



**DOCUMENT
ENGINEERING**

CMPSC 104 – Document Engineering

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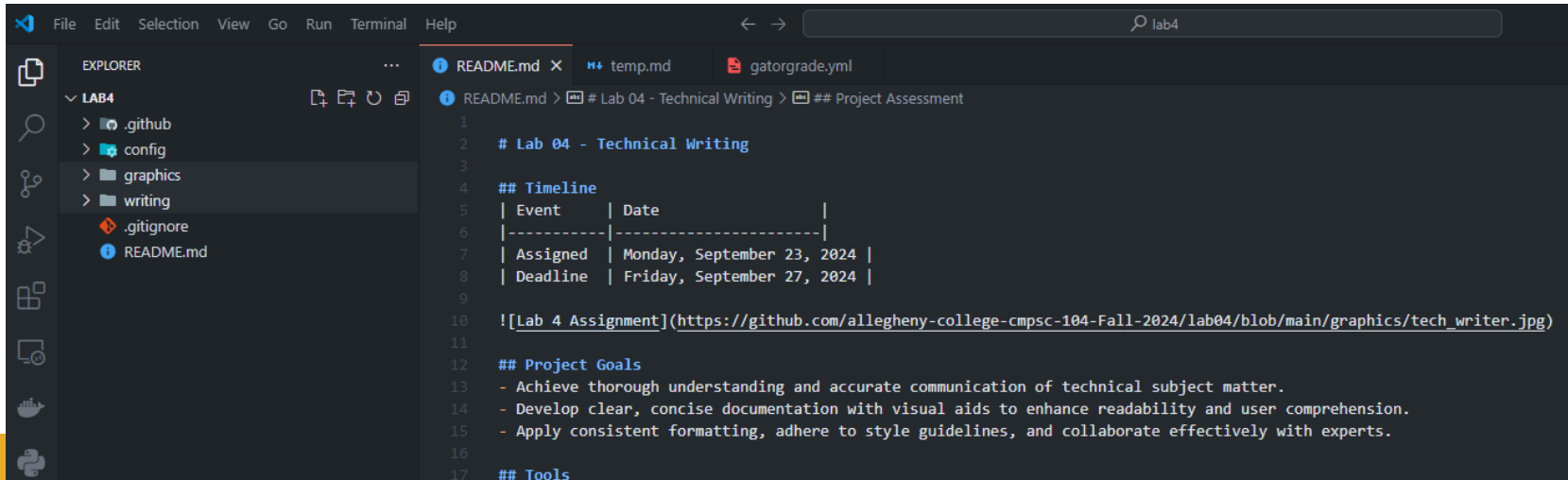


ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

Overview

What is Markdown?

Markdown is a lightweight markup language designed for simplicity, allowing users to format plain text with easy-to-read syntax, such as using # for headings and ** for bold text (e.g., **bold**).



The screenshot shows a code editor with a dark theme. The Explorer panel on the left shows a file structure for 'LAB4' with folders like '.github', 'config', 'graphics', and 'writing', and files like '.gitignore' and 'README.md'. The main editor area displays a Markdown file with the following content:

```
1
2 # Lab 04 - Technical Writing
3
4 ## Timeline
5 | Event | Date |
6 |-----|-----|
7 | Assigned | Monday, September 23, 2024 |
8 | Deadline | Friday, September 27, 2024 |
9
10 ![Lab 4 Assignment](https://github.com/allegHENY-college-cmpsc-104-Fall-2024/lab04/blob/main/graphics/tech_writer.jpg)
11
12 ## Project Goals
13 - Achieve thorough understanding and accurate communication of technical subject matter.
14 - Develop clear, concise documentation with visual aids to enhance readability and user comprehension.
15 - Apply consistent formatting, adhere to style guidelines, and collaborate effectively with experts.
16
17 ## Tools
```

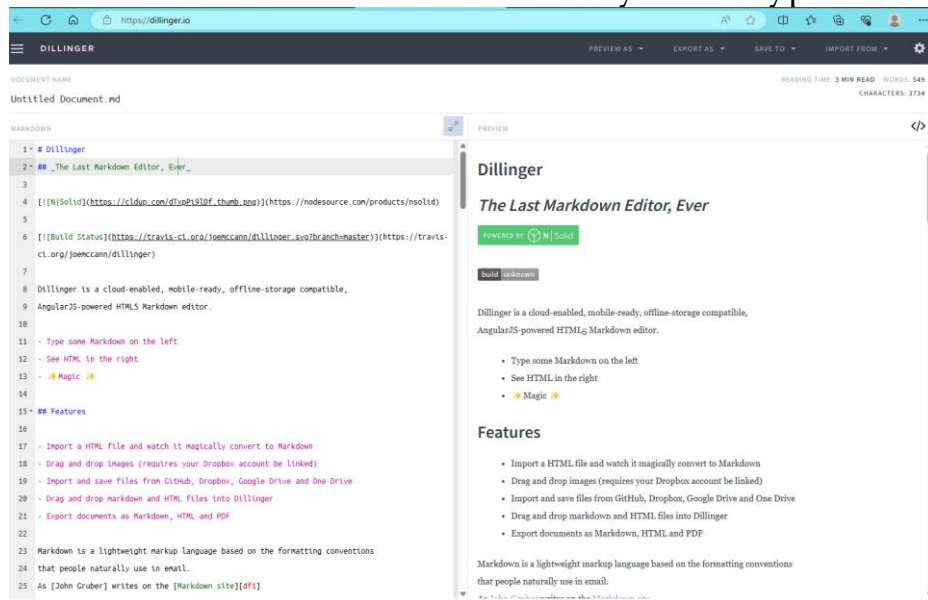
Overview

Why Use Markdown?

- Versatile: Use it for anything from websites to presentations. (websites, documents, notes, books, presentations, email messages, and technical documentation.)
- Portable: Works across all apps and devices. Easy to switch between Markdown apps without losing data.
- Universal: Compatible with any operating system.
- Future-Proof: Your files remain readable forever, even if the app you use stops working.
- Widely Accepted: Supported on major platforms like Reddit and GitHub.

Getting Started with Markdown

To start using Markdown, try it online without downloading anything. For example, use Dillinger (<https://dillinger.io/>), a free online Markdown editor where you can type on the left side and see a preview on the right.



How Does it Work?

- Markdown text is saved in files with an .md or .markdown extension.
- A Markdown application processes the file, converting the Markdown-formatted text into HTML, suitable for web browsers or print-ready documents.
- Markdown applications use something called a Markdown processor (also commonly referred to as a “parser” or an “implementation”) to take the Markdown-formatted text and output it to HTML format or convert it to another file format, like PDF.

What's Markdown Good For?

- Markdown is ideal for note-taking, creating web content, and producing print-ready documents.
- The Markdown syntax is simple to pick up, allowing for widespread use across various applications.
- Used for everything from web content and email messages to grocery lists.

Websites

Markdown is especially useful for creating website content.

- Blot.im (<https://blot.im/>) allows you to easily convert Markdown files to a website by dragging them into a Dropbox folder.
- Jekyll (<https://jekyllrb.com>) is a powerful static site generator that integrates with GitHub Pages for free hosting.
- Ghost (<https://ghost.org/>) offers a free, open-source blogging platform with Markdown support.

Documents

Here are some Markdown document authoring applications I recommend:

- **Mac:** [MacDown](#), [iA Writer](#), or [Marked 2](#)
- **iOS / Android:** [iA Writer](#)
- **Windows:** [ghostwriter](#) or [Markdown Monster](#)
- **Linux:** [ReText](#) or [ghostwriter](#)
- **Web:** [Dillinger](#) or [StackEdit](#)

Reference and Resources

- Markdown guide (<https://www.markdownguide.org/getting-started/>)
- [John Gruber's Markdown documentation](#). The original guide written by the creator of Markdown.
- [Markdown Tutorial](#). An open source website that allows you to try Markdown in your web browser.
- [Awesome Markdown](#). A list of Markdown tools and learning resources.
- [Typesetting Markdown](#). A multi-part series that describes an ecosystem for typesetting Markdown documents using [pandoc](#) and [ConTeXt](#).