

# **Plain Text Publishing User Guide**

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# Chapter 1

## Welcome to Plain Text Publishing

'ptp-tools' provides a (nearly) self-supported plain text to PDF, ePub, and HTML publication system.

Installation requires:

- pre-installation of Java
- pre-installation of Python
- creating a work directory
- copying ptp-tools to the work directory
- copying ptp-tools/template to the work directory
- using a plain text editor to tell the toolset where it is

You can then rename the template to that of the documentation you'll be creating and go to town.

To publish, open a terminal at the documentation directory and run `mk_bash.sh` or `mk_win.bat`. The results will be in the `output` directory.



# Chapter 2

## Structure

Library content consists of prose and “chunks”. Using inclusion, prose is intermixed with topical “chunks” to ultimately create a book or wiki. Books tend to take a linear approach to a topic, adding extra information to core units of information: exposition surrounding a “chunk” identified as a List, Task, Figure, Function, etc.

Documentation source directories and filenames are structured for human use:

- `_filename`
  - root document name is prefixed with an underscore.
  - assists in command line autocompletion.
  - file list placement tends to be consistently at the top or bottom
  - content mainly comprises top-level inclusions, ie. articles and chapters.
  - transformed to the ultimate deliverable: a PDF, HTML, EPub, etc.
- `filename`
  - no prefixed underscore.
  - not publishable from commandline.
  - content mainly comprises limited prose introducing mid-level inclusions, ie. chapters and sections.
  - may need to use macros to adjust inclusion title levels
- `directoryname`
  - contains fine-grained “chunks”.
  - for inclusion in mid-level content, ie. chapters and sections.
  - named to indicate content/relevance.
- `directoryname/filename`
  - topical “chunks”
  - content comprises prose and lower-level inclusions, ie. sections, lists, tables, etc.
  - content comprises lowest-level chunks, ie. List, Task, Figure, etc.
  - filenames to indicate content; avoid redundancy w/directory “chunk” category