

Video Title: “Your First Markdown Webtext” https://youtu.be/B1V_uxEWc8g

Transcript:

This video shows you how to create your first markdown webtext. It assumes you have already visited the “Resources” page, and have viewed the “Getting Started with Markdown” video. That video asks you to go through the “Common Mark” tutorial, and attempt creating your first webtext with StackEdit. This tutorial you are viewing now will show you how to actually create your first webtext with markdown. So, let’s get started!

The first thing you will want to do is connect StackEdit to Dropbox. So, going into our Dropbox folder, you’ll want to open your public folder and within there create another folder that you’ll use to hold your files for your single webpage. So, I’m just going to call this folder “webtext.” There it is. Go ahead and open that. And then, within StackEditor...assuming you’ve already loaded in a markdown file that you’ve previously written. If you haven’t, go ahead and click the hashtag and click “Import from Disk,” and then you can browse to select or drag and drop the files. I won’t do that because I’ve already loaded in my history.md file. So then, what you’ll want to do is click the “Publish” button and select “Dropbox,” because that is how we are hoping to publish to the web, as a markdown file, based on the file that we already have loaded in. Click on Dropbox, and you’ll see here “Template” is selected here, just as with the previous video, where we exported to disk using “Template.” We are going to publish using “Template.” Now, the template is HTML as you can see here with “DOCTYPE,” but it is different than just raw HTML which is what would happen if you clicked that option. So, we want the page to be styled and look nice, so we’ll click “Template.”

So, in order to do this, and to sync it up with Dropbox, we have to give it the exact file path. You can easily do that by picking your exact file folder, and looking at—here at the top of the page—this is basically the path to your file. So we don’t need to write “dropbox” because it is already trying to sync with Dropbox. But we need “Public” and “Webtext” in that order. So, if we come back here and write “Public.” Now, I’m writing it with a capital “P” just to be case sensitive. And then forward slash “Webtext” because that’s the next folder. And then I’ll go ahead and give it a filename, and I’ll call it “history.html.” Now, you can call yours whatever you want. I called mine “history” because this is the history page for the site you are currently viewing. And, go ahead and click “Ok.”

Now, StackEdit is taking your markdown and converting it to HTML using the template and loading it into Dropbox for you. And there it is. Now, to see this webpage, based on the markdown and the template, copy to clipboard and paste into the browser. There it is.

So, the next thing we are going to do is change the basic styling of the page. We are going to some very basic web design with markdown using StackEdit. And we are going to change the CSS that effects the way the page is viewed, the font, the width, and the margins. So, if you go to Google and you search for markdown CSS. There are all sorts of options. I found a GitHub page with a nice collection of themes and they have a nice viewer for looking at them. So if we look they give you an example of what it would look like if you used their CSS to style your text. The width is different than our page, and this page is quite wider. This one is thinner. There are different font styles and sizes.

So, let’s use this one “screen.css.” And if we come back to his GitHub page and actually play with different ones if we want. But we’re going to go ahead and just try one of them. So we’ll click “download

zip” which will give us all of the files on this GitHub page. Save file. And then we’ll save it to the Desktop. And then you’ll need to go ahead and extract the file. I already have it here because I did it earlier, but I’ll go ahead and show you how to do this. Click “Extract Here.” It will be something similar for other operating systems, but usually you can right-click to extract it. And if we open it we see that there is a bunch of different stuff in here. He has his HTML and other files for the examples, but what we want are the different CSS files. The one that I liked that was a bit different—just to show an extreme change was “screen.css”—let’s find that one. Ok, there it is. I’m just going to copy it to my Desktop so that it is easy to find it. And what you’re going to want to do is go ahead and upload this to the same Dropbox folder. So what we’ll do is go ahead and upload. Choose files. And there’s “screen.css” on the Desktop. Ok, and there we are. That’s our CSS file that will change the way that “history.html” looks.

So, let’s go back to StackEditor and let’s change the CSS file. So, let’s go back to “Publish.” Select “Dropbox.” And then again we need to put in the file path “Public/Webtext/history.html.” And at this part here, this is a bit intimidating, but what you’re looking for is for where it says “stylesheet” and “CSS.” You see these two items here? It is basically one section of the code that calls the CSS stylesheet that controls the way the HTML looks. So, we need to change the part that’s within the quotes behind “href=” and we’ll go ahead and highlight that specifically. You’ll want to go ahead and save those two quotes because we just want to change what’s inside there. And let’s go back to Dropbox and let’s double check. So our filename is just “screen.css” and I will come back and just type “screen.css.” So, before you click “Ok,” just double check and then click “Ok.” And, it tells us that everything is uploaded to our Dropbox. So, let’s take a look, and Ok, 6 second ago. So, we should just be able to reload our page and everything should be changed. So, there it is. We’ve changed the way the page looks entirely by selecting a new CSS file. Now, you can go in and find others, and you can keep trying and changing. Now, this is just the basics of web design where we are taking a CSS file and changing it in order to change the way our webpage looks.

Now, if you’re really adventurous you can open up that CSS file and try to edit it yourself. Try to see what changes, and maybe try to break something. There are plenty of tutorials on how to learn CSS. I’m not going to get into that today or teach that as part of this video, but it’s something to pay attention to. As you get comfortable with markdown you want to progress into CSS and HTML—that’s how I learned HTML—then this is a great way to get started. But, for now, all you have to do is pick other CSS’s and change them, find one you like. You don’t have to code the CSS yourself. Find one you like for the single webpage, and put it on the web.

The last thing we are going to do here is actually make this a multimodal document. So, I could put in some images, but I actually want to go a step further and imbed a video. So, we’re going to use YouTube here for this. And we’re going to go ahead and imbed a YouTube video in our page, and then re-upload the page. So, underneath most YouTube videos—some of them have this disabled—but assuming this is your own video that you are wanting to load into the page. You’ll want to click the “Share” button, and underneath that button click “Embed.” This gives you the exact HTML code you need to embed this into your webpage. So, we’re just going to copy this and come back to StackEdit. One of the benefits of markdown is that any place you find shortcomings with markdown you can actually just drop in raw HTML. So, if you actually look at my text, I dropped in some raw HTML already because I needed to create those brackets that are in the title of the book I am quoting. If you just put brackets into markdown they don’t show up because they’re often used to create code and do other things. And, anything that you put into brackets, it assumes that it is HTML code. So, since I had the letter “A”

between two brackets, it actually disappeared as you can see on the left hand side and it disappeared on the right hand side. So I needed to use raw HTML to draw those brackets, rather than just dropping them in. So, to drop in a YouTube video, we'll go ahead and paste in that code that we copied. So this is the exact code from YouTube, and you'll see that it automatically embeds it on the left hand side. So, two things you'll want to pay attention to are width and height. So, I'll change this to be a bit bigger. Let's make this 600, and you'll see that it immediately changes on the right hand side. And let's make this 400. There we go. So I feel like that fits a little better. Let's look at our other page. I think that will be the right size that we want there. You can go back and forth and change it multiple times, but we're just going to change it this one time.

So again, we're going to go to "Publish." Select "Dropbox." Put in our file path, and click "Ok." Now, we can go back to our webpage and reload it. And there we have embedded a YouTube video in our single webpage. Now I could easily share this, email it, or whatever. But this is the basics of creating a single page webtext using markdown, StackEdit, and Dropbox to host.