Pandoc Document converter

CONCEPTS

Pandoc reads any input format into an internal document tree, then writes any output format. Formats are guessed from file extensions; -f/-t override that. Without -s you get only a fragment, without header or footer.

Input markdown, docx, html...
↓ reader
Document tree filters edit here
↓ writer
Output html, pdf, epub...

Filters run on the tree between reader and writer

BASIC CONVERSION

`pandoc <file> -o <out>`
Convert, formats from extensions

`pandoc -f <fmt> -t <fmt> <file>`
Choose input and output format

`pandoc -s <file> -o <out>.html`
Standalone page with head and body

`pandoc <a>.md <b>.md -o <out>`
Concatenate several inputs

`cat <file> | pandoc -f <fmt> -t <fmt>`
Read stdin, write stdout

`pandoc -o <out>.pdf <file>.md`
Make a PDF

`pandoc --pdf-engine=<prog> ...`
Pick the PDF engine

`pandoc -f markdown -t gfm <file>`
Normalise to GitHub Markdown

`pandoc <file>.docx -t markdown --wrap=none`
Docx to readable Markdown

`pandoc --extract-media=<dir> <file>.docx -o <out>.md`
Pull embedded images out

`pandoc --embed-resources -s <file> -o <out>.html`
Single self-contained HTML file

BASIC CONVERSION (cont.)

`pandoc -d <defaults>.yaml`
Load options from a defaults file

`pandoc --wrap=none|auto|preserve`
Control line wrapping

FORMATS AND EXTENSIONS

`pandoc --list-input-formats`
Readable formats

`pandoc --list-output-formats`
Writable formats

`pandoc --list-extensions=<fmt>`
Extensions of a format and defaults

`-f markdown+<ext>`
Enable an extension

`-f markdown-<ext>`
Disable an extension

`-f gfm / commonmark`
Strict Markdown dialects

`-t html5 / latex / beamer`
Common output formats

STANDALONE, TEMPLATES AND STYLING

`pandoc -s ...`
Add header and footer

`pandoc --toc --toc-depth=<n>`
Table of contents to depth n

`pandoc -N`
Number section headings

`pandoc -V <key>=<val>`
Set a template variable

`pandoc -M <key>=<val>`
Set a metadata field

`pandoc --template=<f>`
Use a custom template

`pandoc -D <fmt>`
Print the default template

`pandoc --css=<url>`
Link a stylesheet in HTML

`pandoc --reference-doc=<f>.docx`
Style docx, odt or pptx from a file

STANDALONE, TEMPLATES AND STYLING (cont.)

`-V geometry:margin=2cm`
LaTeX page margins

MARKDOWN SYNTAX

`::: {.note} ... :::`
Fenced div with a class

`| a | b | with |:--|--:|`
Pipe table, colons align

`text[^1] and [^1]: note`
Footnote

`$x^2$ and $$...$$`
Inline and display math

```` ```python ````
Fenced code with language

YAML metadata block

```
---
title: My report
author: [Ada, Grace]
date: 2026-10-11
toc: true
---
```

CITATIONS

`pandoc -C --bibliography=<f>.bib`
Resolve citations with citeproc

`pandoc -C --csl=<style>.csl`
Choose the citation style

`[@key]`
Parenthetical citation

FILTERS AND SLIDES

`pandoc --lua-filter=<f>.lua`
Run a Lua filter

`pandoc -t revealjs -s <f>.md -o <out>.html`
reveal.js slides

`pandoc --version`
Show version and data directory

RECIPES

Markdown to a styled PDF

```
pandoc report.md -s --toc -N \
  --pdf-engine=xelatex \
  -V geometry:margin=2.5cm -V
mainfont="DejaVu Serif" \
  -o report.pdf
```
```