Adding Markdown to Your MT Templates

To add Markdown to your MovableType installation, you must first place a copy of the Markdown.pl file into your “plugins” folder. This will add the “Markdown” option within the Text Formatting drop-down menu list. If you have also installed the “SmartyPants” plug-in, you will also have a second option labelled, “Markdown with SmartyPants”. To add the formatting capabilities to your templates, you must place two additional tags into each template. The suggested placement is just inside the <body> tags of your template file(s).

The tags are: <MTMarkdownOptions output="html"> and </MTMarkdownOptions>. The output options are: ‘html’, ‘html4’ and ‘raw’, each producing different results. The default option is to output XHTML, but you can use the html4 and raw options to output HTML 4 code or raw which will output the standard Markdown-formatted text.

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### Markdown Syntax Cheatsheet

- Preformatted Code Blocks
  - Indent every line of a code block by at least 4 spaces or 1 tab, and use a colon at the end of the preceding paragraph:
    ```
    This is a normal paragraph:
    
    This is a preformatted code block.
    
    Preceded by a space, the colon disappears:
    
    This is a preformatted code block.
    ```

- Lists
  - Ordered, without Paragraphs (note that the order of the numbers is not important as the output will be in standard `<ol><li>item 1</li><li>item 2</li></ol>` format):
    1. Foo
    2. Bar
  - Unordered, with Paragraphs (optionally can use dashes, plus signs or asterisks):
    * A list item.
    * With multiple paragraphs.
  - Nested Lists
    * Millimeters
    * Centimeters
    * Pixels
    * Ems
    * Points
    * Picas
    * Inches
    * Kilometers

- Links
  - Inline links:
    An [example](http://url.com/ “title”)
  - Reference-style links (titles are optional):
    An [example][id]. Then, anywhere else in the document, define the link:
    ```
    [id]: http://www.daringfireball.com/ “Title”
    ```

- Backslash Escape Characters
  - Markdown provides backslash escapes for the following:
    ```
    \ backslash
    ` backtick
    * asterisk
    _ underscore
    `{ curly braces
    [ square brackets
    ```

- Code Spans
  - `<codes>` spans are delimited by backticks:
    You can include literal backticks like `` ‘this’ `.

- Automatic Links
  - For creating automatic links for URLs and e-mail addresses:
    ```
    <a href="http://www.example.com"> will turn into:
    ```
  - Email addresses will be HEX encoded

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### Philosophy

Markdown is intended to be an easy-to-read and easy-to-write as is feasible. Readability, however, is emphasized above all else. A Markdown-formatted document should be publishable as-is, as plain text, without looking like it’s been marked up with tags or formatting instructions. While Markdown’s syntax has been influenced by several existing text-to-HTML filters – including Textile, reStructuredText, GutterText, and EtText – the single biggest source of inspiration for Markdown’s syntax is the format of plain text email. To this end, Markdown’s syntax is comprised entirely of punctuation characters, which punctuation characters have been carefully chosen so as to look like what they mean. E.g., asterisks around a word actually look like *emphasis*; backticks list-like, code lists; backquotes look like quoted passages of text, assuming you’ve never used one before.

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### Headings

Setext-Style:

- Header 1
- Header 2

---

# Header 1
## Header 2
### Header 3
#### Header 4
##### Header 5
###### Header 6

---

### Phrase Emphasis

- *italic* or _italic_
- **bold** or __bold__

---

### Horizontal Rules

Three or more dashes or asterisks:

---

### Manual Line Breaks

End a line with two or more spaces:

Roses are red,
Violets are blue.

---

### Images

- Inline (titles are optional):
  ![alt text](/path/img.jpg)
  ![alt text](/path/img.jpg “Title”)

- Reference-style:
  ![alt text][id]
  ```
  [id]: /path/to/img.jpg “Title”
  [1]: /path/myimage.jpg “My Image”
  ```

---

### Blockquotes

E-mail-style angle brackets are used for blockquotes and can be nested.

> An example, single level.

> > A nested blockquote.

> > > Headers in blockquotes

> > > * You can quote a list.

> > > * Etc.

---

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### Nested Lists

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- Centimeters
- Pixels
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