

Markdown to PDF Converter

Documentation

2026-02-01

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1 Overview

This script converts Markdown files to PDF using Pandoc with Typst as the typesetting engine. It provides a clean, professional output with customizable templates.

2 Requirements

- Pandoc (version 3.0+)
- Typst (installed and available in PATH)

3 Usage

```
./convert.sh input.md [output.pdf]
```

3.1 Arguments

| Argument | Description | Required |
|------------|---|----------|
| input.md | Path to the Markdown source file | Yes |
| output.pdf | Path for the generated PDF (defaults to input name with .pdf extension) | No |

3.2 Examples

Convert a single file:

```
./convert.sh docs/README.md
```

Specify custom output path:

```
./convert.sh docs/README.md output/documentation.pdf
```

4 How It Works

1. **Input Validation:** The script checks that an input file is provided
2. **Template Setup:** Creates the `templates/` directory and default template if they don't exist
3. **Conversion Pipeline:**
 - Pandoc reads the Markdown file
 - Converts to Typst format using the template
 - Typst compiles the result to PDF

5 Template System

The script uses a Typst template located at `templates/template.typ`. On first run, a default template is created with:

- **Page Layout:** A4 with 25mm horizontal and 30mm vertical margins
- **Typography:** Linux Libertine font at 11pt, justified paragraphs
- **Headings:** Numbered sections (1.1, 1.2, etc.)
- **Title Block:** Centered title, author, and date from YAML frontmatter

5.1 Customizing the Template

Edit `templates/template.typ` to customize:

- Fonts and text sizes
- Page margins and numbering
- Header/footer content
- Color schemes

6 YAML Frontmatter

Add metadata to your Markdown files:

```
---
```

```
title: "Your Document Title"
author: "Author Name"
date: "2026-02-01"
```

```
---
```

This metadata is passed to the template and rendered in the title block.