

# TiefDownConverter Documentation

Tiefseetauchner et al.

March 28, 2025

## CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>LICENSE</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>The what?</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1	Why? . . . . .	3
2.2	How, oh wise programmer, did you solve this problem? . . . . .	3
2.3	So, what's the point? . . . . .	4
2.4	Use Cases . . . . .	4
2.5	Support . . . . .	5
<b>3</b>	<b>Usage</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1	Installation . . . . .	6
3.2	Getting started . . . . .	6
3.3	Adjusting the markdown directory . . . . .	7
3.4	Customising the template . . . . .	7
3.5	Adjusting template behaviour . . . . .	7
3.6	Conversion Profiles . . . . .	8
3.7	Writing templates . . . . .	8
3.7.1	Customizing CSS . . . . .	8
3.7.2	Adding Fonts . . . . .	9
3.7.3	Metadata and Structure . . . . .	9
3.7.4	Using Lua Filters . . . . .	9
3.8	Conversion Engines . . . . .	9
3.8.1	LaTeX . . . . .	10
3.8.2	Typst . . . . .	10
3.8.3	EPUB . . . . .	10
3.8.4	Custom Pandoc Converter . . . . .	10
3.9	Writing filters . . . . .	11
3.10	Preprocessing . . . . .	11
3.11	Custom Pandoc Conversion . . . . .	12
3.12	Custom Processor Arguments . . . . .	12
3.13	Smart Cleaning . . . . .	13

<b>4</b>	<b>Usage Details</b>	<b>14</b>
4.1	<b>tiefdownconverter</b>	14
4.1.1	Usage:	14
4.1.2	Subcommands:	14
4.2	<b>tiefdownconverter convert</b>	14
4.2.1	Usage:	15
4.3	<b>tiefdownconverter init</b>	15
4.3.1	Usage:	15
4.4	<b>tiefdownconverter project</b>	16
4.4.1	Usage:	16
4.4.2	Subcommands:	16
4.5	<b>tiefdownconverter project templates</b>	17
4.5.1	Usage:	17
4.5.2	Subcommands:	17
4.6	<b>tiefdownconverter project templates add</b>	17
4.6.1	Usage:	17
4.7	<b>tiefdownconverter project templates remove</b>	18
4.7.1	Usage:	18
4.8	<b>tiefdownconverter project templates update</b>	18
4.8.1	Usage:	18
4.9	<b>tiefdownconverter project update-manifest</b>	19
4.9.1	Usage:	19
4.10	<b>tiefdownconverter project pre-processors</b>	19
4.10.1	Usage:	19
4.10.2	Subcommands:	20
4.11	<b>tiefdownconverter project pre-processors add</b>	20
4.11.1	Usage:	20
4.12	<b>tiefdownconverter project pre-processors remove</b>	20
4.12.1	Usage:	20
4.13	<b>tiefdownconverter project pre-processors list</b>	20
4.13.1	Usage:	21
4.14	<b>tiefdownconverter project processors</b>	21
4.14.1	Usage:	21
4.14.2	Subcommands:	21
4.15	<b>tiefdownconverter project processors add</b>	21
4.15.1	Usage:	21
4.16	<b>tiefdownconverter project processors remove</b>	22
4.16.1	Usage:	22
4.17	<b>tiefdownconverter project processors list</b>	22
4.17.1	Usage:	22
4.18	<b>tiefdownconverter project profiles</b>	22
4.18.1	Usage:	22
4.18.2	Subcommands:	22
4.19	<b>tiefdownconverter project profiles add</b>	23
4.19.1	Usage:	23
4.20	<b>tiefdownconverter project profiles remove</b>	23
4.20.1	Usage:	23
4.21	<b>tiefdownconverter project profiles list</b>	23

	4.21.1 Usage: . . . . .	23
4.22	<b>tiefdownconverter project list-templates</b> . . . . .	23
	4.22.1 Usage: . . . . .	24
4.23	<b>tiefdownconverter project validate</b> . . . . .	24
	4.23.1 Usage: . . . . .	24
4.24	<b>tiefdownconverter project clean</b> . . . . .	24
	4.24.1 Usage: . . . . .	24
4.25	<b>tiefdownconverter project smart-clean</b> . . . . .	24
	4.25.1 Usage: . . . . .	24
4.26	<b>tiefdownconverter check-dependencies</b> . . . . .	25
	4.26.1 Usage: . . . . .	25
<b>5</b>	<b>Contributing</b> . . . . .	<b>26</b>
5.1	Pull Requests . . . . .	26
5.2	Conversion . . . . .	26
5.3	Presets . . . . .	26
5.4	Manifest . . . . .	26
5.5	Tests . . . . .	27
5.6	Documentation . . . . .	27
5.7	Code Style . . . . .	27

# 1 LICENSE

```
1 MIT License
2
3 Copyright (c) 2025 Lena Tauchner
4
5 Permission is hereby granted, free of charge, to any person obtaining a
  copy of this software and associated documentation files (the "Software
  "), to deal in the Software without restriction, including without
  limitation the rights to use, copy, modify, merge, publish, distribute,
  sublicense, and/or sell copies of the Software, and to permit persons to
  whom the Software is furnished to do so, subject to the following
  conditions:
6
7 The above copyright notice and this permission notice shall be included in
  all copies or substantial portions of the Software.
8
9 THE SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED "AS IS", WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR
  IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY,
  FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND NONINFRINGEMENT. IN NO EVENT SHALL
  THE AUTHORS OR COPYRIGHT HOLDERS BE LIABLE FOR ANY CLAIM, DAMAGES OR
  OTHER LIABILITY, WHETHER IN AN ACTION OF CONTRACT, TORT OR OTHERWISE,
  ARISING FROM, OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOFTWARE OR THE USE OR
  OTHER DEALINGS IN THE SOFTWARE.
```

## 2 THE WHAT?

*If you want to skip the funny written explanations, skip to the [Usage](#) section.*

Well, that's a good question. Ask it later.

Jk, of course you may ask it now. TiefDown is a project format I made up to make it easier to convert my markdown files into something pretty. As a matter of fact, this documentation is managed by a TiefDown project!

The important thing is that this isn't a markdown parser, replacement or anything like that. It's a project format, and it's not even a format, it's pretty much just a manifest file and an executable.

### 2.1 WHY?

I wonder myself every day. But alas, I should know, I wrote this cluster\*\*\*\* so let me explain. The initial concept was born from pain (as many are). I was pretty tired of exporting my markdown files, then converting them, overwriting my old files, then converting them again, overwriting all history in the process. It was just... a mess.

So I did what any sane person would do: I learned Python.

Well, I'm being facetious. I didn't "learn Python," I just expanded my capabilities to calling programs from the command line.

So my script, at first, just called Pandoc, then pdflatex, and then pdflatex again for good measure. It created a PDF, overwriting my old one. It was basically just converting a single markdown file into a PDF with a basic TeX template (in my case, LiX Novel).

Then I realized that writing a 40-chapter story in a single markdown file was even dumber than whatever I made in Python. So I added a little combination logic. In the process, I had to write Lua filters as well, and then I added versioning, and then I added conversion to multiple different PDFs, and then I added EPUB support and—you know what? That was a dumb idea. The Python script soon reached 200 lines of code, which was untenable.

So yeah, I decided to make a new book. And of course - *everything* broke. Instantly. I had to copy and paste things, adjust my Python script, rewrote it a bit, and boom - suddenly I had two different projects with different processes, different outputs, different versions, different everything.

And then... I started a third book. Aaaand the Python script didn't really fulfill my needs, so I rewrote it in Bash. But worse.

I thought I had it all figured out. With Python. Then Bash. Then I started a short story and lost my \*\*\*\*\* mind.

### 2.2 HOW, OH WISE PROGRAMMER, DID YOU SOLVE THIS PROBLEM?

I'm glad you asked! I'm glad. I... I hope you asked? Well, regardless of whether or not you did, I'll tell you.

I learned Rust.

For real this time, I learned a completely new programming language just for this. But there was a reason, or a few rather:

1. I wanted cross-platform support.
2. I wanted a single executable.
3. I needed a language with good CLI support because, believe it or not, I'm *awful* at GUIs.

#### 4. I'm crazy.

These reasons led me to two options: Python, a language I was somewhat familiar with but didn't particularly enjoy writing in, and Rust, a language I had never written in before but was very interested in.

Evidently, I chose Rust.

So I started: a CLI interface, command-line calls, and so on. Here's the rundown of how it works internally:

- You initialize a project with `tiefdownconverter init`. This creates a few bits and bobs, but importantly the `manifest.toml` file. This contains all the information needed to actually manage and convert the project.
- You can then manipulate the project, and so on.
- When you add your markdown files to the Markdown directory, running `tiefdownconverter convert` will do a few things:
  - Create a new folder for the current compilation. That way, you have a history.
  - Combine all the markdown files into one megafile called `combined.md`.
  - Run Pandoc conversion to TeX, EPUB, or Typst. This uses Lua filters and preprocessors that are defined in the `manifest.toml` file.
  - Run XeLaTeX on all TeX templates, Typst on all Typst templates, and so on. It even supports EPUB conversion.
  - Copy the files around so you end up with your output files in the right places.

Isn't that simple?

It isn't. But oh well. We've got a lot of work to do on this, and if you're interested, don't shy away from the [Contributing](#) section!

## 2.3 SO, WHAT'S THE POINT?

Really? Making my life easier. I wanted to export my novel as a PDF in A4, 8x5in, so on. If I can make your life easier as well, then I'm the happiest woman alive.

## 2.4 USE CASES

So where does TiefDownConverter actually come in handy? Well, anywhere you need Markdown to turn into something nice without manually fiddling with formats every time. Here are a few scenarios where it saves the day:

- **Writing Books** - Markdown is great for writing, but formatting a 300-page novel? Not so much. TiefDown handles that for you. Well, at least the part where you need to convert stuff, you still need to write out your templates.
- **Technical Documentation** - Software projects need structured documentation, and TiefDown makes sure it's consistent. Case in point, this documentation is managed as a TiefDown project.

- **Multi-format Exports** - Need a A4 PDF, a Book PDF, a letter PDF, EPUB, so on? TiefDown can generate them all from the same source.

Basically, if your workflow involves Markdown and you're sick of manually converting everything, TiefDown is your new best friend.

## 2.5 SUPPORT

Now, you want support? Check out the Discord or write an issue on GitHub!

- [Discord Server](https://discord.gg/EG3zU9cTFx) (<https://discord.gg/EG3zU9cTFx>)
- [GitHub Issues](https://github.com/Tiefseetauchner/TiefDownConverter/issues) (<https://github.com/Tiefseetauchner/TiefDownConverter/issues>)

## 3 USAGE

The basic usage of `tiefdownconverter` is relatively simple. The difficult part is understanding the templating system and how to customise it for your usecases. Presets can only do so much.

Note: I wrote this paragraph before the big refactor. The basic usage is no longer simple.

### 3.1 INSTALLATION

Currently the only way to install `tiefdownconverter` is to either build it yourself, install it from cargo, or download a precompiled binary from the [releases page](#). Then just add it to the path and you're good to go. You can of course also just call it relatively by placing the binary in your project folder or something like that.

If you build from source, run `cargo build [--release]` or `cargo install --path ..`

That said, the recommended way to install TiefDownConverter is `cargo install tiefdownconverter`. This will always install the latest version.

Downloading from the release is as simple as downloading the appropriate version (Windows, Mac, Linux) and adding it to a folder in the path. You could also add `tiefdownconverter` to a folder and run it from there.

There are a few dependencies that you need to install.

- [Pandoc](#): Conversion from Markdown to TeX, Typst and Epub.
- A TeX distribution: For converting TeX files to PDF. It has to include xelatex.
  - If using [TeX Live](#) you may need to additionally install `texlive-xetex` depending on your system.
  - If using [MikTeX](#), no need to do anything.
- [Typst](#): For converting Typst files to PDF.

Windows is easy enough: `winget install miktex pandoc typst`.

Linux varies by distro of course, but for ubuntu it's `apt install texlive-xetex pandoc` and `cargo install typst` or downloading the typst binary and adding it to the path.

Mac is still to be tested, but MacTeX should have XeTeX installed.

Now you should be able to run `tiefdownconverter` from the command line. You can test it by initialising a test project using `tiefdownconverter init testproject` and running `tiefdownconverter convert` in the project directory or `tiefdownconverter convert -p testproject`. You could also, as a test, clone the [Github Repo](#) and run `tiefdownconverter convert -p docs` (this may however throw warnings if you don't have the appropriate fonts installed).

### 3.2 GETTING STARTED

TL;DR: Make a folder, go into it and run `tiefdownconverter init` and `tiefdownconverter convert`. That's it.

Long answer: First off, you need to create a project using `tiefdownconverter init`. This will create a new project **in the current directory**. You can (and maybe should) specify a project.

This command creates the basic template structure like so:



```

1 your_project/|—
2   Markdown/|
3     └─ Chapter 1 - Introduction.md|—
4   template/|
5     └─ meta.tex|
6       └─ template.tex └─
7   manifest.toml

```

The Markdown folder contains an example Markdown file. When placing your markdown files in this folder, make sure they're named like `Chapter X.md`, with anything following the number being ignored. *This is important*, as the converter will use this to sort the files for conversion, as otherwise it'd have no idea in which order they should be converted.

Now you should be able to run `tiefdownconverter convert -p path/to/your\_project` (or omitting the `-p` flag if you're already in the project directory) and it should generate a PDF file in the project directory. You can now adjust the template, add your own Markdown files, and so on.

### 3.3 ADJUSTING THE MARKDOWN DIRECTORY

You can change what directory the converter looks for markdown files in by changing the `markdown\_dir` field in the `manifest.toml` file or saying `-m path/to/markdown/dir` when initialising the project. You can also change it post-initialisation using `tiefdownconverter project [path/to/project] update -manifest -m path/to/markdown/dir`. If you don't do so, the converter will look for markdown files in the `project\_dir/Markdown` directory.

### 3.4 CUSTOMISING THE TEMPLATE

The key idea behind `tiefdownconverter` is, that it can handle multiple templates at the same time. This is done by creating a template file in the template directory and adding it to the project's `manifest.toml` file.

You could do this manually, if you were so inclined, but using `tiefdownconverter project template <TEMPLATE\_NAME> add` is much easier. Check the [Usage Details](#) for the usage of this command. But importantly, once you created the template and added it to the manifest, you will be able to convert using it. `tiefdownconverter convert -p path/to/your\_project --templates <TEMPLATE\_NAME>` will convert only the selected template, aiding in debugging.

And now, you're pretty much free to do whatever you want with the template. Write tex or typst templates, use custom filters, so on.

### 3.5 ADJUSTING TEMPLATE BEHAVIOUR

You have a few options for editing template behaviour using `tiefdownconverter`. You can of course edit the template files directly, but there are a few more options.

Mainly and most interestingly, lua filters can adjust the behaviour of the markdown conversion. These are lua scripts that are run before the markdown is converted to tex or typst. You can add lua filters to a template by either editing the manifest or using `tiefdownconverter project template <TEMPLATE\_NAME> update --add-filters <FILTER\_NAME>`. This can be either the path to a lua filter (relative to the project directory) or a directory containing lua filters.

You can also change the name of the exported file by setting the `output` option. For example, `tiefdownconverter project template <TEMPLATE\_NAME> update --output <NEW\_NAME>`. This will export the template to `<NEW\_NAME>` instead of the default `<TEMPLATE\_NAME>.pdf`.

Similarly, you could change the template file and type, though I advice against it, as this may break the template. I advice to just add a new template and remove the old one using `tiefdownconverter project template <TEMPLATE\_NAME> remove`.

### 3.6 CONVERSION PROFILES

A conversion profile is a shortcut to defining templates for the conversion. If you're dealing with a lot of templates, you may be considering only converting some at any time - for example, web ready PDFs vs. print ready PDFs, or only converting a certain size of PDF.

For that, there are conversion profiles which simply are a list of templates. It's essentially like saving your `-templates` arguments.

You can create these profiles with the `project profile add` command, setting a name and a comma seperated list of templates. Removing a profile is also possible with the `project profile remove` command.

Running a conversion with a profile is as simple as adding the `--profile` flag.

The manifest file can optionally contain a section for this, if you desire to configure them manually:

```
1 [[profiles]]
2 name = "PDF"
3 templates = ["PDF Documentation LaTeX", "PDF Documentation"]
```

### 3.7 WRITING TEMPLATES

Importantly, when you write your own template, you need to include the content somehow. That somehow is done via `\\input{output.tex}` or `\#include ".output.typ"`. This will include the output of the Markdown conversion in your template file. If you're using custom preprocessors, you can change the output file of the conversion. See [Preprocessing](#) for more information.

EPUB support in TiefDownConverter isn't as fancy as LaTeX or Typst, but you can still tweak it to look nice. You don't get full-blown templates, but you can mess with CSS, fonts, and Lua filters to make it work how you want.

#### 3.7.1 CUSTOMIZING CSS

EPUBs use stylesheets to control how everything looks. The good news? Any `.css` file you drop into `template/my\_epub\_template/` gets automatically loaded. No need to mess with the manifest - just throw in your styles and you're good.

Example CSS:

```
1 body {
2     font-family: "Noto Serif", serif;
3     line-height: 1.6;
4     margin: 1em;
5 }
6 blockquote {
7     font-style: italic;
8     border-left: 3px solid #ccc;
9     padding-left: 10px;
10 }
```

### 3.7.2 ADDING FONTS

Fonts go into `template/my\_epub\_template/fonts/`, and TiefDownConverter will automatically pick them up. To use them, you just need to reference them properly in your CSS:

```
1 @font-face {
2   font-family: 'EB Garamond';
3   font-style: normal;
4   font-weight: normal;
5   src: url('../fonts/EBGaramond-Regular.ttf');
6 }
7
8 body {
9   font-family: "EB Garamond", serif;
10 }
```

### 3.7.3 METADATA AND STRUCTURE

EPUBs need some basic metadata, which you define in the YAML front matter of your Markdown files. Stuff like title, author, and language goes here:

```
1 ---
2 title:
3 - type: main
4   text: "My Publication"
5 - type: subtitle
6   text: "A tale of loss and partying hard"
7 creator:
8 - role: author
9   text: Your Name
10 rights: "Copyright © 2012 Your Name"
11 ---
```

This makes sure your EPUB doesn't look like a nameless file when opened in an e-reader.

### 3.7.4 USING LUA FILTERS

Want to tweak the structure? That's what Lua filters are for. You can use them to rename chapters, remove junk, or modify how elements are processed.

Example: Automatically renaming chapter headers:

```
1 function Header(e1)
2   if e1.level == 1 then
3     return pandoc.Header(e1.level, "Chapter: " .. pandoc.utils.stringify(e1
4       .content))
5   end
6 end
```

And that's it. You get a customized EPUB without having to fight with the defaults. Enjoy!

## 3.8 CONVERSION ENGINES

There are currently four ways to convert your Markdown files. All of them are based on the same system. The main difference is the output format and the program it gets converted with.

### 3.8.1 L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

LaTeX is the best supported by TiedDownConverter, with the most presets. But as TiedDownConverter is a general-purpose Markdown to PDF converter, the format doesn't matter. LaTeX provides the highest degree of customization, making it ideal for structured documents, novels, and academic papers.

The primary way to interact with LaTeX is through templates. Lua filters and such are secondary, but an important part of the conversion process to adjust behavior for different document classes.

### 3.8.2 TYPST

Typst is another supported engine, offering a more modern alternative to LaTeX with a simpler syntax and automatic layout adjustments. TiedDownConverter allows you to specify Typst templates in the project manifest.

Typst templates work similarly to LaTeX templates but are easier to modify if you need structured documents without deep LaTeX knowledge.

As far as I could tell, typst templates are also far more adherent to the general typst syntax, so Lua filters are not as important. But they can still be used to adjust the output, especially for more advanced use cases.

### 3.8.3 EPUB

TiedDownConverter also supports EPUB conversion, making it suitable for e-book generation. The conversion process uses Pandoc to transform the Markdown content into EPUB, applying any Lua filters defined in the manifest.

This however does not really support much in the way of templating. Customization should be done primarily via Lua filters. Custom preprocessors are currently not supported at all.

However, you can still get some customization by including CSS and font files in your template folder. That's the reason epub has to have a folder in the first place, so you can place CSS and font files in there. Of course you can add multiple epub templates, but I don't know why you would want to.

EPUB output is particularly useful for digital publishing, ensuring compatibility with e-readers and mobile devices.

### 3.8.4 CUSTOM PANDOC CONVERTER

Okay. Stick with me here. The idea is, you are already converting my Markdown files with Pandoc, why not let me convert them to whatever format? Well, this is where Custom Pandoc Conversion comes in. This long fabled feature is the most complicated one, and you need a deep understanding of how TiedDownConverter works and at least the ability to read Pandoc's documentation to even use it. But if you're willing to put in the effort, you can do some pretty cool things.

The basic idea is, just, let the user decide what pandoc does. The result is chaos.

I'm being facetious, but this is actually the most powerful way to customize the output. You add a preprocessor as described in [Preprocessing](#) and set the output path of the preprocessor and template to the same path. Then you can do whatever pandoc allows. Want to convert to RTF? No issue. But beware: you need to actually understand what's going on, otherwise you'll end up in implementation hell.

### 3.9 WRITING FILTERS

**Note:** This section only really addresses LaTeX, but the concepts are the same for Typst and epub.

If you are in the business of writing filters (and don't just solve everything in TeX itself), I advise checking out the documentation at <https://pandoc.org/lua-filters.html>. But here's a quick rundown of what you can do. For example, if you wanted to change the font of all block quotes, there's a few things you'd need to do. First off, in your template, you will need to define a font. It could look something like this:

```
1 \usepackage{fontspec}
2 \newfontfamily\blockquoteont{Noto Sans}
```

Then, add a filter to your template as described above. The filter could look something like this:

```
1 function BlockQuote(el)
2   local tt_start = pandoc.RawBlock('latex', '\\blockquoteont\\small')
3
4   table.insert(el.content, 1, tt_start)
5
6   return el
7 end
```

Of course, you could just redefine the font in TeX but I think this is a bit more flexible. One usecase that is quite important is to change the way chapters are handled for LiX. In case of LiX, they expect `\\h{chapter\_name}` instead of `\\section`, which is the standard behaviour of pandoc. So when you create a LiX backed template, you have to add a filter to change that behaviour. Something like this:

```
1 function Header(elem)
2   if elem.level == 1 then
3     return pandoc.RawBlock("latex", "\\h{" .. pandoc.utils.stringify(elem.
4       content) .. "}")
5   end
6   if elem.level == 2 then
7     return pandoc.RawBlock("latex", "\\hh{" .. pandoc.utils.stringify(elem.
8       content) .. "}")
9   end
10  -- add more levels here if needed
11 end
```

### 3.10 PREPROCESSING

A “Preprocessor” is a stupid word for defining your own pandoc conversion parameters. You can (and should) use this to adjust the behaviour of the converter. For example, you could define a preprocessor to add `--listings` to the pandoc command. This is useful if you want to have reasonable code output in your pdf.

If no preprocessor is defined, the converter will use default pandoc parameters, converting to the intermediate output file (in case of LaTeX, this is `output.tex`). But if you for example are using lua filters, you may want to export to a different path. This can be done by defining a preprocessor.

If you want to define a preprocessor, you can do so by running

```
1 tiefdowndownconverter project template <TEMPLATE_NAME> update --preprocessor <
  PREPROCESSOR_NAME>
```

to assign it to a template and

```
1 tiefdownconverter project preprocessor <PREPROCESSOR_NAME> add -- [  
    PANDOC_ARGS]
```

to assign it to a template and

to create a new preprocessor.

For example, if you want to add `--listings` to the pandoc command, you could do so by adding `--listings` to the preprocessor. But importantly, **this overwrites the default preprocessor**. So you will have to add the `-o output.tex` argument to the preprocessor as well. The full command then would be:

```
1 tiefdownconverter project preprocessor "Enable Listings" add -- -o output.  
    tex --listings
```

The manifest would look something like this:

```
1 ...  
2  
3 [[custom_processors.preprocessors]]  
4 name = "Enable Listings"  
5 pandoc_args = ["-o", "output.tex", "--listings"]  
6  
7 [[templates]]  
8 filters = ["luafilters/chapter_filter.lua"]  
9 name = "PDF Documentation LaTeX"  
10 output = "docs_tex.pdf"  
11 preprocessor = "Enable Listings"  
12 template_file = "docs.tex"  
13 template_type = "Tex"  
14  
15 ...
```

### 3.11 CUSTOM PANDOC CONVERSION

I already hinted at it in [Custom Pandoc Converter](#), but I'll go into more detail here. The idea is to run a preprocessor and just skip any further processing. Straight from pandoc to the output.

You can do this by first defining a preprocessor, for example:

```
1 tiefdownconverter project preprocessor "RTF Preprocessor" add -- -o  
    documentation.rtf
```

As you can see, we're outputting as an RTF file, and the file name is `documentation.rtf`. This means we need to add a template that deals with the same output:

```
1 tiefdownconverter project template "RTF Template" add -o documentation.rtf  
    -t custompandoc
```

And that's it. TiefDownConverter will run the preprocessor, which outputs to `documentation.rtf`, and then the templating system will copy that output to your directory. Hopefully. Did I mention that this is experimental? Yeah, so if you have issues, please report them. Even if you're thinking "this is not a bug, it's a feature". It likely isn't.

### 3.12 CUSTOM PROCESSOR ARGUMENTS

You can define custom arguments for your processors. These are passed to the processor, so `xelatex`, `typst`, so on, on compilation. For example, if you needed to add a font directory to your `typst` conversion, you could do so by adding the following to your manifest:

```

1 ...
2
3 [[custom_processors.processors]]
4 name = "Typst Font Directory"
5 processor_args = ["--font-path", "fonts/"]
6
7 [[templates]]
8 name = "PDF Documentation"
9 output = "docs.pdf"
10 processor = "Typst Font Directory"
11 template_file = "docs.typ"
12 template_type = "Typst"
13
14 ...

```

Or... Just use the command to create it.

```

1 tiefdowndownconverter project processor "Typst Font Directory" add -- --font-
  path fonts/

```

Then append it to a template.

```

1 tiefdowndownconverter project template "PDF Documentation" update --processor "
  Typst Font Directory"

```

### 3.13 SMART CLEANING

Smart cleaning is a feature that is relatively simple. If you enable it in your manifest, it will automatically remove stale or old conversion directories.

Enable it with the `--smart-clean` and set the threshold with `--smart-clean-threshold`. The threshold is 5 by default.

You can also manually trigger a smart clean with `tiefdowndownconverter project smart-clean` or a normal clean with `tiefdowndownconverter project clean`. The latter will remove all conversion directories, while the former will only remove the ones that are older than the threshold.

## 4 USAGE DETAILS

Below are the usage details for the various commands. **Note:** These are autogenerated! For clearer documentation, please see the [Usage](#) section.

### 4.1 tiefdownconverter

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

#### 4.1.1 USAGE:

```
1 TiefDownConverter manages TiefDown projects.
2 TiefDown is a project structure meant to simplify the conversion process
  from Markdown to PDFs.
3 TiefDownConverter consolidates multiple conversion processes and templating
  systems to generate a configurable set or subset of output documents.
4 It is not in itself a converter, but a wrapper around pandoc, xelatex and
  typst. As such, it requires these dependencies to be installed.
5
6 Usage: tiefdownconverter <COMMAND>
7
8 Commands:
9   convert          Convert a TiefDown project. By default, it will
    convert the current directory.
10  init             Initialize a new TiefDown project.
11  project          Update the TiefDown project.
12  check-dependencies Validate dependencies are installed.
13  help            Print this message or the help of the given
    subcommand(s)
14
15 Options:
16   -h, --help
17             Print help (see a summary with '-h')
18
19   -V, --version
20             Print version
```

#### 4.1.2 SUBCOMMANDS:

- [convert](#)
- [init](#)
- [project](#)
- [check-dependencies](#)

### 4.2 tiefdownconverter convert

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha



### 4.2.1 USAGE:

```
1 Convert a TiefDown project. By default, it will convert the current
  directory.
2
3 Usage: tiefdownconverter convert [OPTIONS]
4
5 Options:
6 -p, --project <PROJECT>      The project to convert. If not provided,
  the current directory will be used.
7 -t, --templates <TEMPLATES>... The templates to use. If not provided,
  the default templates from the manifest file will be used. Cannot be
  used with --profile.
8 -P, --profile <PROFILE>      The conversion profile to use. Cannot be
  used with --templates.
9 -h, --help                    Print help
```

## 4.3 tiefdownconverter init

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

### 4.3.1 USAGE:

```
1 Initialize a new TiefDown project.
2
3 Usage: tiefdownconverter init [OPTIONS] [PROJECT]
4
5 Arguments:
6 [PROJECT]
7     The project to initialize. If not provided, the current directory
  will be used.
8
9 Options:
10 -t, --templates <TEMPLATES>...
11     The preset templates to use. If not provided, the default
  template.tex will be used.
12     For custom templates, use the update command after initializing
  the project.
13     If using a LiX template, make sure to install the corresponding .
  sty and .cls files from https://github.com/NicklasVraa/LiX. Adjust the
  metadata in template/meta.tex accordingly.
14
15     [possible values: template.tex, booklet.tex, lix_novel_a4.tex,
16     lix_novel_book.tex, template_typ.typ, default_epub]
17
18 -n, --no-templates
19     Do not include the default templates. You will need to add
  templates manually with Update
20
21 -f, --force
22     Delete the project if it already exists.
23
24 -m, --markdown-dir <MARKDOWN_DIR>
25     The directory where the Markdown files are located. If not
  provided, Markdown/ will be used.
```

```

26     --smart-clean
27         Enables smart clean for the project with a default threshold of
28         5.
29         If the number of conversion folders in the project is above this
        threshold, old folders will be cleaned, leaving only the threshold
        amount of folders.
30
31     --smart-clean-threshold <SMART_CLEAN_THRESHOLD>
32         The threshold for smart clean. If not provided, the default
        threshold of 5 will be used.
33         If the number of conversion folders in the project is above this
        threshold, old folders will be cleaned, leaving only the threshold
        amount of folders.
34
35     -h, --help
36         Print help (see a summary with '-h')
```

## 4.4 tiefdownconverter project

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

### 4.4.1 USAGE:

```

1 Update the TiefDown project.
2
3 Usage: tiefdownconverter project [PROJECT] <COMMAND>
4
5 Commands:
6     templates      Add or modify templates in the project.
7     update-manifest  Update the project manifest.
8     pre-processors  Manage the preprocessors of the project.
9     processors      Manage the preprocessors of the project.
10    profiles        Manage the conversion profiles of the project.
11    list-templates  List the templates in the project.
12    validate        Validate the TiefDown project structure and metadata.
13    clean           Clean temporary files from the TiefDown project.
14    smart-clean     Clean temporary files from the TiefDown project, leaving
        only the threshold amount of folders.
15    help            Print this message or the help of the given subcommand(s)
        )
16
17 Arguments:
18     [PROJECT] The project to edit. If not provided, the current directory
        will be used.
19
20 Options:
21     -h, --help  Print help
```

### 4.4.2 SUBCOMMANDS:

- [templates](#)
- [update-manifest](#)
- [pre-processors](#)

- [processors](#)
- [profiles](#)
- [list-templates](#)
- [validate](#)
- [clean](#)
- [smart-clean](#)

## 4.5 tiefdownconverter project templates

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

### 4.5.1 USAGE:

```

1 Add or modify templates in the project.
2
3 Usage: tiefdownconverter project templates <TEMPLATE> <COMMAND>
4
5 Commands:
6   add      Add a new template to the project.
7   remove   Remove a template from the project.
8   update   Update a template in the project.
9   help     Print this message or the help of the given subcommand(s)
10
11 Arguments:
12   <TEMPLATE>  The template name to edit or add.
13
14 Options:
15   -h, --help  Print help

```

### 4.5.2 SUBCOMMANDS:

- [add](#)
- [remove](#)
- [update](#)

## 4.6 tiefdownconverter project templates add

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

### 4.6.1 USAGE:

```

1 Add a new template to the project.
2
3 Usage: tiefdownconverter project templates <TEMPLATE> add [OPTIONS]
4
5 Options:
6   -f, --template-file <TEMPLATE_FILE>  The file to use as the template. If
                                           not provided, the template name will be used.

```

```

7  -t, --template-type <TEMPLATE_TYPE> The type of the template. If not
    provided, the type will be inferred from the template file. [possible
    values: tex, typst, epub, custom-pandoc]
8  -o, --output <OUTPUT> The output file. If not provided,
    the template name will be used.
9      --filters <FILTERS>... The luafilters to use for pandoc
    conversion of this templates markdown.
10     --preprocessor <PREPROCESSOR> The preprocessor to use for this
    template.
11     --processor <PROCESSOR> The processor to use for this
    template.
12  -h, --help Print help

```

## 4.7 tiefdownconverter project templates remove

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

### 4.7.1 USAGE:

```

1  Remove a template from the project.
2
3  Usage: tiefdownconverter project templates <TEMPLATE> remove
4
5  Options:
6  -h, --help Print help

```

## 4.8 tiefdownconverter project templates update

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

### 4.8.1 USAGE:

```

1  Update a template in the project.
2
3  Usage: tiefdownconverter project templates <TEMPLATE> update [OPTIONS]
4
5  Options:
6      --template-file <TEMPLATE_FILE>
7      The file to use as the template. If not provided, the template
    name will be used.
8      --template-type <TEMPLATE_TYPE>
9      The type of the template. If not provided, the type will be
    inferred from the template file.
10     Changing this is not recommended, as it is highly unlikely the
    type and only the type has changed. It is recommended to create a new
    template instead. [possible values: tex, typst, epub, custom-pandoc]
11     --output <OUTPUT>
12     The output file. If not provided, the template name will be used.
13     --filters <FILTERS>...
14     The luafilters to use for pandoc conversion of this templates
    markdown.
15     --add-filters <ADD_FILTERS>...
16     The luafilters add to the template.
17     --remove-filters <REMOVE_FILTERS>...
18     The luafilters to remove from the template.

```

```

19 --preprocessor <PREPROCESSOR>
20     The preprocessor to use for this template.
21 --processor <PROCESSOR>
22     The processor to use for this template.
23 -h, --help
24     Print help

```

## 4.9 tiefdownconverter project update-manifest

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

### 4.9.1 USAGE:

```

1 Update the project manifest.
2
3 Usage: tiefdownconverter project update-manifest [OPTIONS]
4
5 Options:
6   -m, --markdown-dir <MARKDOWN_DIR>
7       The directory where the Markdown files are located.
8
9   --smart-clean <SMART_CLEAN>
10      Enables smart clean for the project with a default threshold of
11      5.
12      If the number of conversion folders in the project is above this
13      threshold, old folders will be cleaned, leaving only the threshold
14      amount of folders.
15      [possible values: true, false]
16
17   --smart-clean-threshold <SMART_CLEAN_THRESHOLD>
18      The threshold for smart clean. If not provided, the default
19      threshold of 5 will be used.
20      If the number of conversion folders in the project is above this
21      threshold, old folders will be cleaned, leaving only the threshold
22      amount of folders.
23
24   -h, --help
25       Print help (see a summary with '-h')

```

## 4.10 tiefdownconverter project pre-processors

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

### 4.10.1 USAGE:

```

1 Manage the preprocessors of the project.
2
3 Usage: tiefdownconverter project pre-processors <COMMAND>
4
5 Commands:
6   add      Add a new preprocessor to the project.
7   remove   Remove a preprocessor from the project.
8   list     List the preprocessors in the project.
9   help     Print this message or the help of the given subcommand(s)

```

```
10 Options:
11 -h, --help  Print help
12
```

#### 4.10.2 SUBCOMMANDS:

- [add](#)
- [remove](#)
- [list](#)

### 4.11 tiefdownconverter project pre-processors add

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

#### 4.11.1 USAGE:

```
1 Add a new preprocessor to the project.
2
3 Usage: tiefdownconverter project pre-processors add <NAME> [-- <PANDOC_ARGS
4 >...]
5
6 Arguments:
7   <NAME>          The name of the preprocessor to create.
8   [PANDOC_ARGS]... The arguments to pass to the preprocessor.
9
10 Options:
11 -h, --help  Print help
```

### 4.12 tiefdownconverter project pre-processors remove

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

#### 4.12.1 USAGE:

```
1 Remove a preprocessor from the project.
2
3 Usage: tiefdownconverter project pre-processors remove <NAME>
4
5 Arguments:
6   <NAME>  The name of the preprocessor to remove.
7
8 Options:
9   -h, --help  Print help
```

### 4.13 tiefdownconverter project pre-processors list

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

#### 4.13.1 USAGE:

```
1 List the preprocessors in the project.
2
3 Usage: tiefdowndconverter project pre-processors list
4
5 Options:
6 -h, --help  Print help
```

### 4.14 tiefdowndconverter project processors

Version: tiefdowndconverter 0.7.0-alpha

#### 4.14.1 USAGE:

```
1 Manage the preprocessors of the project.
2
3 Usage: tiefdowndconverter project processors <COMMAND>
4
5 Commands:
6 add      Add a new processor to the project.
7 remove   Remove a processor from the project.
8 list     List the processors in the project.
9 help     Print this message or the help of the given subcommand(s)
10
11 Options:
12 -h, --help  Print help
```

#### 4.14.2 SUBCOMMANDS:

- [add](#)
- [remove](#)
- [list](#)

### 4.15 tiefdowndconverter project processors add

Version: tiefdowndconverter 0.7.0-alpha

#### 4.15.1 USAGE:

```
1 Add a new processor to the project.
2
3 Usage: tiefdowndconverter project processors add <NAME> [-- <PROCESSOR_ARGS>... ]
4
5 Arguments:
6 <NAME>          The name of the processor to create.
7 [PROCESSOR_ARGS]... The arguments to pass to the processor.
8
9 Options:
10 -h, --help  Print help
```

## 4.16 tiefdownconverter project processors remove

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

### 4.16.1 USAGE:

```
1 Remove a processor from the project.
2
3 Usage: tiefdownconverter project processors remove <NAME>
4
5 Arguments:
6   <NAME>   The name of the processor to remove.
7
8 Options:
9   -h, --help  Print help
```

## 4.17 tiefdownconverter project processors list

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

### 4.17.1 USAGE:

```
1 List the processors in the project.
2
3 Usage: tiefdownconverter project processors list
4
5 Options:
6   -h, --help  Print help
```

## 4.18 tiefdownconverter project profiles

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

### 4.18.1 USAGE:

```
1 Manage the conversion profiles of the project.
2
3 Usage: tiefdownconverter project profiles <COMMAND>
4
5 Commands:
6   add      Add a new conversion profile to the project.
7   remove   Remove a conversion profile from the project.
8   list     List the conversion profiles in the project.
9   help     Print this message or the help of the given subcommand(s)
10
11 Options:
12   -h, --help  Print help
```

### 4.18.2 SUBCOMMANDS:

- [add](#)
- [remove](#)
- [list](#)



## 4.19 tiefdownconverter project profiles add

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

### 4.19.1 USAGE:

```
1 Add a new conversion profile to the project. These profiles contain a list
  of templates to preset conversion workflows.
2
3 Usage: tiefdownconverter project profiles add <NAME> [TEMPLATES]...
4
5 Arguments:
6   <NAME>
7       The name of the profile to create.
8
9   [TEMPLATES]...
10      The templates to add to the profile.
11
12 Options:
13   -h, --help
14      Print help (see a summary with '-h')
```

## 4.20 tiefdownconverter project profiles remove

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

### 4.20.1 USAGE:

```
1 Remove a conversion profile from the project.
2
3 Usage: tiefdownconverter project profiles remove <NAME>
4
5 Arguments:
6   <NAME> The name of the profile to remove.
7
8 Options:
9   -h, --help Print help
```

## 4.21 tiefdownconverter project profiles list

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

### 4.21.1 USAGE:

```
1 List the conversion profiles in the project.
2
3 Usage: tiefdownconverter project profiles list
4
5 Options:
6   -h, --help Print help
```

## 4.22 tiefdownconverter project list-templates

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

#### 4.22.1 USAGE:

```
1 List the templates in the project.
2
3 Usage: tiefdownconverter project list-templates
4
5 Options:
6   -h, --help  Print help
```

### 4.23 tiefdownconverter project validate

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

#### 4.23.1 USAGE:

```
1 Validate the TiefDown project structure and metadata.
2
3 Usage: tiefdownconverter project validate
4
5 Options:
6   -h, --help  Print help
```

### 4.24 tiefdownconverter project clean

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

#### 4.24.1 USAGE:

```
1 Clean temporary files from the TiefDown project.
2
3 Usage: tiefdownconverter project clean
4
5 Options:
6   -h, --help  Print help
```

### 4.25 tiefdownconverter project smart-clean

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

#### 4.25.1 USAGE:

```
1 Clean temporary files from the TiefDown project.
2 If the number of conversion folders in the project is above this threshold,
3   old folders will be cleaned, leaving only the threshold amount of
4   folders.
5 The threshold is set to 5 by default, and is overwritten by the threshold
6   in the manifest.
7
8 Usage: tiefdownconverter project smart-clean
9
10 Options:
11   -h, --help
12       Print help (see a summary with '-h')
```

## 4.26 tiefdownconverter check-dependencies

Version: tiefdownconverter 0.7.0-alpha

### 4.26.1 USAGE:

```
1 Validate dependencies are installed.
2
3 Usage: tiefdownconverter check-dependencies
4
5 Options:
6   -h, --help  Print help
```

## 5 CONTRIBUTING

This project is open source, and I'd love for you to contribute! There's a few things you should know before you start.

### 5.1 PULL REQUESTS

Pull Requests should be made with either a link to an issue or an explanation of

1. What was the problem
2. How is it solved now
3. How did it affect the documentation

It takes a lot of work to understand the intention of code you didn't write and then judging whether this was indeed the intended outcome. That's why it's helpful for everyone if there's an explanation on what was changed and why.

### 5.2 CONVERSION

Conversion is split in a few different steps:

1. Combine all the markdown files into one megafile called `combined.md`.
2. Run Pandoc conversion to TeX, EPUB, or Typst. This uses Lua filters that are defined in the `manifest.toml` file.
3. Run XeLaTeX on all TeX templates, Typst on all Typst templates, and so on.

Say you were to add a new conversion type. In `converters.rs`, you'd need to add a new function that handles the full conversion. Including handling lua filters, markdown conversion, so on. This converter function has to then be included in our conversion decision logic in `conversion\decider.rs`. And for that you need to add a new `TemplateType`, which includes editing the implementations. Then you need to add the new template type decision logic to `get\_template\_type\_from\_path`.

### 5.3 PRESETS

**NOTE:** This is a bit of a niche usecase, so documentation is lacking. You can always ask for help on this in a GitHub issue.

You can also add new presets, but that's a bit more involved. You should check the implementation for the existing presets, I don't think it's useful to document this niche usecase for now.

### 5.4 MANIFEST

Hope you don't have to change the `manifest.toml` file. If you do, change the manifest model, increase the version number in `consts.rs` and add a upgrade logic to `manifest\model.rs`.

## 5.5 TESTS

Currently primarily integration tests. See the `tests` folder for examples. Any pull request to main will automatically run tests, and the expectation is that at least the existing tests work. If they break, fix your code or, if you changed behavior on purpose, the tests.

I appreciate it if you add test coverage for your changes. I especially would appreciate more unit tests, but the tests I have are sufficient for now. Integration tests take priority over unit tests for me, as the overall behavior is more important to me than the individual functions, and I only have so much time that I want to spend on this project.

## 5.6 DOCUMENTATION

When changing the documentation, it is of utmost importance that the documentation outputs are correctly generated. *These are not automatically generated on release* but rather held in git to more easily track changes during a pull request.

To make sure this documentation is up to date, consider whether your changes significantly affect the workflow of using TiefDownConverter. If you add a command or flag, make sure to run `tools/generate\_docs.py`. Either way, when changing the documentation, always run `tiefdownconverter convert -p docs` before committing the changes.

**You need to have the fonts EB Garamond, and Iosevka installed!** If you don't, we cannot accept documentation changes. TiefDownConverter will throw a warning should the fonts not be installed. **The warning about Fira Mono missing is normal. This is the fallback font and not a requirement to compile the documentation**

## 5.7 CODE STYLE

I don't have one. I'm sorry.