

MD₂PDF

Converts Markdown files to PDFs with token replacement, styling, and some handy content processing features.

What it does

- Converts Markdown to PDF using Chrome/Puppeteer
- Replaces tokens like `{{DATE_TODAY}}` and `{{DEVELOPER_NAME}}`
- Applies Inter font styling and consistent layout
- Handles PDF-only content sections
- Supports page breaks and special formatting
- Works on macOS, Linux, and Windows

Usage

```
# Install dependencies first
npm install

# Basic usage
node bin/md2pdf.js                # converts README.md
node bin/md2pdf.js myfile.md      # converts specific file
node bin/md2pdf.js myfile.md -o out.pdf # custom output name

# Other options
node bin/md2pdf.js myfile.md -s custom.css # custom CSS
node bin/md2pdf.js myfile.md --debug      # keep temp files
node bin/md2pdf.js myfile.md --verbose    # more output
```

Token replacement

The token system lets you insert dynamic content into your markdown files using `{{TOKEN_NAME}}` placeholders.

Configuration file

Create a `md2pdf.config` file in your project root or the md2pdf directory:

```
# md2pdf.config - key=value pairs, one per line
DEVELOPER_NAME=John Doe
COMPANY_NAME=Acme Corp
PROJECT_VERSION=1.0.0
CLIENT_NAME=Big Corp Inc
DOCUMENT_TYPE=Technical Specification
CUSTOM_FOOTER=Confidential - Internal Use Only
```

Using tokens in markdown

Tokens are replaced everywhere they appear in your markdown:

```
# {{PROJECT_NAME}} {{DOCUMENT_TYPE}}

**Version:** {{PROJECT_VERSION}}
**Created by:** {{DEVELOPER_NAME}} at {{COMPANY_NAME}}
**Client:** {{CLIENT_NAME}}
**Generated:** {{DATE_TODAY_LONG}} at {{TIME_NOW}}

---

{{CUSTOM_FOOTER}}
```

Automatic tokens

These tokens are always available without defining them:

Date and time:

- `{{DATE_TODAY}}` - Current date (2024-01-15)
- `{{DATE_TODAY_LONG}}` - Current date (January 15, 2024)
- `{{TIME_NOW}}` - Current time (14:30)
- `{{DATETIME_NOW}}` - Date and time (2024-01-15 14:30)
- `{{YEAR}}` - Current year (2024)
- `{{MONTH}}` - Current month (01)
- `{{DAY}}` - Current day (15)
- `{{TIMESTAMP}}` - Unix timestamp (1705123456)

System info:

- `{{HOSTNAME}}` - System hostname (MacBook-Pro.local)
- `{{USERNAME}}` - Current user (john)
- `{{PWD}}` - Current working directory (/Users/john/projects)

Project info:

- `{{PROJECT_NAME}}` - Auto-generated from directory name

Token processing

- Tokens are processed in **multiple passes**, so you can reference other tokens
- **Case sensitive** - `{{name}}` and `{{NAME}}` are different
- **Whitespace matters** - `{{ NAME }}` won't work, use `{{NAME}}`
- **Nested replacement** - If `GREETING=Hello {{USERNAME}}`, it becomes "Hello john"
- **Missing tokens** are left as-is (useful for debugging)

Config file locations

The system looks for `md2pdf.config` in this order:

1. Same directory as the markdown file being converted
2. Current working directory
3. md2pdf installation directory

Example workflow

```
# 1. Create config file
echo "PROJECT_VERSION=2.1.0" > md2pdf.config
echo "DEVELOPER_NAME=Jane Smith" >> md2pdf.config

# 2. Use in markdown
echo "# Project v{{PROJECT_VERSION}} by {{DEVELOPER_NAME}}" > doc.md

# 3. Convert
node bin/md2pdf.js doc.md

# Result: "Project v2.1.0 by Jane Smith" in the PDF
```

Special content features

PDF-only content

Content that only shows up in the PDF:

```
<!-- PDF ONLY This text will only appear in the PDF version. You can put multiple lines here.-->
```

Page breaks

Force a page break:

```
Some content here...<!-- PAGE-BREAK -->
This will be on the next page.
```

Live site shields

Style a paragraph as a badge/shield:

```
<!-- live-site-shield -->  
Live Site: https://example.com
```



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