mdBook Markdown books

CONCEPTS

SUMMARY.md decides which chapters exist and their order; a Markdown file not listed there is not part of the book.

src/*.md chapters
↓ SUMMARY.md
Preprocessors links, index
↓ mdbook build
Renderers html, custom
↓ writes
book/ static site

Install with cargo install mdbook, or grab a prebuilt binary from the GitHub releases.

CREATE AND BUILD

mdbook init
Create a book in the current directory

mdbook init *<dir>* **--title** "*<title>*"
Create a book in a new directory

mdbook init --force
Skip the title and .gitignore prompts

mdbook init --ignore git
Also write a .gitignore for book/

mdbook build
Render the book to book/

mdbook build *<dir>*
Build a book in another directory

mdbook build -o
Build, then open in the browser

mdbook build -d *<dir>*
Write output to a different directory

mdbook clean
Delete the rendered output

PREVIEW

mdbook serve
Serve and rebuild on every change

mdbook serve -o
Serve and open the browser

mdbook serve -p *<port>*
Use another port (default 3000)

mdbook serve -n *<host>*
Bind to another hostname

PREVIEW (cont.)

mdbook watch
Rebuild on change without a server

TEST AND TOOLING

mdbook test
Compile and run all Rust code blocks

mdbook test -c *<chapter>*
Test one chapter by name or path

mdbook completions *<shell>*
Print a shell completion script

mdbook help
List commands

mdbook --version
Show the installed version

SUMMARY.MD

 # Summary
Optional title (ignored by the parser)

[Intro](intro.md)
Prefix chapter, unnumbered, before the list

- [Chapter](chapter.md)
Numbered chapter

** - [Sub](sub.md)**
Indent four spaces for a sub-chapter

[Title]()
Draft chapter with no file yet

 # Part Title
Group the chapters that follow

[Appendix](app.md)
Suffix chapter, unnumbered, after the list

Use one list marker (- or *) throughout; mixing them breaks parsing.

BOOK.TOML

[book] title = "*<title>***"**
Book title

[book] authors = ["*<name>***"]**
Author list

[book] src = "*<dir>***"**
Source directory (default src)

BOOK.TOML (cont.)

[book] language = "*<code>***"**
Language for the HTML lang attribute

[build] build-dir = "*<dir>***"**
Output directory (default book)

[build] create-missing = false
Fail on files missing from SUMMARY

[rust] edition = "2021"
Edition for Rust snippets (default 2015)

[output.html] default-theme = "*<name>***"**
Pick the default colour theme

[output.html] git-repository-url = "*<url>***"**
Add a repository link in the header

[output.html] site-url = "/*<path>***/"**
Base URL when hosted in a subpath

MARKDOWN AND CODE

{{#include *<file>***}}**
Insert a whole file

{{#include *<file>***:2:10}}**
Insert lines 2 to 10

{{#include *<file>***:***<anchor>***}}**
Insert the part between ANCHOR markers

```rust,ignore
Highlight, but skip the test

```rust,no_run
Compile in tests, never run

```rust,editable
Make the snippet editable in the page

```rust,noplayground
Remove the play button

 # let x = 1;
Hide a Rust line (still compiled)

RECIPES

New book with live preview

```
mdbook init mybook --title "My Book"
cd mybook
mdbook serve --open
```