

# panpdf readme

## What is panpdf?

**panpdf** is a command line tool for converting Markdown dialect files to CSS styled HTML or PDF. This lets you keep code highlighting, and makes the markdown look *like markdown* - and not like LaTeX (which is often great but not always ideal).

It has two steps:

- **panhtml**: Creates a standalone HTML with custom CSS, using **pandoc** and some shell scripting. The CSS is embedded in the HTML since I've had issues embedding local CSS in the HTML files in other ways. (Pull requests welcome!!)
- **panpdf**: Creates a PDF formatted by the CSS. Currently implemented using **cupsfilter**. If necessary, first converts the input to HTML.

There are other software which do the same thing - search online for **Markdown to PDF** and you'll find alternatives! :)

However, I tried several of these tools but couldn't get them to work reliably. So - I decided to make **panpdf**.

## How does the output look?

Since everything is formatted with CSS, it can look any way you want it to. Check out the [example\\_output folder \(example\\_output/README.pdf\)](#)!

## Installation

`panpdf` has these dependencies:

- UNIX-like OS
- [pandoc \(https://pandoc.org\)](https://pandoc.org) must be installed
- [cupsfilter \(https://www.cups.org/\)](https://www.cups.org/) must be installed

For a basic installation, run:

```
sudo ./install.sh
```

The scripts + CSS will then be installed in `/usr/local/panpdf/`, and symlinks for `panpdf`, `panhtml` will be added to `/usr/local/bin/`. `sudo` might be required due to folder creation in `/usr/local/` (it was for me atleast).

If you want, go ahead and modify the `config` file to choose your own install directory or CSS source URL. The config is interpreted as a shell script (`. config`), so don't modify the variable names. (I'm planning on adding a script to automate changing the config, eventually.)

The default CSS used is [this one \(https://github.com/eirikeve/Markdown-CSS\)](https://github.com/eirikeve/Markdown-CSS), which is a print-friendly version of [github.com/simonlc's Markdown-CSS \(https://github.com/simonlc/Markdown-CSS\)](https://github.com/simonlc/Markdown-CSS).

After the installation, `panhtml` and `panpdf` should be usable.

## Usage example

This is how the [pdf file in example\\_output \(example\\_output/README.pdf\)](#) was made.

```
eves@eves-mbp $ panpdf README.md && open README.pdf
```

This is how the [html file in example\\_output \(example\\_output/README.html\)](#) was made.

```
eves@eves-mbp $ panhtml README.md && open README.html
```

**Note:** For the example output html file to be displayed correctly, you'll need to download it (since github shows it as plaintext).

## Bugs?

There's probably a lot of bugs. Feel free to open an issue if you encounter one. Pull requests are also very welcome!

## Snippets for the example output

Just so a bit more is displayed in the example output, here's:

- a blockquote,
- some LaTeX ,
- and some `c` code.

This is a blockquote  
:)

This is a linear parametrization:

$$z = \theta^{*\top} \phi$$

```
// A c program  
#define SOME_MACRO "some macro"
```

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {  
    if (argc > 1) {  
        for (int i = 1; i < argc; i++) {  
            foo(argv[i]);  
        }  
    }  
    return bar();  
}
```

## Credit & References

- github.com/simonlc's [Markdown-CSS](https://github.com/simonlc/Markdown-CSS) (<https://github.com/simonlc/Markdown-CSS>).
- [CUPS](https://www.cups.org/) (<https://www.cups.org/>).
- [Pandoc](https://pandoc.org) (<https://pandoc.org>).