Markdown to PDF Converter

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

Features

- Image support automatically converts SVG icons to PNG when available
- Nortable works from any project directory
- **Print-optimized** responsive layout that looks great in PDF format
- Page breaks supports manual page break comments (<!-- PAGE-BREAK -->)
- PDF-only content special tags for content that only appears in PDF

Quick Start

```
# Convert README.md in current directory
./md-to-pdf.sh
# Convert a specific markdown file
./md-to-pdf.sh myfile.md
```

Installation

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
```

Dependencies

The script automatically handles dependencies:

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

Manual Installation

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
```

Advanced Features

Manual Page Breaks

Add page breaks in your Markdown:

```
## Section 1
Content here...
<!-- PAGE-BREAK -->
## Section 2
Content on new page...
```

PDF-Only Content

Include content that only appears in the PDF:

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

- Perfect for print-specific instructions
- Copyright notices for printed versions

Or alternatively:

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

- Perfect for print-specific instructions
- Copyright notices for printed versions

Image Processing

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

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

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

Output

```
• Input: README.md → Output: README.pdf
```

• Input: myfile.md → Output: myfile.pdf

•	PDFs are created in the same directory as the input file	

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:

- V No Node.js dependencies
- V 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.

Files

- md-to-pdf.sh Main conversion script
- install.sh Installation helper for other projects
- **README.md** This documentation

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