

The text/markdown Media Type

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Overview

- draft-seantek-text-markdown-media-type-00
- New Media Type Registration
- Informational RFC
- Strawman Proposal—seeking comments and discussion

About Markdown

- Plain text formatting syntax, aka **lightweight** markup language (LML)
- Creator: John Gruber (daringfireball.net)—not involved anymore
- Syntax Rules: <https://daringfireball.net/projects/markdown/syntax>
 - Has not changed since 2004
 - **No concept of validity**
- Gruber's implementations: Markdown.pl 1.0.1 and 1.0.2b8
 - Both considered buggy, incomplete implementations of syntax spec
- Lots of implementations (with extensions and variations)
 - Ruby Markdown (MD), GitHub Flavored MD (GFM), PEG grammar, MultiMD, PHP Markdown Extra, pandoc, Python-MD, Vim-Flavored-MD, PageDown...
 - Not all designed to be compatible or interchangeable

Example

Sample GitHub Markdown

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This is some sample GitHub Flavored Markdown (*GFM*). The generated HTML is then run through filters in the [html-pipeline](https://github.com/jch/html-pipeline) to perform things like [sanitization](#html-sanitization) and [syntax highlighting](#syntax-highlighting).

Bulleted Lists

Here are some bulleted lists...

- * One Potato
- * Two Potato
- * Three Potato

- One Tomato
- Two Tomato
- Three Tomato

More Information

[.markdown, .md](http://daringfireball.net/projects/markdown/) has more information.

Proposal (as of today)

(differs from draft-00)

- Media Type Registration: text/markdown
 - One media type: Markdown docs (and implementations) have a lot more in common with each other than with other LMLs. All “Markdown” can be processed by all tools—just maybe not as the author intended.
- Focus on authorial intent
- Spec: Refer to Markdown Syntax by John Gruber
- A lot of the spec is ambiguous or underspecified—deal with it

Proposal (as of today): Parameters

- “companion data” (RFC 6838)
- charset (REQUIRED—Section 4.2.1 of RFC 6838)
 - Default: UTF-8
- ~~flavor~~: ill-considered in draft-00
- variations (or rulesets): identifies rules that differ from Gruber’s syntax. List: later rules override earlier rules.
 - strict line_blocks footnotes definition_lists
- processor: specific Markdown implementations: name, version (optional), arguments (optional)
 - `Markdown.pl 2.0.1 -x -c -vvvv 1234`
- Identifiers in IANA registries; allocated by application + expert review

Comments and discussion
welcome!