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

Features

- 🎨 **Beautiful styling** with Lato 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 -->`)
- 🏷️ **PDF-only content** - special tags for content that only appears in PDF (`<!-- PDF-ONLY` or `<!-- PDF ONLY`)
- 📊 **Table column widths** - precise control over table column sizing with comments (`<!--! col-widths:`)

Usage

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

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

- 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

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
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 -->

<!-- PDF ONLY
Alternative format with space instead of dash - both work identically
PDF ONLY -->
```

The script automatically processes these tags:

- `<!-- PDF-ONLY` - Content block that only appears in PDF (with dash)
- `<!-- PDF ONLY` - Alternative format with space instead of dash
- Content is processed as **both HTML and Markdown** during PDF generation
- Completely invisible in web/GitHub rendering
- Supports complex formatting including lists, links, and styling

Common Use Cases:

```
<!-- PDF-ONLY
**Print Version - Generated:** January 2025
**Copyright:** © 2025 Your Company Name
**Internal Use Only** - Not for distribution
PDF-ONLY -->

## Project Documentation

Regular content here...

<!-- PDF-ONLY
> 📄 **Note for printed version:** This document contains interactive links
> that are not clickable in print. See the digital version for full functionality.

For technical support, contact: support@company.com
PDF-ONLY -->
```

Advanced Features:

- **Dual processing**: Content is converted from Markdown to HTML, then embedded in PDF
- **Rich formatting**: Supports all Markdown features including tables, code blocks, and links
- **Flexible syntax**: Use either `PDF-ONLY` or `PDF ONLY` - both formats work identically
- **Clean integration**: No impact on web rendering or GitHub display

Troubleshooting

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

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