nickleeder

user guide

Markdown Viewer

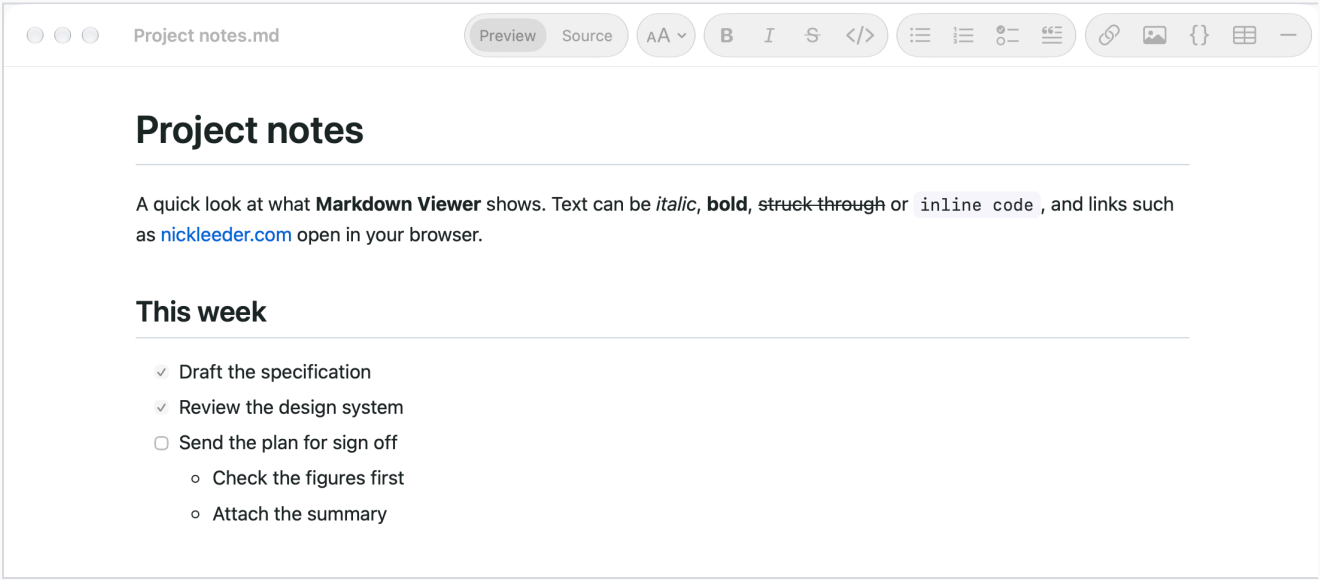
Read and edit Markdown files on your Mac

Markdown Viewer opens Markdown (`.md`) files and shows them as clean, formatted pages. One switch takes you to the plain text underneath, where a toolbar adds headings, lists, tables and more.

Why we built it

More and more of our working documents are Markdown: specifications, plans, build notes and anything Claude writes. A text editor shows the raw symbols. The other options are heavy editors or browser plug-ins. We wanted a double click in Finder to show a readable page, with quick edits when needed and one small app to install.

Double click a file, read it as a page, fix it in seconds.



Preview: the formatted page, with the toolbar along the top.

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At a glance

- **Opens .md files from Finder.** Set it as the default app and a double click shows the page.
- **Preview and Source in one window.** Switch with one click or Command /.
- **Formatting toolbar.** Headings, bold, italic, lists, quotes, links, images, code, tables and dividers.
- **Full Markdown.** Tables, task lists, nested lists, code blocks and local images.
- **Stays current.** If Claude or another app changes the file, the page reloads and keeps your place.
- **Light and dark.** Follows your Mac's appearance.
- **Safe editing.** Nothing is saved until you choose Save, and Undo works throughout.

1. Install it

1. Open **MarkdownViewer-1.0.dmg**.
2. Drag **Markdown Viewer** onto the **Applications** folder in the window that opens.
3. Eject the disk image.

> **First time on a new Mac**
>
> The app is not signed with an Apple Developer ID, so macOS checks before it opens. In Applications, right click Markdown Viewer and choose **Open**, then **Open** again. You only need to do this once.

It runs on Apple Silicon and Intel Macs with macOS 13 or later.

2. Make it the default for .md files

The first time the app opens, it asks whether to become the default app for Markdown files. Choose **Make Default**. From then on, a double click on any `.md` file opens it here.

If you chose Not Now, you can do it at any time:

- In the app: **Markdown Viewer > Make Default App for Markdown Files**.
- In Finder: select a `.md` file, choose **File > Get Info**, pick Markdown Viewer under **Open with**, then click **Change All**.

3. Open a file

- Double click a `.md` file in Finder.

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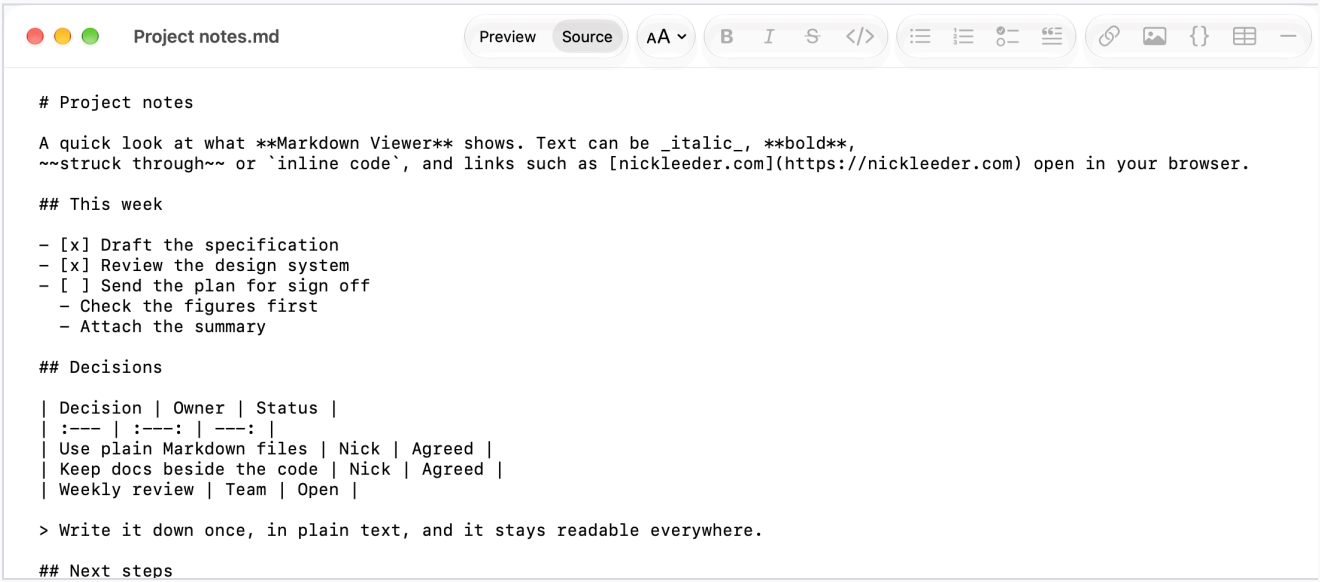
- Or open the app and choose **File > Open** (Command O). Recent files are under **File > Open Recent**.
- Or drag a file onto the app's icon in the Dock.

Files open in Preview. A new file (**File > New**) opens in Source so you can start typing. Several files can be open at once, each in its own window or tab.

4. Preview and Source

The switch at the left of the toolbar moves between two views of the same file. You can also press **Command /** or use **View > Show Source**.

- **Preview** shows the formatted page. Links open in your browser. A link to another `.md` file opens it in Markdown Viewer.
- **Source** shows the Markdown text, ready to edit.



Source: the Markdown text behind the same page.

5. Format text

Select some text and click a toolbar button, or use the **Format** menu. With nothing selected, the app inserts a placeholder for you to type over. Click the same button again to remove the formatting. If you are in Preview, the app switches to Source first.

Button	What it does	Shortcut
Heading	Menu of Heading 1 to 4, or Body Text to remove a heading	Command 1 to 4, Command 0
Bold	Makes text **bold**	Command B
Italic	Makes text *italic*	Command I

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Button	What it does	Shortcut
Strikethrough	Strikes text through	Shift Command X
Inline code	Shows text in a code font	Shift Command C
Bulleted list	Turns lines into a bulleted list	Shift Command L
Numbered list	Turns lines into a numbered list	Shift Command O
Task list	Adds tick boxes to lines	Shift Command T
Quote	Sets lines as a quote	Command '
Link	Adds a link around the selected text	Command K
Image	Adds an image by file name or web address	Shift Command K
Code block	Sets lines as a block of code	Option Command C
Table	Inserts a two column table to fill in	Format menu
Horizontal rule	Inserts a dividing line	Format menu

To add or remove toolbar buttons, choose **View > Customise Toolbar**.

6. Save your changes

- Choose **File > Save** (Command S). Nothing is written to the file until you do.
- A dot in the window's close button means there are unsaved changes.
- **Edit > Undo** (Command Z) steps back through your edits.
- **File > Revert to Saved** throws away changes since the last save.

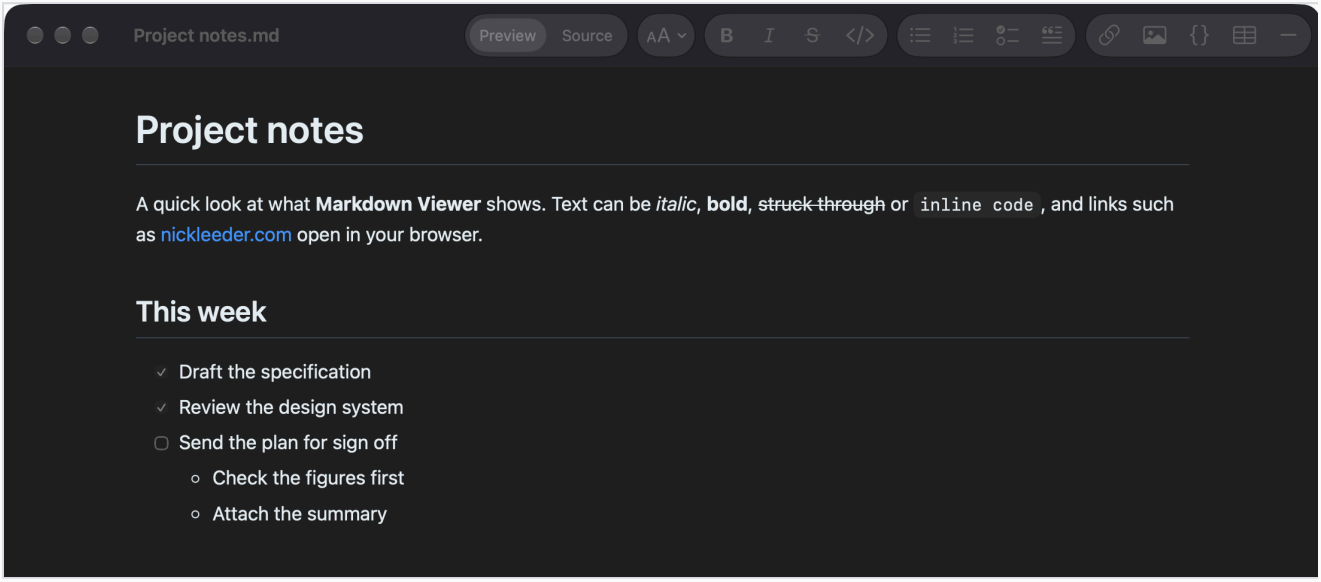
When someone else changes the file

If Claude or another app updates the file while it is open, Markdown Viewer reloads it and keeps your place on the page. This only happens when you have no unsaved changes, so your own edits are never overwritten.

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7. Tips

- **Find text:** Command F, in Source.
- **Images:** pictures saved beside the file show in Preview, for example `![Chart](chart.png)`.
- **Dark mode:** the page follows your Mac's setting in System Settings > Appearance.
- **Full screen:** Control Command F, good for reading long documents.



The same page in dark mode.

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