

# Header

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[Markdown 1.0.1](#) (18 KB) – 17 Dec 2004

## Introduction

Markdown is a text-to-HTML conversion tool for web writers. Markdown allows you to write using an easy-to-read, easy-to-write plain text format, then convert it to structurally valid XHTML (or HTML).

Thus, “Markdown” is two things: (1) a plain text formatting syntax; and (2) a software tool, written in Perl, that converts the plain text formatting to HTML. See the [Syntax](#) page for details pertaining to Markdown’s formatting syntax. You can try it out, right now, using the online [Dingus](#).

The overriding design goal for Markdown’s formatting syntax is to make it as readable as possible. The idea is that a Markdown-formatted document should be publishable as-is, as plain text, without looking like it’s been marked up with tags or formatting instructions. While Markdown’s syntax has been influenced by several existing text-to-HTML filters, the single biggest source of inspiration for Markdown’s syntax is the format of plain text email.

bullet list:

Foo

Foo Bar

fluff

what:

Foo

Foo Bar

fluff