WINDOWS MARKDOWN EDITOR

Sputnik Markdown Viewer

VERSION 1.8.4

A focused dark-mode editor with document tabs, workspace restore, live preview, and clean PDF output.

Quick Start

1. **Create or open**
   Create a tab, open one or several Markdown files, select a recent file, or drag a file into the window.
2. **Write**
   Edit Markdown on the left. The formatting bar inserts common Markdown syntax.
3. **Review**
   Use Split for editing and preview together, or expand either pane to full width.
4. **Save or export**
   Save editable Markdown, create a copy with Save As, or export the rendered preview to PDF.

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Workspace and Controls

The window stays compact and work-focused. Every visible region has a specific job.

Window Map

TITLE BAR	Shows the active path or Untitled name. An asterisk marks unsaved edits.
FILE TOOLBAR	New, Open, Recent, Save, Save As, Export PDF, Print, outline, image settings, app settings, search, and manual controls.
DOCUMENT TABS	Each open Markdown or PDF-target document has its own tab. An asterisk marks unsaved content.
VIEW CONTROL	Switch between Editor, Split, and Preview without changing document content.
FORMAT BAR	Insert Markdown syntax for text, lists, quotes, links, images, and headings.
OUTLINE	A collapsible heading list generated from # through ###### headings.
EDITOR PANE	The editable Markdown source. It remains plain text on disk.
PREVIEW PANE	The rendered reading view, including enhanced code and PowerShell blocks.
FOOTER	Shows session status, the current version, update checks, and linked Sputnik Digital Effects credit.

Views and Navigation

EDITOR	Full-width source editing. The preview is hidden.
SPLIT	Editor and preview share the window. This is the factory default opening view.
PREVIEW	Full-width rendered document for reading and review.
DEFAULT VIEW	Use the gear button to choose Editor, Split, or Preview for the next launch. Session restore does not override this preference.
SYNC ON	Enabling Sync scroll snaps the preview to the editor, then locks both panes together. This is enabled by default.
SYNC OFF	Clear Sync scroll when each pane should move independently.
FIND	Search results are highlighted and navigable in both the source editor and rendered preview.
OUTLINE	Select a heading to move the editor cursor and rendered preview to the same section. Hide the outline when more width is needed.

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Writing and Formatting

Type Markdown directly or use the format bar. The preview updates as the source changes.

Markdown Basics

`# Heading`	Heading
`**bold**`	Bold text
`*italic*`	Italic text
`> quote`	Block quote
`- item`	Bullet list
`1. item`	Numbered list
`[text](url)`	Link
`![alt](path)`	Image
`` `code` ``	Inline code
` ```language `	Fenced code block

Formatting Bar

- Bold, italic, and heading controls wrap or prefix the selected text.
- Quote, unordered list, and ordered list controls format the current line or selection.
- Link and image controls insert Markdown placeholders. Pasting a screenshot or dropping an image opens an alt-text dialog.
- Imported images are copied into a configurable relative folder, such as assets, and inserted with a relative Markdown path.
- Fullscreen expands the editing surface. The guide button opens Sputnik's Markdown syntax reference in a 1280 by 720 browser window.

Code and PowerShell Blocks

Wrap commands or code in triple backticks. Add a language after the opening fence, such as powershell, bash, json, or javascript. The preview adds a readable dark block, a language label, and a Copy button that places the exact block text on the Windows clipboard.

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Documents and Files

Markdown remains editable plain text. PDF-target documents are handled differently and should be chosen deliberately.

Create and Open

NEW MARKDOWN	Creates Untitled.md. Use Ctrl+N or choose Markdown document from the New menu, which stays above open tabs.
NEW PDF	Creates Untitled.pdf as a PDF-target workspace. Use Ctrl+Shift+N or choose it from the New menu.
OPEN	Select one or several .md or .markdown files. Each file opens in its own tab.
DRAG AND DROP	Drop a Markdown file to open a tab. Drop an image to copy and insert it into the active document.
RECENT	Use the clock icon to reopen one of the eight most recent Markdown files.
CLEAR RECENT	Remove the stored history without deleting any documents from disk.

Save Behavior

SAVE	Writes to the current Markdown path. A small saved confirmation closes after two seconds or can be closed immediately.
SAVE AS	Writes a new Markdown file and continues working from the new location.
DIRTY MARKER	An asterisk appears before the filename while the editor differs from the last saved state.
CLOSE TAB	An unsaved tab offers Save, Close Without Saving, or Cancel. Ctrl+W closes the active tab.
SWITCH TABS	Select a tab or use Ctrl+Tab and Ctrl+Shift+Tab. Each tab keeps its cursor and scroll position.

PDF-Target Documents

A PDF-target document is authored as Markdown in memory, but Save renders it directly to PDF. It does not create a separate editable Markdown source file. For work that must remain editable, create a Markdown document, save the .md file, and use Export PDF for the final copy.

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Preview, Print, and PDF

Print and PDF export use the rendered reading surface, not the raw Markdown source.

Preview Behavior

- Headings, emphasis, lists, quotes, links, images, inline code, and fenced blocks render as formatted content.
- Split mode keeps editing and rendering visible together. Editor and Preview modes make one pane full width.
- Opening a file or selecting a tab refreshes the preview for that document and restores its saved preview position.
- With Sync scroll disabled, each pane keeps its own position while you edit or review.
- Enabling Sync scroll aligns the preview to the editor first, then both panes move proportionally in either direction.
- Code blocks show a language label when the fence names a supported language. Copy uses the block text only.
- Fenced blocks tagged mermaid render as diagrams. A diagram with a syntax error shows the parser message in place.
- Images appear only when the referenced source is reachable by the application.

Print and Export PDF

PRINT	Choose Print or press Ctrl+P to open a paginated print preview. Print to any Windows printer from that preview.
EXPORT PDF	Choose Export PDF at any time. The app suggests a filename based on the Markdown document.
OUTPUT STYLE	Printing and PDF export use a clean white layout with rendered backgrounds when needed.
CONTENT ONLY	The title bar, toolbar, document tabs, outline, editor, and footer are excluded.

Practical PDF Notes

- Export does not replace or modify the Markdown source.
- Review Preview mode before exporting because it represents the rendered content.
- The preview window's print control opens the Windows print dialog for printer, copies, orientation, and paper size.
- Long documents flow across pages. PDF paper and margin controls are not exposed in the app.

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Search, Recent Files, and Sessions

These tools protect active work and reduce repeated navigation without changing saved Markdown files.

Find and Replace

CTRL+F	Open Find. Matches are highlighted in the source editor and rendered preview.
CTRL+H	Open Find and Replace with both input rows visible.
NAVIGATION	Use the up and down buttons, Enter, Shift+Enter, F3, or Shift+F3 to move through both views.
MATCH CASE	Restrict results to the exact uppercase and lowercase spelling.
REPLACE	Replace the active match, or use Replace all for every current match.
ESCAPE	Close the search panel and return focus to the editor.

Workspace and Unsaved-State Restore

- The app stores the open-tab list, active tab, cursor positions, pane scroll positions, and unsaved content in its per-user data folder.
- Session snapshots are written after workspace changes. The footer reports Saved, Unsaved, Session saved, or Session save failed.
- The next launch restores the workspace automatically. Unsaved tabs return with their asterisk and editable content intact.
- Closing the app confirms that unsaved tabs will be restored. Session restore is not a replacement for saving files or keeping backups.

Recent Files and Local Data

- The Recent menu stores up to eight Markdown paths across launches. Opening or saving a Markdown file moves it to the top.
- A missing or moved file is removed when the app cannot open it. Clear recent files removes only history.
- The selected default opening view and image assets folder are stored in the same per-user preferences area.
- Document content, session data, imported images, and recent-file history stay on the local computer. The app does not upload documents.
- At startup, the app asks SputnikFX.com for the newest public version. It sends no document content. Use the footer control to check again or open an available release.

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Installation and Support

Use the installer for Windows integration or the portable folder when you want a movable application directory.

Install, Associate, and Remove

INSTALLER	Run Sputnik Markdown Viewer Setup v1.8.4.exe, approve the administrator prompt, and choose the location.
DEFAULT APP	The installer registers Sputnik for Open With. Windows controls the final default-app choice.
FILE TYPES	The installer registers .md and .markdown with the Sputnik application name and icon.
PORTABLE	The Sputnik Markdown Viewer v1.8.4 folder runs without the installer when kept intact.
UNINSTALL	Use Windows Installed Apps. The uninstaller removes Sputnik's Markdown registration.

Keyboard Reference

`Ctrl+N`	New Markdown document
`Ctrl+Shift+N`	New PDF-target document
`Ctrl+O`	Open one or several Markdown files
`Ctrl+S / Shift`	Save or Save As
`Ctrl+W`	Close the active tab
`Ctrl+Tab / Shift`	Next or previous tab
`Ctrl+F / Ctrl+H`	Find or find and replace
`Ctrl+P`	Print the current rendered document
`F3 / Shift+F3`	Next or previous search match

Troubleshooting and Support

- Production installers are signed and timestamped by Sputnik Digital LLC. Check the publisher in Windows before continuing.
- If installation cannot write to Program Files, close every running Sputnik window, then retry the installer as administrator.
- If a recent file no longer opens, locate it with Open. The old path will be removed from the recent list.
- Use the book icon to open this manual. The footer update control opens the focused SputnikFX update page.
- License notices ship with the installed and portable editions.

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