Linux User Group at UTA

www.luguta.org

Introduction to Markdown

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Introduction to Markdown

- Quick and easy way to create documentation with basic formatting
- Easy to write as most formatting commands are intuitive
- Markdown plain text is easy to read and visually corresponds to the rendered HTML
- Popularly used in creating README documents and in web forums
- Available on all platforms and major websites
Example

Heading

Sub-heading

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Paragraphs are separated by a blank line.

Text attributes *italic*, **bold**, 'monospace'.

A [link](http://example.com).

Shopping list:

- apples
- oranges
- pears

Numbered list:

1. apples
2. oranges
3. pears

The rain—not the reign—in Spain.
Syntax

Headings (<H1>Text</H1> etc.):

# H1
## H2
### H3
#### H4
##### H5
###### H6

Alternatively, for H1 and H2, an underline-ish style:

Alt-H1
=====

Alt-H2
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Syntax

Italics:

*italic text* or _italic text_

Bold:

**bold text** or __bold text__

Note: The _ for emphasis can be a headache with variable_names etc. Try escaping with \_.

Syntax

Simple numbered lists:

1. Item 1
2. Item 2
3. Item 3

Simple unordered lists:

* Item 1
* Item 2
* Item 3

Can use *, or -, or + for unordered lists
Syntax

Nested lists:

1. Item 1
   1. Item 1.1
   2. Item 1.2
2. Item 2
3. Item 3

Use two spaces for each level of nesting
Syntax

Inline links:

[Link text](link url)

I love the [LUG website](http://www.luguta.org/)

Results:

I love the `<a href="http://www.luguta.org/">LUG website</a>`

Note: Omitting the http:// from the link makes it a relative link. So be sure to keep it when linking to another website.
Syntax

Bibliography style links (for listing longer URLs at the end):

[Link text](id)

[id]: the link's URL

Example:

Visit the [LUG website](lug) and also sign up on our [mailing list](list).

[lug]: http://www.luguta.org/
[list]: https://listserv.uta.edu/cgi-bin/wa.exe?SUBED1=LUGUTA&A=1
Syntax

Images – similar to links but with an exclamation mark

Inline-style:
![alt text](image link)

Reference-style:
![alt text][id]

[id]: link

Example:

![A penguin](pingu)

[pingu]: www.lolpenguins.com/penguin.jpg
Syntax

Paragraph and line breaks:
- An empty line signifies a new paragraph.
- Two spaces at the end of a line signify a forced line break.
Line breaks are useful around images.

Code:
Inline code can be put in backticks `my_variable_name`.
It appears in monospace and ignores any other formatting.

For a block of code, use a tab at the start of each line.
Use Cases

- If you host a project on Github, it's and Markdown files are automatically rendered in HTML. Like: https://github.com/jquery/jquery/blob/master/README.md
- If you don't like WYSIWYG HTML editors and don't want to learn HTML syntax, you can use Markdown to author web pages.
- Forums like stackoverflow.com support Markdown syntax in questions and answers.
Links

• Original Markdown page (written in Perl):
  http://daringfireball.net/projects/markdown/basics

• Python markdown module:
  https://pythonhosted.org/Markdown/

• Markdown help for
  – Github -
    https://help.github.com/articles/github-flavored-markdown