Pandoc

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Pandoc Configurations

Using Pandoc in Visual Studio Code

Prerequisites

1. Install VScode Insiders or VScode.
2. Install Pandoc.
3. Install LaTeX.
4. Install LaTeX language support VScode extension. (Recommended)
5. Install Skim. (Recommended)

Configurations

- Pandoc Templates

  1. Templates can be found from online websites and repositories like pandoc-templates.
  2. Use `pandoc --data-dir <data directory>` to specify the location of the templates, template files should be placed in `<data directory>/templates`. Use `pandoc --template <template name>` to specify which template to use. For more details, see Pandoc User's Guide.
  3. Use `pandoc <markdown_file.md> -o <pdf_file.pdf>` to generate a pdf file `<pdf_file.pdf>` from a markdown file `<markdown_file.md>`.

- VScode

  1. Open the Command Palette (Ctrl+Shift+P on Windows or Command+Shift+P on Mac), search for "Preference: Configure User Snippets" and click "markdown.json".
  2. Add a custom header. For example:

```
"header": {
```

```
    "prefix": "header",
    "body": [
        "---",
        "title: $TM_FILENAME_BASE",
        "date: $CURRENT_YEAR-$CURRENT_MONTH-$CURRENT_DATE",
        "author: <author>",
        "geometry: \"left=3cm,right=3cm,top=2cm,bottom=2cm\"",
        "---"
    ]
}
```

Open the Command Palette (Ctrl+Shift+P on Windows or Command+Shift+P on Mac), search for "Preference: Open Settings (JSON)" and click it. Add configurations:

```
"[markdown]": {
    "editor.quickSuggestions": true
}
```

Then, when editing any markdown file in the editor, type "header"+Enter to generate the header automatically.

3. Add customized tasks, open the Command Palette (Ctrl+Shift+P on Windows or Command+Shift+P on Mac), search and click "Tasks: Configure Task", add tasks into the json file. For example:

```
"tasks": [
    {
        "label": "pandoc-md-pdf",
        "type": "shell",
        "command": "pandoc",
        "args": [
            "${file}",
            "-o",
            "${fileDirname}/${fileBasenameNoExtension}.pdf",
            "--from",
            "markdown",
            "--listings",
            "--template",
            "<template path>"
        ]
    },
    {
        "label": "pandoc-md-pdf-open",
        "type": "shell",
        "command": "open",
        "args": [
            "${fileDirname}/${fileBasenameNoExtension}.pdf"
        ],
        "dependsOn": [
            "pandoc-md-pdf"
        ],
        "group": {
```

```
            "kind": "build",
            "isDefault": true
        },
        "problemMatcher": []
    }
]
```

4. Run the task by opening the Command Palette (Ctrl+Shift+P on Windows or Command+Shift+P on Mac), search for "Task: Run Task" and click the task created.

- Skim (PDF viewer)

    1. Skim provides automatic reloading feature, which is useful in editing markdown files.
    2. Go to Skim -> Preferences -> Sync
    3. Check "Check for file changes" and "Reload automatically" options.