6.1040 - Recitation 1

Markdown

Roadmap

1.

2.

3.

4.

| Introductions! | Prep 1 Review | Markdown | Working on Your Portfolio | |

Introductions!

Before we begin…

As part of Prep 1, you should have made a repository for your portfolio.

If you haven't done that, please do so now.

Any questions about prep 1 or issues using the template?

Markdown

What is it?

A **simple markup language** that allows you to customize text with italics, bold text, numbered lists, images, links, etc. *without needing HTML* (however, you can still use HTML if you want to format something in a way that is not explicitly supported in Markdown)

Resources

https://www.markdownguide.org/cheat-sheet/

https://61040-fa25.github.io/resources

Element	Markdown Syntax
Heading	# H1 ## H2 ### H3
Bold	**bold text**
Italic	*italicized text*
Blockquote	> blockquote
Ordered List	1. First item 2. Second item 3. Third item
Unordered List	– First item – Second item – Third item
Code	`code`
Horizontal Rule	---
Link	[title](https://www.example.com)
Image	![alt text](image.jpg)

Why should you use Markdown?

It's portable and platform-independent!

Unlike specialized applications like Microsoft Word and their file types, Markdown can be **edited and viewed in many different applications**.

It's ubiquitous!

Markdown is used **nearly everywhere** (e.g., Reddit, GitHub) and, given that near-universal support, can be used for a **variety of tasks** like formatting a website or taking notes.

Markdown Limitations

Expressivity

Can only format your text in **ways that are natively supported** by Markdown (i.e., no CSS-type equivalent for defining your own styles) and **does not allow for advanced features** by not integrating with JavaScript

No "Official" Specification

While this allows for tailoring Markdown to specific usages through different "flavors", it leads to **inconsistent renderings and formatting across implementations**

How is Markdown Used?

Static Sites

Markdown can be used for formatting simple, read-only sites, with **static site generators**. Some examples include blot.im (takes a folder on dropbox with Markdown files and turns it into a website) and Jekyll (integrated with GitHub Pages for publishing markdown sites).

Note-Taking Apps

Simple way to **add structure to notes** in a lightweight manner, thus adopted by Notion and Obsidian.

Using Markdown for a README

What is a README?

README files are **introductions to repositories** and can act as a central resource for telling people (including potential contributors or users) about your code.

How Do You Make a Good README?

README files typically cover anything a potential user of or contributor to your code would want to know: a general description of what the project is, installation instructions, and contribution guidelines. **Leverage Markdown to make the README easy to glance over and find the information you need**.

Editing Tools for Markdown

Notion (   ) and Obsidian (https://obsidian.md/)
Note-taking apps that use markdown

Text Editors (e.g.,   )
Support .md files

Online Editors (e.g., https://dillinger.io/)
Don't need to download an app!

GitHub
Best for small changes, pollutes branches with lots of commits

Some Markdown to Know

Relative Links
Use relative path notation

e.g., in the template repository, linking to `assignment1.md`, which is in the assignments folder, looks like this:

`[Assignment 1](assignments/assignment1.md)`

Code Formatting (when quoted in a Markdown file)
Inline: `` `your code here` ``

Block:
```
'''

Your code block here
'''
```

Images
`![alt text](/path/to/image.jpg)`

Working on Your Portfolio

With the template, try…

- **Changing the photo**

- **Adding an external link**

- **Adding a description of yourself + goals for the semester**

- **Adding a new assignment document page and linking to it**

Throughout this process, **preview it in GitHub and make edits.**

If you have extra time, try **making some more small edits and previewing the changes.**