

# Markdown to PDF Converter

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A portable, self-contained script that converts Markdown files to beautifully formatted PDFs with no headers or footers.

## Features

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- 🎨 **Beautiful styling** with Inter font and professional layout
- 🖼️ **Image support** - automatically converts SVG icons to PNG when available
- 📄 **Clean PDFs** - no headers, footers, or browser chrome
- 🔧 **Portable** - works from any project directory
- 📱 **Print-optimized** - responsive layout that looks great in PDF format
- 🎯 **Icon processing** - handles complex HTML icons and converts them to simple colored squares
- 📖 **Page breaks** - supports manual page break comments ( `<!-- PAGE-BREAK -->` )

## Usage

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### Basic Usage

```
# Convert README.md in current directory
./md-to-pdf.sh

# Convert a specific markdown file
./md-to-pdf.sh myfile.md
```

### Installation in New Projects

#### Option 1: Manual Copy

1. Copy the entire `md-to-pdf` folder to your project root
2. Run from your project directory:

```
./md-to-pdf/md-to-pdf.sh
```

#### Option 2: Using Install Script

1. From within the `md-to-pdf` directory:

```
./install.sh /path/to/your/project
```

2. The script will copy everything needed and make it executable

# Dependencies

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The script automatically handles dependencies:

- **Pandoc** - Auto-installed via Homebrew on macOS
- **Google Chrome or Chromium** - Used for PDF generation

## Manual Installation

If auto-installation fails:

**macOS:**

```
brew install pandoc
# Chrome: Download from https://www.google.com/chrome/
```

**Linux:**

```
# Ubuntu/Debian
sudo apt-get install pandoc google-chrome-stable

# CentOS/RHEL
sudo yum install pandoc google-chrome-stable
```

## Output

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- Input: `README.md` → Output: `README.pdf`
- Input: `myfile.md` → Output: `myfile.pdf`
- PDFs are created in the same directory as the input file

## Styling Features

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### Typography

- **Headers:** Purple H1 with underline, clean hierarchy for H2-H6
- **Body text:** Inter font family with optimized line spacing
- **Code blocks:** Syntax highlighting with rounded corners
- **Tables:** Professional styling with alternating row colors

### Images & Icons

- **SVG Support:** Automatically converts to PNG when available
- **Icon Processing:** Complex HTML icons become simple colored squares
- **Responsive:** Images scale appropriately for print

# Print Optimization

- **Page margins:** 0.5 inch on all sides
- **Font scaling:** Optimized sizes for print readability
- **Table formatting:** Fixed column widths for consistent layout
- **Page breaks:** Manual control with HTML comments

# Advanced Features

## Manual Page Breaks

Add page breaks in your Markdown by including HTML comments:

```
## Section 1

Content here...

<!-- PAGE-BREAK -->

## Section 2

Content on new page...
```

## PDF-Only Content Tags

You can include content that only appears in the PDF version using special HTML comments:

```
<!-- PDF-ONLY-START -->

This content will only appear in the PDF, not in web/GitHub rendering.

- Perfect for print-specific instructions
- Copyright notices for printed versions
- Page-specific formatting notes
<!-- PDF-ONLY-END -->
```

The script automatically processes these tags:

- `<!-- PDF-ONLY-START -->` - Begin PDF-only content block
- `<!-- PDF-ONLY-END -->` - End PDF-only content block
- Content between these tags is visible in PDF but hidden in normal markdown rendering

### Common Use Cases:

```
<!-- PDF-ONLY-START -->

**Print Version - Generated:** $(date)
**Copyright:** © 2024 Your Company Name
```

```
**Internal Use Only** - Not for distribution
```

```
<!-- PDF-ONLY-END -->
```

```
# Project Documentation
```

```
Regular content here...
```

```
<!-- PDF-ONLY-START -->
```

```
>  **Note for printed version:** This document contains interactive links that are not clickable
```

```
<!-- PDF-ONLY-END -->
```

## Troubleshooting

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### Common Issues

#### “Pandoc not found”

- Install manually: `brew install pandoc` (macOS) or use your package manager

#### “Chrome not found”

- Install Google Chrome from <https://www.google.com/chrome/>
- Or install Chromium as alternative

#### “PDF generation failed”

- Check that input Markdown file exists
- Ensure Chrome/Chromium is properly installed
- Check `/tmp/md_styled.html` for debugging






### Debug Mode

The script saves the intermediate HTML file at `/tmp/md_styled.html` for inspection if issues occur.

## Portability

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This script is designed to be completely portable:

-  No Node.js dependencies
-  No project-specific configurations
-  Works from any directory
-  Self-contained styling and logic
-  Cross-platform (macOS, Linux)

Simply copy the `md-to-pdf` folder to any project and run the script.

# License

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This script is provided as-is for personal and commercial use. Based on the original `readme-to-pdf.sh` from the House Hunt project.