

KISS Solution: Export Markdown + Mermaid to PDF

 **One Extension, Three Clicks, Done.**

Step 1: Install Extension (One Time Only)

1. In VSCode, press: `Ctrl+Shift+X` (or `Cmd+Shift+X` on Mac)
2. Search: **Markdown Preview Enhanced**
3. Click **Install** on the extension by **Yiyi Wang**
4. Done. Never do this again.

Step 2: Export to PDF (Every Time)

1. Open your `.md` file in VSCode
2. Right-click anywhere in the editor
3. Select: **"Markdown Preview Enhanced: Open Preview to the Side"**
4. Right-click in the **preview pane**
5. Select: **"Chrome (Puppeteer) → PDF"**
6. Wait 30-60 seconds (progress shown in VSCode)
7. PDF appears in same folder as your `.md` file

Done. That's it.

Visual Guide

Your Markdown File

```
# My Document

```mermaid
graph TB
 A --> B
```
```

Right-click →

Preview Pane

```
My Document
├── Rendered
│   ├── Mermaid
│   └── Diagram
```

Right-click here



"Chrome (Puppeteer)"



"PDF"



✅ PDF Created!

For Your Students

"How do I view the diagrams in the SOLID guide?"

Tell them:

1. Install VSCode extension: **Markdown Preview Enhanced**
2. Right-click in file → **Open Preview to the Side**
3. To save PDF: Right-click preview → **Chrome** → **PDF**

That's the entire instruction.



If It Doesn't Work

Problem: "Puppeteer" option missing

Fix:

- Close VSCode completely
- Reopen VSCode
- Try again (extension needs restart to load Puppeteer)

Problem: Diagrams not showing

Fix:

- Wait longer (complex diagrams take time)
- Check bottom-right of VSCode for progress/errors

Problem: PDF quality poor

Fix:

- Add to VSCode settings (`Ctrl+,` search "markdown enhanced"):
- Set **Print Background**: ☒ ON



Quick Reference Card

Print this for students:

EXPORT MD + MERMAID → PDF IN VSCODE

1. Install: "Markdown Preview Enhanced"
2. Right-click in .md file
→ "Markdown Preview Enhanced: Open Preview"
3. Right-click in preview pane
→ "Chrome (Puppeteer)"
→ "PDF"
4. Wait ~30 seconds
5. PDF appears in same folder



Why This is KISS

| Alternative Methods | This Method |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ✗ Install Node.js, npm, CLI tools | ✓ One VSCode extension |
| ✗ Run terminal commands | ✓ Right-click menu |
| ✗ Edit config files | ✓ Works out of box |
| ✗ Upload to websites | ✓ Works offline |
| ✗ Manual diagram export | ✓ Auto-renders everything |
| ✗ Python scripts | ✓ No coding |

Single Responsibility Principle Applied: This extension does ONE thing and does it well.

That's it. Truly KISS. 