# TITLE

#### NAME

#### March 24, 2016

# Description

This set of scripts help convert the output of Rmd or md files to docx files. It is done by creating a clean html file, opening and saving the html to docx in Microsoft Word.

The workhorse scripts are:

* makefile
* html2docx.sh

These can be changed to convert any Rmd file but with some caveats outlined below. In this repo, the scripts convert example.Rmd to example.docx.

The output files are:

* example.html
* example.md
* example.docx

Optional support files are:

* chicago-author-date.csl
* bibliography.bib

These files are listed to show that folks can cite references (useful for academics).

# Requirements

1. Microsoft Word for Mac in your Applications folder. This has been built and testing using Microsfot Word for Mac, Version 15.20.
2. R with packages rmarkdown and knitr.
3. An understanding of how to use GNU Make and terminal commands.

# How to Use

There are two options for going from Rmd to docx.

If you look at the makefile, the first is option is all and the second is alt.

## Option 1: all

Although one can knit an html file from a Rmd file—letting knitr run the pandoc step—there is a caveat.

yaml option self\_contained **must** be false. Otherwise, Microsoft Word will crash during the html to docx conversion. Keep in mind that this is the default option for rmarkdown.

Also, it doesn’t matter if keep\_md: true. I just prefer to have the .md regardless of what I’m doing. Basically, you want to make sure the final html file produce is as simple and clean as possible.

## Option 2: alt

You cannot convert a self contained (aka standalone) html file to a docx. (At least I’ve found that it always crashes.) If you want the option to have a standalone html file, then you must enable the following yaml options in the Rmd file:

1. self\_contained: true
2. keep\_md: true

One then runs, in order, the following make commands

1. make alt
2. make rmd

make alt will knit a standalone html file but also produce a .md file. It will then take the .md file and produce a clean (not self contained) html file using pandoc, replacing the standalone html file. The .sh script will then take the clean html file and create a docx file.

make rmd will then knit the standalone html file, replacing the clean html file.

It’s a little hackish, but it allows you to create a docx AND keep a standalone html file.

**Note**: if you use option 2 and set the yaml date option to 'March 24, 2016', it will NOT convert. Only option 1 does this. Haven’t quite figured out how to do that for option 2. So, if you use option 2, you’ll have to fill in a date manually (e.g. date: March 1, 2016).

# Scripts makefile and html2docx.sh

A few things to note in these scripts. In it’s current state, both are set to run out directory ~/Github/rmarkdown2docx/. That is, a path searching my home directory and pathing to directory rmarkdown2docx (which is contained in directory Github). Apologies for being pedantic, but pathing tends to trip up novice users.

If you download this repo, change the main directory path in both the makefile and html2docx.sh files and then the makefile should run.

More specifically…

## makefile

In makefile change variable MAIN\_DIR to the path that contains the files in this repo (whether you fork or download):

MAIN\_DIR = ~/Github/rmarkdown2docx/ # CHANGE THIS. "~" SHOULD BE FINE.

FILE\_BASE\_NAME = example

CSL\_FILE = $(MAIN\_DIR)/chicago-author-date.csl # THIS CAN BE ANY PATH TO ANY CSL FILE

BIBLIO\_FILE = $(MAIN\_DIR)/bibliography.bib # SAME FOR ANY BIB FILE

## html2docx.sh

In html2docx.sh change variable base\_folder to the path that contains the html file you want to convert. If you change path to the fork or download of this repo, then it will search for file example.html and convert it to example.docx.

set base\_folder to "/Users/dnoriega/Github/rmarkdown2docx/" # CANNOT use "~". MUST BE FULL PATH. MUST END IN "/"

set file\_in to base\_folder & "example.html"

set file\_out to base\_folder & "example.docx"

When you first run the script, do not worry if Word asks for permissions. Once you give Word access to the folder and files, it should run just fine.

# Thanks

A special thanks to [Andrew Heiss](http://github.com/andrewheiss), from whom I’ve learned almost all I know about makefiles and converting markdown files to docx files.