# Breaking Down Barriers

Using Docsify-This As an Entry Point to Markdown Open Publishing

bit.ly/otessa-2024-docsify-this

Paul Hibbitts
hibbittsdesign.org
@@hibbittsdesign@mastodon.social



Except for embedded third-party content

©iStockphoto.com/xijian

### **Session Topics**

- 1. Open Content Format Considerations
- 2. Markdown
- 3. Docsify-This
- 4. Hosting Markdown Files
- 5. Interactive Demo
- Online Activities!

# 1. Open Content Format Considerations

### **Open Content Format Considerations**

- Support for the 5 Rs
  - For example, is content reusable across different platforms?
- Content editing tools
  - For example, are there Web and/or desktop editing options?
- Publishing workflows
  - For example, how is raw content turned into Web pages?
- Collaboration and version control potential
  - For example, can content revisions be managed?

# 2. Markdown

### What is Markdown?

Markdown is a syntax to format the display of content stored as plain text - similar but simpler than HTML formatting

# Markdown Examples

spaces after the end of the line

```
# Your H1 Text Here
## Your H2 Text Here
your italic text here
**your bold text here**
* your unordered list item here
  1. your numbered (and indented) list item here
[link title](https://www.google.com)
![Image Alt Text](imagefile.jpg)
Tip: To ensure a new paragraph after text in markdown, put two
```

### Why Markdown?

- √ System-independent
- ✓ Text-only (future proof and perfect for version control!)
- √ Separation of content vs. presentation
- ✓ Human-readable (i.e. more than HTML)
- ✓ Can also contain HTML snippets

### **Example HTML Snippets**

```
<div style="text-align: center;">
# This h1 Header is Centered
</div>
<details>
   <summary>Content title</summary>
   This content can be <em>shown/hidden</em>.
</details>
```

### **Publishing with Markdown**

- Markdown Converters
  - For example, Pandoc (pandoc.org)
- Markdown Static Site Builders
  - For example, Jekyll (jekyllrb.com)
- Markdown Dynamic Renderers
  - For example, Docsify (docsify.js.org)

How can we make publishing open

content with Markdown easier?

# 3. Docsify-This

### **Docsify-This**

Docsify-This is an open source Web app, built using the Docsify Open Publishing Kit, that can instantly turn online Markdown files into web pages

# **Docsify-This Core Design Principles**

- 1. Frictionless Markdown publishing
- 2. Flexible content display handling
- 3. Your content, your control
- 4. Support the 5 Rs of OER
- 5. Authors helping other authors

# Publishing Markdown Content with Docsify-This

- 1. Create or view a Markdown file on GitHub, Codeberg or a Webserver and copy that URL
- Go to Docsify-This.net, paste the URL into the Markdown File URL field, and tap the Publish as a Standalone Web Page button
- 3. That's it, there is no step 3!





① + ©



#### Instantly Turn Online Markdown Files into Web Pages

This open-source web app, built with the magical documentation site generator <u>Docsify</u>, provides a quick way to publish one or more online <u>Markdown</u> files as standalone web pages without needing to set up your own website. Try it out below!



#### All About Docsify-This

- What Problem Does Docsify-This Solve?
- Docsify-This Core Design Principles
- How Docsify-This Works
- Read What People are Saying about Docsify-This
- Example Content Workflows
- Ready-to-Use Docsify-This Markdown Templates
   Additional Docsify-This Markdown Examples and Templates
- Page Appearance URL Parameters
- Embedding Docsify-This Pages into Other Platforms



Published by Docsify-This













Docsify can generate article, portfolio and documentation websites on the fly. Unlike Docusaurus, Hugo and many other Static Site Generators (SSG), it does not generate static html files. Instead, it smartly loads and parses your Markdown content files and displays them as a website.

#### Introduction

Markdown is a system-independent markup language that is easier to learn and use than HTML.



Figure 1: The Markdown Mark

Some of the key benefits are:

- 1. Markdown is simple to learn, with minimal extra characters, so it's also quicker to write content.
- 2. Less chance of errors when writing in markdown.

2 Produces valid VHTML output

### **Example Docsify-This URL**

```
https://docsify-this.net/?basePath=https://raw.githubusercontent.com/hibbitts-design/docsify-this-one-page-article/main&homepage=home.md
```







#### > Scenario

- > Overview
- > How Learning Works
- > Prior Knowledge
- > Organise Knowledge
- > Motivation
- > Mastery
- > Feedback and Practice
- > Climate of the Course
- > Metacognition
- > Summary

#### Scenario

≡

Students don't seem to understand the material in my course. They just don't get it! For some reason they seem to miss the mark in my exams each year no matter what I try to do to prepare them. They seem disinterested and distracted. I want them to understand the relevance and enthusiasm I feel for my content, but I'm out of ideas on how to get through to them.



Direct Link: How do I become a teacher For learning?





4. Hosting Markdown Files

### **Hosting Markdown Files**

- GitHub or Codeberg
  - a. Signup for a GitHub or Codeberg account
  - b. Make a new repository, and create or upload your Markdown file
  - c. View the Markdown file, and copy/paste that URL into the Docsify-This Markdown File URL field
- Gist (GitHub Gists)
- Personal or Organizational Webhost

# Time for Questions & Discussion

- What we've covered so far
  - Open content format considerations
  - Markdown
  - Docsify-This
  - Hosting Markdown files
- Coming up
  - Interactive demo

# 5. Interactive Demo

# 6. Online Activities!

bit.ly/otessa-2024-docsify-this

### **Next Steps**

### Markdown Guide

markdownguide.org

### Improving The Accessibility Of Your Markdown

■ smashingmagazine.com/2021/09/improving-accessibility-of-markdown

### OER on GitHub What, Why, & How (also applies to Codeberg)

evanwill.github.io/make-oer

### Markdown Desktop Editors

- code.visualstudio.com
- typora.io

### GitHub Desktop App (can also be used with Codeberg)

desktop.github.com

### Thank You! Questions?

### Contact info

- Web: hibbittsdesign.org
- Email: paul@hibbittsdesign.org

### OTESSA 2024 online workshop materials

■ bit.ly/otessa-2024-docsify-this (incl. these slides)

### Docsify-This

- Web App: docsify-this.net
- Publishing Guide: publishing.docsify-this.net

Want to host your own Docsify website? Check out my Docsify Starter Kits!

■ github.com/hibbitts-design

### Online Activities for Participants

- 1. Display a Markdown file (given its URL) as a standalone Web page
- 2. Display a Markdown file (of the participants' choice) as a standalone Web page
- 3. Visually style a displayed Markdown file using the Web Page Builder
- 4. Share the URL of a Web page created by Docsify-This Web Page Builder
- 5. Decode the URL parameters of a raw Docsify-This Web Page URL
- 6. Change the visual style of a Web page created by Docsify-This using URL parameters (and not the Web Page Builder)
- 7. Access the Docsify-This Advanced Web Page Builder
- 8. Using the Advanced Web Page Builder, display a collection of Markdown files as a standalone Website (given the homepage URL) using a custom Docsify Sidebar

### Stretch Goal Online Activity for Participants

Create a Markdown file on either GitHub.com or Codeberg.org and display it with Docsify-This