

TCG Markdown User's Guide

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Contact: admin@trustedcomputinggroup.org

DRAFT

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CHANGE HISTORY

Revision	Date	Description
0.1/1	2023/12/17	Initial draft

DOCUMENT STYLE

Key Words

The key words “MUST,” “MUST NOT,” “REQUIRED,” “SHALL,” “SHALL NOT,” “SHOULD,” “SHOULD NOT,” “RECOMMENDED,” “MAY,” and “OPTIONAL” in this document’s normative statements are to be interpreted as described in [RFC 2119: Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels](#).

Statement Type

Please note an important distinction between different sections of text throughout this document. There are two distinctive kinds of text: *informative comments* and *normative statements*. Because most of the text in this specification will be of the kind *normative statements*, the authors have informally defined it as the default and, as such, have specifically called out text of the kind *informative comment*. They have done this by flagging the beginning and end of each informative comment and highlighting its text in gray. This means that unless text is specifically marked as of the kind *informative comment*, it can be considered a *normative statement*.

EXAMPLE:

Start of informative comment

This is the first paragraph of 1–n paragraphs containing text of the kind informative comment ...

This is the second paragraph of text of the kind informative comment ...

This is the nth paragraph of text of the kind informative comment ...

To understand the TCG specification, the user must read the specification. (This use of MUST does not require any action).

End of informative comment

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1. Scope and Purpose

The purpose of this guide is to demonstrate the usage of Markdown-plus-GitHub document-authorship flows for TCG workgroup usage.

This document contains a boilerplate section at the front called [Document Style](#). This section is typically included in TCG Specifications and isn't as relevant for Guidance and Reference documents. It's included here, mainly to demonstrate the usage of Markdown for specifications.

2. Getting Started

2.1. Creating a Repository

You can create a repository from scratch, or you can use [the template repository](#) to get started a little more quickly. There's a little green “Use this template” button in the top right (see Figure 1).

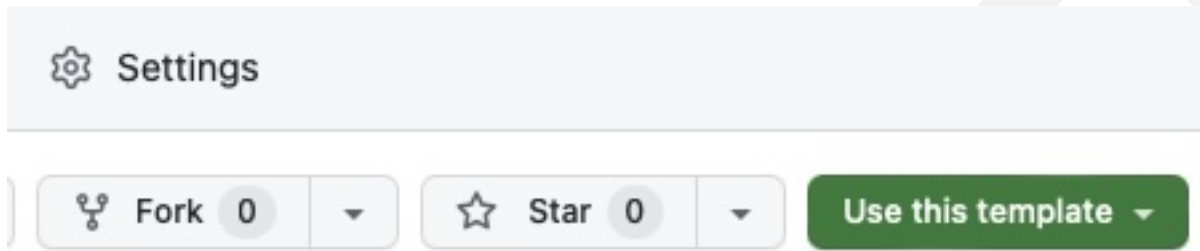


Figure 1: The “Use this template” button

2.2. GitHub Actions

Even if you used the template repository, please double-check this. As the tools are being actively developed, there is probably a newer version of the tools available for you!

`.github/workflows/main.yml` might look a bit like this:

```
# Render the spec to PDF on pull requests, and check in the rendered PDF on commits
# to main.
```

```
name: Render
```

```
on:
```

```
  push:
```

```
    branches:
```

```
      - main
```

```
  pull_request:
```

```
  workflow_dispatch:
```

```
jobs:
```

```
  render:
```

```
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
```

```
    # This Docker container contains all the Pandoc dependencies for rendering TCG
    # Markdown docs.
```

```
    container:
```

```
      # IMPORTANT: Check https://github.com/TrustedComputingGroup/pandoc/releases
      # for the latest!
```

```
      image: ghcr.io/trustedcomputinggroup/pandoc:0.6.2
```

```
    name: Render PDF
```

```
    steps:
```

```
      - name: Checkout
```

```
        uses: actions/checkout@v3
```

```
      - name: Render
```

```
        # This GitHub action provides an easy way to use the Docker container above
        # with your document.
```

```
        # IMPORTANT: Check https://github.com/TrustedComputingGroup/markdown/releases
        # for the latest!
```

```
        uses: trustedcomputinggroup/markdown@v0.4.0
```

```
        with:
```

```
          input-md: main.md
```

```
          output-pdf: spec.pdf
```

```
          output-docx: spec.docx
```

```
      - name: Upload samples
```

```
        # This GitHub action uploads samples into the "Checks" tab (for pull requests),
        # so that reviewers can easily see how a proposed change will look in the
        # finished spec.
```

```
        uses: actions/upload-artifact@master
```

```
        with:
```

```
          name: preview
```

```
          path: |
```

```
            spec.pdf
```

```
            spec.docx
```

```
      - name: Check in latest render
```

```
        # This GitHub action automatically renders and checks-in the PDF produced in
        # the above step. This makes it easier for people to grab the latest rendered
        # version of the document.
```

```
uses: stefanzweifel/git-auto-commit-action@v4
with:
  commit_message: Generate latest PDF
  file_pattern: spec.pdf
if: github.event_name != 'pull_request'
```

2.3. TCG Document Boilerplate

There are several sections that are recommended for use in every TCG Markdown document.

The trickiest section is the YAML front matter at the very top of the Markdown file. It looks like this:

```
\newpage
title: "TCG Markdown User's Guide"
version: 0.1
revision: 1
date: 12/17/2023
type: GUIDANCE
status: DRAFT
...
```

This section provides metadata to the tools.

2.3.1. Front Matter Variables

2.3.1.1. title

REQUIRED.

title is the title of the document.

2.3.1.2. version

REQUIRED.

version is the version of the document.

2.3.1.3. revision

REQUIRED.

revision is the revision of the document.

2.3.1.4. date

REQUIRED.

date is the full date of the document, in YYYY/MM/DD form.

2.3.1.5. type

REQUIRED.

type should be one of: "SPECIFICATION", "GUIDANCE", or "REFERENCE". It appears on the title page on the left-hand side.

2.3.1.6. status

REQUIRED.

status should be one of: "DRAFT", or "PUBLISHED".

If it is "DRAFT", then a gray watermark "DRAFT" will appear on all pages after the title page.

2.3.1.7. **template**

OPTIONAL.

template should be one of: greentop, bluetop. It customizes the title page style. If not provided, greentop is the current default.

Typically, specifications use the greentop template, and guidance or reference documents use the bluetop template.

2.3.2. **Backslash Macros**

Understanding of LaTeX is not required in order to use TCG Markdown tools. However, a few special macros can be used from Markdown to fully specify a TCG document.

2.3.2.1. **Table of Contents**

After the boilerplate sections, most TCG documents should set up the tables of contents, and lists of tables and figures.

```
\tableofcontents
```

```
\listoftables
```

```
\listoffigures
```

Almost every document should have a table of contents. Some documents may not need lists of tables or figures.

2.3.2.2. **Appendices**

At the end of the last “regular” section of the document, use

```
\beginappendices
```

to mark the transition to the “Appendix” portion of the document. Only documents that have appendices are expected to use this macro.

3. Collaboration Model

Users familiar with Git and who prefer to use their own tools may choose to skip this section.

As visualized above, proposed changes to a GitHub Markdown repository take the form of “Pull Requests” (PRs). A *proposer* of a change proposes a PR that changes some files in the repository. This PR contains an initial *commit*, which is a unit of change to files. *Reviewers* can provide comments and suggestions on the proposed edits. The *proposer* can respond to the feedback by adding additional *commits* into their PR. When all parties are satisfied, the PR is *approved* and *merged* into the main repository.

3.1. Sending a Pull Request

When you navigate to a GitHub repository containing Markdown, you can view the Markdown files by clicking on them.

From this view, there is an “Edit” (pencil) button in the upper right-hand corner, pictured in Figure 2:

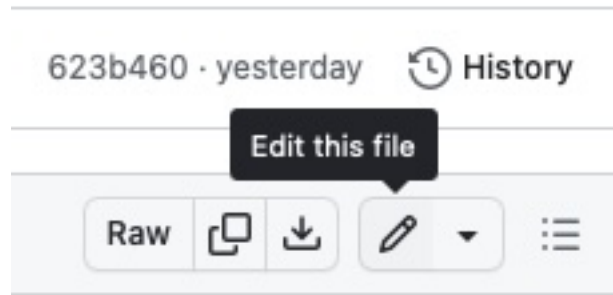


Figure 2: GitHub Edit Button

This will take you to a view where you can edit the file. There is a “Preview” button that you can use to see roughly how the changes will look when viewed from GitHub. Most everyday changes to TCG docs can be previewed in high enough fidelity with this tool.

When you’re satisfied with your changes, use the green “Commit changes...” button. This will bring up the dialog box pictured in Figure 3:

Propose changes

Commit message

Update "Sending a Pull Request"

Extended description

The "Sending a Pull Request" section contains several typos. This change fixes them, and introduces some helpful diagrams to reinforce the concepts.

Commit Email

cfenn@google.com

☐ Commit directly to the main branch

☒ Create a new branch for this commit and start a pull request

[Learn more about pull requests](#)

fix-sending-pull-request

Cancel

Propose changes

Figure 3: Propose Changes Dialog

Include a descriptive commit message, extended description, and new branch name for your change, then click the green "Propose changes" button.

You're almost done! This will take you to a page called "Open a pull request". You can provide some additional context to reviewers about why you want to make this change. When you're satisfied, click "Create pull request."

3.2. Reviewing a Pull Request

After a PR has been sent by someone else, you can review the changes with the “Add your review” button in the upper right-hand corner of the change description page.

This button takes you to a review flow, where you can provide comments on individual lines of the changes. You can leave a comment on an individual line by mousing over the line and clicking the blue “+” button, which looks like Figure 4:

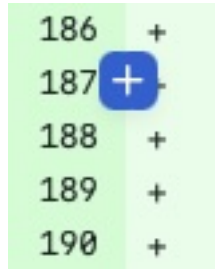


Figure 4: Plus Button

After you’ve gone through all the changed files and provided your comments, you can click “Review changes” to finish the review. This dialog looks like Figure 5:

Finish your review

Write

Preview

H

B

I

≡

<>

🔗

≡

≡

≡

📎

@

📧

↩

This looks good to me!

Nit: I've pointed out some minor typos.

📄 Markdown is supported

📎 Paste, drop, or click to add files

☐ **Comment**

Submit general feedback without explicit approval.

☒ **Approve**

Submit feedback and approve merging these changes.

☐ **Request changes**

Submit feedback that must be addressed before merging.

Submit review

Figure 5: Finish Review

Here, you can provide summary comments and mark your review as one of:

- Comment (Just providing feedback)
- Approve (Approving the changes)
- Request changes (Explicitly not approving the changes, with specific actionable feedback)

4. Using Markdown

Markdown is intended to be a lightweight language for authoring documents. Most of the time, it looks exactly the same as plain text.

4.1. Basic Formatting

The structure of the document is guided by lines that begin with #:

Section Titles

Subsection Titles

Sub-subsection Titles

and so on.

When you put `*asterisks*` around a word, it renders as *italics*.

When you put `**double asterisks**` around a word, it renders as **boldface**.

When you put ``backticks`` around a word, it renders as monospace.

To force a new page, use `---`. This will appear as a horizontal line in GitHub and a page break in the PDF.

When you need to write math, use `$` dollar signs `$` for inline math notation, or `$$` double dollar signs `$$` for equations. This is explained in more detail in [Clause 7](#).

Numbered and bulleted lists begin with numbers and asterisks:

- * Something
- * Something else

1. First thing
2. Second thing

Becomes:

- Something
 - Something else
1. First thing
 2. Second thing

Hyperlink syntax for the [TCG Website](#) looks like: `[TCG Website](https://trustedcomputinggroup.org)`.

Hyperlink syntax for the [Using Markdown](#) section looks like: `[Using Markdown](#using-markdown)`. If you provided a stable cross-referencing link like this document for [Cross-References](#), you can use it like: `[Cross-References](#sec:cross-references)`.

You can use triple backticks like so to create blocks of code:

```
```  
int i = 42;
```
```

The result looks like this:

```
int i = 42;
```

You can tell Markdown what language the code is in, to get syntax highlighting:

```
```c  
// Awesome!
int i = 42;
```
```

The result looks like this:

```
// Awesome!  
int i = 42;
```

4.2. Cross-References

In general, sections, tables, figures, and equations can be referenced using the `@` symbol. These cross-references do not show up in the GitHub markdown, but will appear in the final document.

4.2.1. Sections

When you add `{#sec:section-reference}` at the end of a section title, as in:

```
## Cross-References {#sec:cross-references}
```

it creates a cross-reference that you can use with `@sec:section-reference`. For example, `@sec:cross-references` [Clause 4.2](#).

4.2.2. Tables

See Clause 6 for more information about cross-references to tables.

4.2.3. Figures

See Clause 5 for more information about cross-references to figures.

4.2.4. Equations

See Clause 7 for more information about cross-references to equations.

4.3. Informative Blocks

TCG uses a special visual style to demarcate informative non-binding remarks within specifications.

We use the Markdown “quote block” for this purpose. A quote looks like this:

```
> This is the only informative text block in this document.
>
> These blocks can contain multiple paragraphs, tied together by lines containing just
> ">".
>
> These blocks can even contain tables! However, be wary of providing tables that are
> too large in an Informative Text block.
>
**Document Type**	**Informative Blocks**
> | SPECIFICATION | Usually |
> | GUIDANCE | Rarely |
> | REFERENCE | Rarely |
```

The above Markdown code becomes:

Start of informative comment

This is the only informative text block in this document.

These blocks can contain multiple paragraphs, tied together by lines containing just “>”.

These blocks can even contain tables! However, be wary of providing tables that are too large in an Informative Text block.

| Document Type | Informative Blocks |
|---------------|--------------------|
| SPECIFICATION | Usually |
| GUIDANCE | Rarely |
| REFERENCE | Rarely |

End of informative comment

5. Figures

There are two ways to include a figure in a document: as an image file checked into the repository, and as a [Mermaid](#) diagram.

5.1. Images

Upload plain image files into the repository with the “Add file” button.

For compatibility reasons, all image files should be in the root of the repository (main directory). In the future, better support for organizing figures may be added to these tools.

See [Clause 3.1](#) for the flow that needs to be followed for getting your image uploads reviewed. You can add more changes to the branch for the PR that reference the image, or you can do it in a subsequent PR.

Markdown syntax for including an image looks like `![Figure Title](filename)`. For example:

`![Adding an Image](add_plus_button.jpg){#fig:add-plus-button}`

becomes:

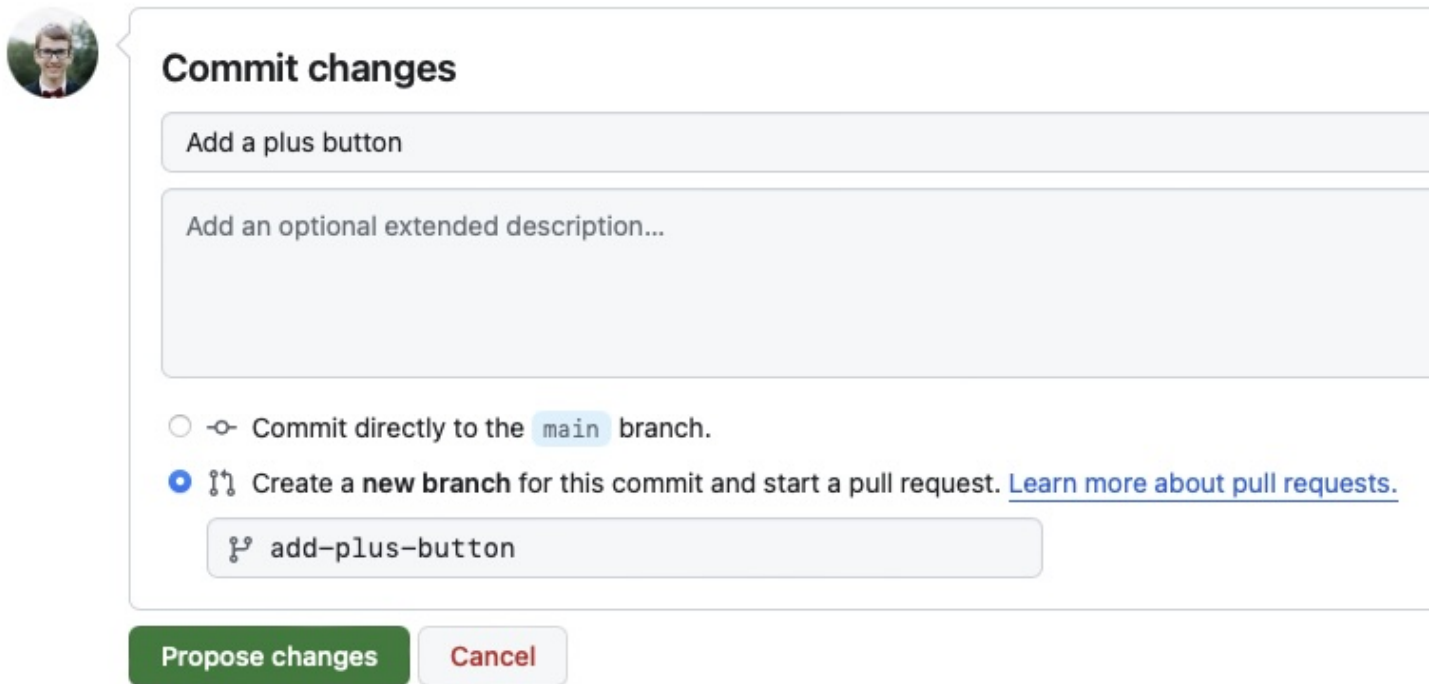


Figure 6: Adding an Image

The `{#fig:add-plus-button}` attribute (note there are no spaces between the `)` and the `{!}`) does two things:

1. Includes the figure in the List of Figures (if you used `\listoffigures` as described in [Clause 2.3.2.1](#)).
2. Numbers the figure so you can reference it as [Figure 6](#) by just typing `@fig:add-plus-button`.

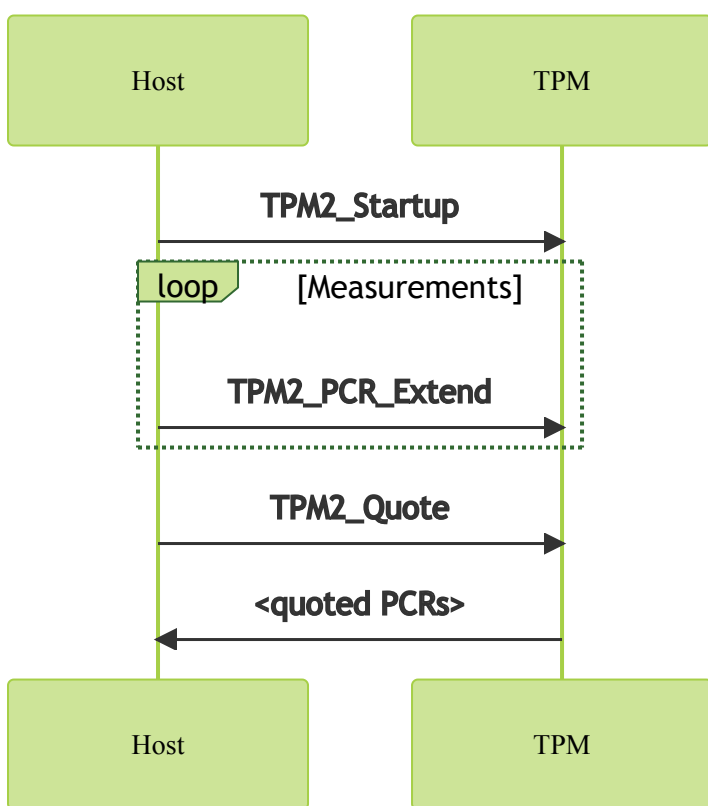
5.2. Mermaid Charts

[Mermaid](#) is a language for text-based diagrams for inclusion in Markdown documents. See the Mermaid website for a more exhaustive list of types of diagrams.

5.2.1. Sequence Diagrams

Mermaid supports swim-lane diagrams like the below with the following notation:

```
```mermaid {caption="Startup Sequence"}
sequenceDiagram
Host->>TPM: TPM2_Startup
loop Measurements
 Host->>TPM: TPM2_PCR_Extend
end
Host->>TPM: TPM2_Quote
TPM-->>Host: <quoted PCRs>
```
```

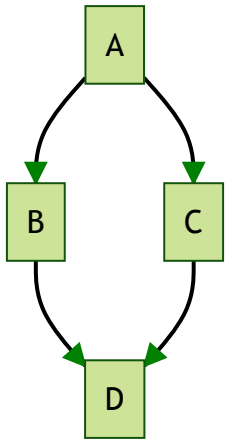


Crossreferences to Mermaid diagrams are not currently supported.

5.2.2. Flow Charts

Mermaid supports flow-charts like the below with the following notation:

```
```mermaid {caption="Flowchart"}
graph TD;
 A-->B;
 A-->C;
 B-->D;
 C-->D;
```
```



6. Tables

We support two notation styles for tables: Markdown and HTML.

6.1. Markdown Tables

Small, simple tables like Table ?? are easier to read in raw Markdown form in the following style:

Table: Shapes {#tbl:shapes}

| **Shape** | **Number of sides** |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Square | 4 |
| Triangle | 3 |
| Möbius strip | 1 |

Table 3: Shapes {#tbl:shapes}

| Shape | Number of sides |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Square | 4 |
| Triangle | 3 |
| Möbius strip | 1 |

Note the table caption and cross-reference in curly braces above the table.

6.2. HTML Tables

For larger, or more complex tables like Table 4, it may be preferable to use HTML. If you want to make table cells span rows or columns, this is the only way to do it.

```
<table id="tbl:fruits">
  <caption>Fruits</caption>
  <tr>
    <th colspan="2">Color and Fruit</th>
    <th>Mistaken for Vegetable</th>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td>Red</td>
    <td rowspan="2">Apple</td>
    <td>No</td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td>Green</td>
    <td>No</td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td>Red</td>
    <td>Tomato</td>
    <td>Yes</td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td>Yellow</td>
    <td>Banana</td>
    <td>No</td>
  </tr>
</table>
```

The above HTML table becomes the below:

Table 4: Fruits

Color and Fruit		Mistaken for Vegetable
Red	Apple	No
Green		No
Red	Tomato	Yes
Yellow	Banana	No

Note the table caption in the `<caption>` element, and the table cross-reference in the `id` attribute of the `<table>` element.

7. Math

Markdown supports inline math notation. For example, Equation 1 can be typeset as:

```
$$ \nexists {n \ge 3; a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}} \mid a^n + b^n = c^n $$ {#eq:fermat}
```

Note the `{#eq:fermat}` at the end of the equation. This allows referencing Equation 1 with `@eq:fermat`.

$$\nexists n \geq 3; a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z} \mid a^n + b^n = c^n \tag{1}$$

Sometimes, you just need a little inline math in the middle of a sentence, like with $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ to get $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$.

Appendices

A. Reporting Issues with the Tools

Please report issues with the tooling at <https://github.com/TrustedComputingGroup/pandoc/issues>.