

# COWTCHOOX

## Getting started with Cowtchoox

This document will provides basic information on Cowtchoox.

The features evolve quickly, and the documentation doesn't, and there is a lot of bugs everywhere, so if something doesn't work, feel free to [complain here](#).

## Installation

### Windows

Go here: <https://github.com/Sergueille/cowtchoox/tags>, and download the latest release. You should get a `.zip` file. Unzip it where you want Cowtchoox to be installed. You now have to add this directory to your PATH. To do this, you can follow [these instructions](#).

### Other OS

I have no idea how to build this for you. You should consider [tell me how to do it](#) or building it yourself form the [source code](#).

## Compiling a file

Create a text file with your favorite editor, and save it as

`hello_world.cow`. It should contain the following:

```
<document>
  <head>
    <title>Hello world!</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    Hello world!
  </body>
</document>
```

Now, to compile the file, just call

`cowtchoox hello_world.cow` in your command prompt. Cowtchoox will produce `out.pdf` and `out.html`. You can open `out.pdf` to see your beautiful document.

## Basic syntax

First, [learn how to write basic HTML](#). You just need a basic understanding. As you can see above, Cowtchoox looks a lot like HTML.

## Document structure

```
<document>
  <head>
    <title>The title of the document</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    Contents of the document
  </body>
</document>
```

- The `<head>` tag contains metadata about your document, such as title, style, paper format...
- The `<body>` tag contains the contents of the document.

## Differences with HTML

### Comments

You can use HTML comments in Cowntchoox. (actually this is not yet implemented, please use other methods). Cowntchoox also supports *C-style comments*:

- Everything after `//` is ignored until the end of the line
- Everything between `/*` and `*/` is ignored, even across multiple lines

### Escaping with `\`

Imagine you want to add the character "<" in your document. An innocent soul will write:

```
Here is a nice less-than symbol: <
```

Then, the compiler will throw an error message at his face, because he thinks the "<" is the beginning of a tag. To prevent that kind of situation, you have to *Escape the character*. In regular HTML you would write

`&lt;`, but since this notation sucks, it is not supported in Cowntchoox.

To escape a character, simply put

`\` before it. A `\` means "the following character is regular text and has no special meaning". So you should write

```
Here is a nice less-than symbol: \<
```

## Using CSS

To change the style of documents, we will use *CSS*. If you have no idea of what it is, [click here](#). To tell the compiler to use a CSS file, include a

`<css>` tag in the `<head>` of the document.

```
<document>
  <head>
    <title>The title of the document</title>
    <css>path to your file here</css>
  </head>
  <body>
    Bla, bla, bla ...
  </body>
</document>
```

You need to specify the path from the

`.cow` file to the `css` file. For instance, if it is located in the same directory, just put the name of the file. You have to include the file extension.

To be continued...