.

1.1.1.2 1.2.5

Added *parserOptions* now used by JavadocParser to markdown parse javadoc comments if markdownJavadoc=true is provided. The Parser API is thus also updated to take a Properties object for the parser options.

1.1.1.3 **1.2.4**

Added *makeFileLinksRelativeTo* option for HTMLGenerator and MarkdownGenerator mostly to be able to manipulate *file:* references to images in the generated result so that the image paths still work in source when editing with a markdown tool and is still correct when generated to a different path.

1.1.1.4 1.2.3

If image paths are not absolute and not http referenced then they are now looked for relative to the source markdown file first, and then the are looked for relative to the result file as before. This makes it easier to generate a big document for a whole project containing several subproject with local makdown documents and referenced images. The image reference can still be relative to the subproject local markdown file.

1.1.1.5 **1.2.2**

Added support for to be able to indent text. This is one more exception to no html passtrhough.

1.1.2 How markdown is MarkdownDoc?

Well, it implements the "specification" as documented on daringfireball.net. This specification however is not extremely exact so there might be some differences.

The known (and intentional) differences are:

- No HMTL pass-through! Well, there is a small exception to that. HTML comments are passed along. Mostly because there is no markdown comment format and I wanted to be able to put comments in my documents. " " is also passed through to create indents that are not code blocks. The reason for no HTML pass-through is that MarkdownDoc takes it directly from markdown to PDF without any HTML rendering in between. The main purpose of this tool is to write documentation not generate HTML sites.
- Escaping with '\'. In MarkdownDoc you can escape any character with \ and it will be passed through as is without being acted on if it has markdown meaning.
- No entity encoding of email addresses.
- No multiple block quote levels (as of now).

_{1.2} File specifications

With both the maven plugin and the command line execution jar file you can specify a set of files to use as input. These are basically a comma separated list of files, but with the following additions:

/my/path

All files in the directory pointed to by the path.

/my/path/**

All files in the directory pointed to by the path and sub directories.

/my/path/**/regexp pattern

All files matching the pattern in the directory pointed to by the path and sub directories.

/my/path/regexp pattern

All files matching the pattern in the directory pointed to by the path.

/my/path/fileset.fs

The above rules are applied to all file specifications in files having the .fs extension. # are comment lines within .fs files.

₂ Command Line

2.1 General

MarkdownDoc can be run using java -jar markdowndoc-cmd-line-n.n.n-exec.jar. If you just run it without any arguments you get the following:

The last usage example requires an .mddoc file. See 'The mddoc file type' (section 5) for more information on this file type.

What the generator options are depends on the specified generator.

The markdowndoc-cmd-line-n.n.n-exec.jar is a jar generated to contain all dependencies in the same jar, making it easy to execute with java -jar.

generator

This should be either pdf, html, or md.

fileSpec

This is a comma separated list of paths relative to the current directory. The filename part of the path can contain regular expressions and the directory part of the path can specify .../**/... to mean any levels of subdirectories.

Example: root//docs/..md

parserOptions

These are in the format "option=value,...,option=value" with no spaces. Currently there is only one options for the JavadocParser: *markdownJavadoc=true*. When this is specified and java files are part of the input fileSpec then class and method texts are passed to the MarkdownParser instead of being added as text. This can be used in conjunction with a markdown doclet for javadoc.

generatorOptions

These depends on the generator being run.

2.2 PDF Generator

- --resultFile text (Required) Where to write the result.
- --pageSize text The pagesize name like LETTER or A4.
- --title text The title of the document

- --subject text The subject of the document.
- --keywords text Meta keywords
- --author text The author of the document.
- --version text The version to put on the title page. Must be specified to be rendered!
- --copyright text The copyright message to put on the title page. Must be specified to be rendered!
- --hideLinks true/false If true then links are not rendered as link the link text will be rendered as plain text.
- --unorderedListItemPrefix text What item marking to use for unuredered lists. Default is '- '.
- --firstLineParagraphIndent true/false If true then the first line of each paragraph is indented. Default is false.
- **--backgroundColor text** The background color of the document in "R:G:B" format where each R, G, and B are number 0 255.
- --blockQuoteColor text The blockquote color to use in this document in "R:G:B" format where each R, G, and B are number 0 255.
- --codeColor text The code color to use in this document in "R:G:B" format where each R, G, and B are number 0 255.
- --generateTOC true/false This generates table of contents. Default is false!
- --generateTitlePage true/false This will generate one first page with title, version, author, and copyright. Default is false.

2.3 HTML Generator

- --resultFile text (Required) Where to write the result.
- --inlineCSS true/false If true then the css will be included in the generated HTML.
- --css text The path to CSS file.
- —makeFileLinksRelativeTo "path+prefix_". This affects links and images. When specified the resulting file: URLs in the result will be relative to the path specified by "path" if the absulute path of the URL starts with the specified path. If a plus sign (+) and a prefix path is specified it will be prefixed to the final URL.

2.4 Markdown Generator

- --resultFile text (Required) Where to write the result.
- —makeFileLinksRelativeTo "path+prefix_". This affects links and images. When specified the resulting file: URLs in the result will be relative to the path specified by "path" if the absulute path of the URL starts with the specified path. If a plus sign (+) and a prefix path is specified it will be prefixed to the final URL.

3 Maven Plugin

The maven plugin is rather straight forward. It has 3 sets of configuration structures, one common and one for each generator.

If you dont what to checkout and build this code, add the following to your pom:

to have maven download it from my repository.

3.1 generatorOptions

There is a config section that is common to all generators and specifys which generator to run and what input files to include. The following example is from the generation of this manual:

If the <inputPaths>...</inputPaths> section only contain one file of type .mddoc then no other parameters need to be specified, not even <generator>...</generator>! In this case all information needed to generate final documents resides in the .mddoc file. See 'The mddoc file type' (section 5) for more information on this file type.

The current valid argument for <generator>...</generator> are pdf, html, and md.

The input paths are comma separated and are always relative to the root of the maven project. To clarify that, for a multi module maven build it is always the top root with the top pom that is the root even if you start the build at a lower level. This root is resolved by starting at \${basedir}\$ and going up until the parent directory does not have a pom. I have found no way to let maven tell me this path.

The paths can have wildcards in form of regular expressions for the file names. There is also a special directory name
** that means any level of subdirectories.

All the input paths are parsed into the same document model that then gets passed to the generator. They are parsed in the order they are specified. When it comes to wildcards it is hard to say which order they will be in. It might differ

on different platforms.

If you are wondering about the .mdpart extensions above it is just to hide them from GitHub. They are just very small header lines that I inject to the PDF document that I don't want in the main parts of the documentation since they are reused and linked from the README.md in the root.

I'm also using this possibility to generate from multiple sources to put the documentation for each module project in that project.

3.2 pdfGeneratorOptions

Following is a complete plugin specification with all options specified:

```
<pluqin>
   <qroupId>se.natusoft.tools.doc.markdowndoc/qroupId>
    <artifactId>markdowndoc-maven-plugin</artifactId>
    <version>n.n[.n]
    <executions>
        <execution>
            <id>generate-docs</id>
            <goals>
                <goal>doc</goal>
            </goals>
            <phase>install</phase>
            <configuration>
                <generatorOptions>
                    <generator>pdf</generator>
                    <inputPaths>
                        . . .
                    </inputPaths>
                </generatorOptions>
                <pdfGeneratorOptions>
                        The path to the pdf document to produce. Path is relative
                        to project root (see comment about root above).
                        Required.
                    <resultFile>Docs/MarkdownDoc-User-Guide.pdf</resultFile>
                    <!--
                        The page size. For example: A4, LETTER
                        Optional. Default: A4
                    <pageSize>A4</pageSize>
                    <!--
                        This will be put in PDF metadata and also rendered on
                        title page.
                        Required if generateTitlePage is true optional otherwise.
                    <title>MarkdownDoc</title>
                        This will be put in PDF metadata and also rendered on
                        title page.
                        Optional.
                    <subject>User Guide</subject>
                    <!--
```

```
This will be put in the PDF metadata.
   Optional.
<keywords></keywords>
   The version of the document. This will be rendered on the
   title page.
   Optional, but recommended if generateTitlePage is true.
<version>1.0</version>
<!--
   The author of the document. This will be put in PDF
   metadata and also be rendered on title page.
   Optional.
<author>Tommy Svensson</author>
   This will be rendered on the title page.
   Optional
<copyright>Copyright © 2012 Natusoft AB</copyright>
   If true then links will render as plain text and not be
   clickable.
   Optional. Default: false
<hideLinks>false</hideLinks>
<!--
   Specify this if you want to change the bullet for
   unordered lists.
   Optional. Default: • (including space after!)
<unorderedListItemPrefix>• </unorderedListItemPrefix>
   Specify true here to have the first line of each
   paragraph indented.
Optional. Default: false
<firstLineParagraphIndent>false</firstLineParagraphIndent>
   Specify in R:G:B format to change the background color
   of the document.
    Optional. Default 255:255:255 (white)
<backgroundColor>255:255:255/backgroundColor>
   Specify in R:G:B format to change the text color
    of block quotes.
    Optional. Default: 128:128:128 (grey)
<blockQuoteColor>128:128:128<blockQuoteColor>
   Specify in R:G:B format to change the text color
   of code blocks.
   Optional. Default: 0:0:0 (black)
<codeColor>0:0:0</codeColor>
   Set to true to generate a title page.
   Optional. Default: false
<generateTitlePage>true</generateTitlePage>
<!--
   Set to true to generate a table of contents.
   Optional. Default: false
```

3.3 htmlGeneratorOptions

Following is a complete plugin specification with all options specified:

```
<plugin>
        <groupId>se.natusoft.tools.doc.markdowndoc</groupId>
        <artifactId>markdowndoc-maven-plugin</artifactId>
        <version>n.n[.n]
        <executions>
            <execution>
                <id>generate-docs</id>
                <goals>
                    <goal>doc</goal>
                </goals>
                <phase>install</phase>
                <configuration>
                    <generatorOptions>
                        <generator>html</generator>
                        <inputPaths>
                        </inputPaths>
                    </generatorOptions>
                    <htmlGeneratorOptions>
                        <!--
                            The path to the html document to produce. Path is relative
                            to project root (see comment about root above).
                            Required.
                        <resultFile>Docs/MarkdownDoc-User-Guide.html</resultFile>
                            If set to true then the specified css will be inlined
                            in the generated html document. Otherwise the generated
                            html document will reference the specified css.
                            Optional. Default: false
                        <inlineCSS>false</inlineCSS>
                        <!--
                            The path to the css file for the generated html file.
                            Required.
                        <css>css/my.css</css>
                        <!-
                            This affects links and images. When specified the resulting
                            file: URLs in the result will be relative to the path
specified by
                            "path" if the absulute path of the URL starts with the
specified
                            path. If a plus sign (+) and a prefix path is specified it
will be
                            prefixed to the final URL.
<makeFileLinksRelativeTo>path[+prefix]</makeFileLinksRelativeTo>
                    </htmlGeneratorOptions>
                </configuration>
            </execution>
        </executions>
    </plugin>
```

3.4 mdGeneratorOptions

Following is a complete plugin specification with all options specified:

```
<plugin>
        <groupId>se.natusoft.tools.doc.markdowndoc</groupId>
        <artifactId>markdowndoc-maven-plugin</artifactId>
        <version>n.n[.n]
        <executions>
            <execution>
                <id>generate-docs</id>
                <qoals>
                   <goal>doc</goal>
                </goals>
                <phase>install</phase>
                <configuration>
                    <generatorOptions>
                        <generator>md</generator>
                        <inputPaths>
                        </inputPaths>
                    </generatorOptions>
                    <htmlGeneratorOptions>
                        <!--
                            The path to the markdown document to produce. Path is
relative
                            to project root (see comment about root above).
                            Required.
                        <resultFile>Docs/MarkdownDoc-User-Guide-Complete.md/resultFile>
                            This affects links and images. When specified the resulting
                            file: URLs in the result will be relative to the path
specified by
                            "path" if the absulute path of the URL starts with the
specified
                            path. If a plus sign (+) and a prefix path is specified it
will be
                            prefixed to the final URL.
<makeFileLinksRelativeTo>path[+prefix]</makeFileLinksRelativeTo>
                    </htmlGeneratorOptions>
                </configuration>
            </execution>
        </executions>
    </plugin>
```

4 Library

The library is made up of a document model representing all formats of markdown, parsers and generators. The parsers produce a document model and the generators generate from that model. The document model represents the markdown formats. Thereby there are no HTML pass-through from a markdown document! This tool only deals with markdown, not HTML.

The API docs for the library can be found here.

4.1 Usage

In package se.natusoft.doc.markdown.api there are 3 API classes:

Options - This represents options for a generator. It should be seen as a narrow variant of Object representing only generator options, but any such. It has one method common to all public boolean isHelp(). Implementations should have a default constructor.

Parser - This represents a parser.

```
public interface Parser {
    public void parse(Doc document, File parseFile, Properties parserOptions)
        throws IOException, ParseException;
}
```

The parser gets passed an already created Doc model allowing the document to be built from multiple source files by parsing into the same document.

Generator - This represents a generator.

getOptionsClass() returns the class implementing Options and holding all the options for the generator.

generate(...) generates the document provided by *document* using the specified *options* and producing the result in whatever *rootDir* relative path is specified in the *options*.

4.1.1 Parsers

4.1.1.1 se.natusoft.doc.markdown.parser.MarkdownParser

This parser parses markdown and only markdown! It ignores HTML with the exception of comments.

Example usage:

```
Parser parser = new MarkdownParser();
Doc document = new Doc();
Properties parserOptions = new Properties();
parser.parse(document, parseFile, parserOptions);
```

4.1.1.2 se.natusoft.doc.markdown.parser.JavadocParser

This parser parses java source files and extracts class and method declarations and javadoc comment blocks. it produces a document model looking like this (in markdown format):

This allows you to include API documentation in your documentation without having to duplicate it. Please note that if markdownJavadoc=true parser option have been specified then class javadoc and method javadoc will not be ">" formatted but passed to the MarkdownParser instead.

Example usage:

```
Parser parser = new JavadocParser();
Doc document = new Doc();
Properties parserOptions = new Properties();
parser.parse(document, parseFile, parserOptions);
```

4.1.1.3 se.natusoft.doc.markdown.parser.ParserProvider

This is a utility to get a parser based on file extension. ".md", ".markdown", ".mdpart", and ".java" are valid extensions that will return a parser. If the passed file does not have a valid extension null will be returned.

Example usage:

```
Parser parser = ParserProvider.getParserForFile(parseFile);
Doc document = new Doc();
Properties parserOptions = new Properties();
parser.parse(document, parseFie, parserOptions);
```

4.1.2 Generators

Example usage:

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
    Doc document = new Doc();
    ... parsing of document.
   Generator generator = new [PDF | HTML | Markdown]Generator();
    // I'm using OptionsManager to load the options in this example.
    // If you use maven or ant then those tools will have loaded
    // the options for you and getOptionsClass() is not relevant
    // in that case.
    CommandLineOptionsManager<Options> optMgr =
       new CommandLineOptionsManager<Options>(generator.getOptionsClass());
    Options options = optMgr.loadOptions("--", args);
    if (options.isHelp()) {
       optMgr.printHelpText("--","", System.out);
    else {
       File rootDir = new File();
       generator.generate(document, options, rootDir);
}
```

Please note that the CommandLineOptionsMangager used in the example is part of the OptionsManager tool also by

me. Available at github.com/tombensve/OptionsManager.

4.1.2.1 se.natusoft.doc.markdown.generator.PDFGenerator

This generator produces a PDF document.

4.1.2.2 se.natusoft.doc.markdown.generator.HTMLGenerator

This generator produces an HTML document.

4.1.2.3 se.natusoft.doc.markdown.generator.MarkdownGenerator

This generator produces a Markdown document. So why would we want to generate markdown? Well, it became needed after I added the JavadocParser. Now I can have both markdown and java files as input and the PDF and HTML files contained the whole result including the javadoc information. The original markdown document however does not have the javadoc parts, and this markdown document is read as is on github and will then not be complete. Therefore I added this generator and moved my real source document into docs/src and also generate a markdown version into docs that will be as complete as the pdf and html version.

4.1.2.4 se.natusoft.doc.markdown.util.MDDocFileHandler

This is a class with one static method that completely handles the .mddoc format.

Usage:

```
MDDocFileHandler.execute("<path to .mddoc file>");
```

This will generate all output formats as specified in the .mddoc file.

5 The mddoc file type

There is a special file type that describes a complete document in any or all of the 3 output formats. It has the extension of *.mddoc*. It is really a properties file with *key: value* entries.

A path to an .mddoc file can be specified as only argument to command line variant, or as only file in <inputPaths>...</inputPaths> section in maven plugin (no other options/parameters are needed then) to produce output documents as described by the .mddoc file.

_{5.1} .mddoc format (myfile.mddoc)

```
# --- Generators to run ---
generate.pdf: true
generate.html: true
generate.markdown: true
# A comma separated list of paths to sources. A .fs file can also be
# specified as an input file in which case it is read for a further
# set of files to parse. The order of the specified files are important.
inputPaths: docs/intro.md,docs/install.md,docs/usage.md,docs/appendix.md
# --- PDF ---
# The name of the file to produce.
pdf.resultFile: MyDoc.pdf
# The page size. For example: A4, LETTER Optional. Default: A4
pdf.pageSize: A4
# Set to true to generate a title page. Optional. Default: false
generateTitlePage: true/false
# Set to true to generate a table of contents. Optional. Default: false
pdf.generateTOC: true/false
# This will be put in PDF metadata and also rendered on title page.
# Required if generateTitlePage is true optional otherwise.
pdf.title: MyDoc
# This will be put in PDF metadata and also rendered on title page.
# Optional.
pdf.subject: User Guide
# This will be put in the PDF metadata. Optional.
pdf.keywords: Markdown PDF
# The version of the document. This will be rendered on the title page.
# Optional, but recommended if generateTitlePage is true.
pdf.version: 1.0
# The author of the document. This will be put in PDF metadata and also
# be rendered on title page. Optional.
pdf.author: Your Name
# This will be rendered on the title page. Optional.
pdf.copyright: Copyright © 2013 Me Myself and I
# If true then links will render as plain text and not be clickable.
# Optional. Default: false
pdf.hideLinks: true/false
# Specify this if you want to change the bullet for unordered lists.
# Optional. Default: • (including space after!)
pdf.unorderedListItemPrefix: *
# Specify true here to have the first line of each paragraph indented.
# Optional. Default: false
pdf.firstLineParagraphIndent: true
# Specify in R:G:B format to change the background color of the document.
```

```
# Optional. Default 255:255:255 (white)
pdf.backgroundColor: 255:255:255
# Specify in R:G:B format to change the text color of block quotes.
# Optional. Default: 128:128:128 (grey) pdf.blockQuoteColor: 128:128:128
# Specify in R:G:B format to change the text color of code blocks.
# Optional. Default: 0:0:0 (black)
pdf.codeColor: 0:0:0
# --- HTML ---
# The name of the file to produce.
html.resultFile: MyDoc.html
# The path to the css file for the generated html file. Required.
html.css: css/my.css
# If set to true then the specified css will be inlined in the generated html
# document. Otherwise the generated html document will reference the specified
# css. Optional. Default: false
html.inlineCSS: true/false
# This affects links and images. When specified the resulting file: URLs in the
# result will be relative to the path specified by "path" if the absolute path
# of the URL starts with the specified path. If a plus sign (+) and a prefix
# path is specified it will be prefixed to the final URL. Optional.
html.makeFileLinksRelativeTo: path[+prefix]
# --- Markdown ---
# The name of the file to produce.
markdown.resultFile: MyDoc.md
# This affects links and images. When specified the resulting file: URLs in the
# result will be relative to the path specified by "path" if the absolute path
# of the URL starts with the specified path. If a plus sign (+) and a prefix
# path is specified it will be prefixed to the final URL. Optional.
markdown.makeFileLinksRelativeTo: path[+prefix]
```

6 Simple Markdown Reference

_{6.1} Headings

```
# Heading level 1
## Heading level 2
...
###### Heading level 6
```

_{6.2} Paragraphs

An empty line marks the end of a paragraph.

```
Paragraph 1 ...
More text in paragraph 1.

Paragraph 2 ...
```

Paragraph 1 ... More text in paragraph 1.

Paragraph 2 ...

6.3 Italics

```
_This is in italics_

This *is also italics* but can't start a line with * since it will be treated as list.
```

This is in italics

This is also italics but can't start a line with * since it will be treated as list.

6.4 Bold

```
__This text is bold.__

**This text is also bold.**
```

This text is bold.

This text is also bold.

6.5 Blockquote

```
> This line is block quoted.
```

This line is block quoted.

6.6 Lists

6.6.1 Unordered lists (* or -)

```
* item 1
  Also part of item 1.
- item 2
```

```
* item 2.1 (this is indented 4 spaces!)
```

- item 1 Also part of item 1.
- item 2
 - item 2.1 (this is indented 4 spaces!)

6.6.2 Ordered list (n.)

```
1. item 1.
2. item 2.
1. item 2.1
```

- 1. item 1.
- 2. item 2.
 - 1. item 2.1

Please note that the actual numbers does not matter! They could all be "1."! The items will be enumerated automatically in order no matter what numbers you enter in the source.

6.7 Code block (pre formatted with a fixed width font)

Each line starting with a tab or 4 spaces are considered belonging to a pre formatted block.

```
This

is

a

preformatted

block!
```

6.8 Horizontal rule

Any of:

```
* * *

***

- - -

----
```

6.9 Links

```
[This is a link to markdown syntax on daringfireball.net](http://daringfireball.net/projects/markdown/syntax)
```

This is a link to markdown syntax on daringfireball.net

Short "autolink" version:

```
<http://www.daringfireball.net>
```

http://www.daringfireball.net

6.10 Images

```
![Alt text](/path/to/img.png)
![Alt text](/path/to/img.png "title")
```

6.11 backslash (\)

The \ character can be used to escape characters that have markdown meaning. \\ will for example produce \. * will produce *.

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7.1 Project License

Apache Software License version 2.0

7.2 Third Party Licenses

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8 License Texts

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