Using MS Word to Write document for GitHub

When using GitHub to share open source tools with the community, markdown is the easiest way to share documents.

However, preparing a markdown with lots of pictures and complicated formatting can be tedious and hard to do using text editors. For the software tutorials that have lots of screenshots, MS Word is a much better tool as the images can be directly pasted into the document without the need to save the picture as a file, then added to the document.

In this document I’ll show how I use pandoc to convert my word document into markdown document.

# Install Pandoc

[Pandoc](https://pandoc.org/getting-started.html) is a free command line tool that can convert many types of documents. Once installed, you can call pandoc from command line on windows.

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated

# Prepare your word document

Write you documents in MS word, I’ll stay with the simple styles (heading 1, 2, …). For example,

## Heading 2

Lists,

* Item 1
* Item 2

Style text: **Bold,** *Italic*

Tables

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Header | Header |
| Cell 1 | Cell 2 |

Links: [Pandoc](https://pandoc.org/getting-started.html)

Most importantly, you can simply paste an image into the word document.

# Convert your word document to markdown

To convert the word document,

1. Save the word document in the folder
2. Create a media folder to store all the images
3. Create a \*.bat file to convert the word file to markdown
4. Update the file name to match the word file name

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

Run the \*.bat file, you should have a \*.md file generated with the images saved in the media folder.

# Review the markdown

I use VS Code to edit and review markdown file, which has lots of extensions for markdown, the two extensions I used are “Markdown All in One” and “Markdown Preview Enhanced”

A screenshot of a computer

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Text

Description automatically generated

As you can see from this example, Pandoc did a pretty good job converting the word document to markdown, there is very little clean up needed.