The Leanpub Manual
The Leanpub Manual

Peter Armstrong, Len Epp and Scott Patten

This book is for sale at http://leanpub.com/manual

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This is a Leanpub book. Leanpub empowers authors and publishers with the Lean Publishing process. Lean Publishing is the act of publishing an in-progress ebook using lightweight tools and many iterations to get reader feedback, pivot until you have the right book and build traction once you do.

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#leanpubmanual
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Introduction

Welcome to The Leanpub Manual¹!

This is a short manual.

It contains three things:

1. A description of the various writing modes.
2. A discussion of Leanpub Flavoured Markdown vs. Markua
3. Getting Started instructions for each writing mode.

The Getting Started instructions vary based on the writing mode of your book. So, you should only read the Getting Started chapter which is for the writing mode you have chosen.

If you already know which writing mode you want to choose, and if the Leanpub Flavoured Markdown vs. Markua decision doesn’t apply (or you want to save it for later), you can skip to the Getting Started chapter for that writing mode now.

If you want to first learn a bit about the different writing modes, and a bit about the Leanpub Flavoured Markdown vs. Markua decision, read on.

Where To Get Help

Markua
To learn how to write in Markua, see The Markua Specification².

Leanpub Flavoured Markdown
To learn how to write in Leanpub Flavoured Markdown, see The Leanpub Flavoured Markdown Manual³.

Getting Started
To learn how to get started with the various writing modes, read this manual.

¹http://leanpub.com/manual
²https://leanpub.com/markua/read
³https://leanpub.com/leanpubflavouredmarkdownmanual
Help Center
We have lots of great documentation and FAQs in our Help Center at http://help.leanpub.com/. Basically, whenever we’re asked a good, general question by an author or reader, we post a generalized version of the answer there as well.

The Leanpub Author Forum
Just as every Leanpub book can have a forum, we have a forum for Leanpub authors as well. Join the Leanpub Forum⁴ and post your question there. Our authors enjoys helping each other out, and we pay attention too. Please ask all general questions there.

Email hello@leanpub.com
If you have a specific problem that you can’t find the answer to in our Help Center and don’t want to post on the forum, email us at hello@leanpub.com⁵ and we’ll be happy to help you.

⁴https://community.leanpub.com/c/authors
⁵mailto:hello@leanpub.com
The 7 Writing Modes of Leanpub

There are 7 different writing modes on Leanpub:

1. Dropbox
2. GitHub
3. Bitbucket
4. Leanpub In-Browser Text Editor
5. Leanpub Visual Editor
6. Google Docs
7. Bring Your Own Book

In the first four writing modes, you write in plain text. This plain text can be formatted in either Leanpub Flavoured Markdown (LFM) or Markua. Both of these are dialects of Markdown, which was created as a way for bloggers to easily write blog posts. (Markdown is easier to write than HTML.)

To be clear, these are the only four writing modes where you write in LFM or Markua:

1. Dropbox
2. GitHub
3. Bitbucket
4. Leanpub In-Browser Text Editor

With the last three writing modes, you don’t write in plain text, so you don’t write in either Leanpub Flavoured Markdown or Markua. Instead, here’s how you write in the last three writing modes:

- Our Visual Editor is a minimalist visual typewriter where you see the formatting. It’s great for novels, and terrible at everything else.
- In Google Docs you write in a WYSIWYG mode. (No, you don’t write LFM or Markua in it. You write like how you normally do in Google Docs.)
- In Bring Your Own Book mode, you just upload PDF, EPUB and MOBI files that you produce however you want, such as using Word, Pages or LaTeX.

So, if you’re using Dropbox, GitHub or Bitbucket, you’ll be able to use Leanpub Flavoured Markdown or Markua. You can change back and forth between them as often as you want. It’s as easy as clicking a checkbox.
Reasons to Use GitHub or Bitbucket

If you’re a programmer and comfortable with Git, we recommend you choose GitHub or Bitbucket over Dropbox. Here are 5 reasons why:

1. You can run your own version control, which is great for collaborating with co-authors and keeping track of versions for yourself.
2. You can also choose a Dropbox folder for the generated preview and published versions of your book to automatically copied into.
3. You can set up webhooks so that whenever you commit and push, we automatically preview (or, if you live on the edge, automatically publish) your book.
4. You can use different branches for preview and publish, so that you can have a bugfix branch (say master) and a development branch for the next version of your book.
5. You can use a different branch for a course, based on the same repository as the book. (Again, courses require that you use Markua, so if you’re writing a book which you think might be a good course, that’s another reason to use it.)

If you’re not a programmer, we recommend using Dropbox mode. Every time you preview or publish, we store a version of your manuscript as a backup, so we recommend you preview and publish often.
Leanpub Flavoured Markdown vs. Markua

On Leanpub, there are two ways to write in plain text:

1. Leanpub Flavoured Markdown (LFM)
2. Markua

Leanpub Flavoured Markdown came first; Markua is its replacement. Both LFM and Markua are dialects of Markdown. Markua is newer and better than LFM, but there are still some advanced features in Markua that aren’t finished yet.

To write in LFM or Markua, you need to be in Dropbox, GitHub or Bitbucket writing mode, or you need to be writing in the Leanpub In-Browser Text Editor.

There are four good reasons to write a book in Markua:

1. It’s the future of Leanpub.
2. It has more features than LFM.
3. You can also use Markua for courses.
4. The Leanpub In-Browser Text Editor is better with Markua now, and it’s going to be way better soon. (We’re working on an upgrade to the Leanpub In-Browser Text Editor which will only be available for Markua books.)

There are three reasons to write a book in LFM:

1. You don’t like using beta software and you don’t like reading specifications.
2. Our Markua support is incomplete, and you don’t want to figure out what works and what doesn’t.
3. You already started your book in LFM and you don’t want to convert it yet.

Here’s our opinion of these three reasons to choose LFM:
1. This isn’t a very good reason. Even though our Markua support isn’t complete, it already has more features than LFM. It’s also just as fast and reliable as our LFM support is. The Markua spec⁶ is very readable, and is updated a lot more than this document.

2. This is a pretty good reason. There’s a mostly-complete list⁷ of what is still incomplete. However, this list isn’t perfect, and it’s still longer than it should be.

3. This is definitely a good reason! If you have a mostly-complete book already written in LFM, you should keep it in LFM until the next edition or until you want to make a course.

### Switching Writing Modes

If you have an existing Leanpub book and you want to switch writing modes, you go here:

**Author > Books > (your book) > Settings > Writing Mode**

Again, Google Docs, our Visual Editor and Bring Your Own Book do not support Markua or LFM formatting.

Once you’ve chosen an appropriate writing mode, you then can switch between the Markua and LFM dialects of Markdown here:

**Author > Books > (your book) > Settings > Markdown Dialect**

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⁶[http://leanpub.com/markua/read](http://leanpub.com/markua/read)

⁷[https://leanpub.com/markua/read#leanpub-authors](https://leanpub.com/markua/read#leanpub-authors)
Getting Started with Dropbox Writing Mode

You can write a Leanpub book using Dropbox. In this chapter we’ll show you how to create a book and generate your first preview.

Once you have successfully generated your first preview, you’ll know everything you know to get started writing in the Dropbox writing mode.

You’ll find more information and detailed instructions on the “Getting Started” page for your book, which you’ll go to automatically when you create your book.

Creating a Book in Dropbox Writing Mode


⁸https://leanpub.com/create/book
Next, type a title for your book into the “TITLE” box. You can change your title later.
Click in the “BOOK URL” box. Leanpub will automatically suggest a URL for your book’s web page on Leanpub. You can change this URL at any time.
Scroll down and you will see “MAIN LANGUAGE USED IN YOUR BOOK.” You can select a language from the drop-down. Like the other settings, you can change this at any time.
Scroll down and you will see the “BOOK THEME” options. “Business” will be selected by default. The Book Theme is just a set of standard formatting options conventional for books on these subjects. You are not required to choose any particular option. You can change your Book Theme at any time.
For this tutorial, we selected the “Fiction” Book Theme.
In the section below, you will be presented with various Writing Mode options. For this tutorial, you don’t need to do anything, because writing on your computer in Dropbox is selected by default.
When you scroll down, you will see the subscription plan options. By default, “Free” will be selected. If you have a paid Leanpub account already, you will see that plan selected automatically.

Select a plan.
Scroll down and, if you are not signed in to a Leanpub account, you will see an option to enter information to create a new account. You will also see an option to sign in, if you already have a Leanpub account.
To create a new account, fill in the relevant information.

**In Dropbox mode, you should use the same email address for Leanpub as you do for your Dropbox account.** If you don’t have Dropbox account, you can get one for free here:
Tick the box to prove you’re a person and click the blue button to finish creating your new Dropbox book.
Getting Started with Dropbox Writing Mode

You will now see that you are on the Getting Started page for your book. You will see a progress bar at the top of the page, while our book generators are creating your new book.

If you use bookmarks in your web browser, we recommend you bookmark this page in your web browser in a bookmark folder for your book, but this is not required.
Look at the Author “breadcrumb” menu at the top of the screen. This is how you will navigate to the web pages you will be using in Leanpub to work on your book and see all the features we provide, like uploading a book cover, or setting a price for your book.

When you are finished this tutorial, we recommend you explore the various Author options.

**Setting Up Your Book In Dropbox**

When you clicked the button to create your book, Leanpub’s Bookbot created a folder for your book in Dropbox, and sent a Dropbox shared folder invitation to the email address you used when you signed up.

It may take one or two minutes for you to receive the Dropbox shared folder invitation.

To accept the invitation, you can click on the Dropbox icon in the menu bar for your computer (these images are on a Mac; if you are using a PC, it will look different.)
Click “Add to Dropbox.”

Alternatively, you can accept the invitation by logging in to Dropbox. You should see the book invitation near the top of the “Home” screen:

If you click on the invitation, you will be able to click “Add to Dropbox:”
Another way to accept the Dropbox invitation is in your email. Here is what it looks like in Gmail:

If you open the email, you should see a button that takes you to your Dropbox account in your browser, and then lets you accept the invitation:
Within a minute or two, in your Dropbox folder on your computer, you should see the folder for your new book:

Creating a Preview

To create your first preview, using the default content we included in your new book, go back the Getting Started page for your book:
Click on “Getting Started” at the top, and you will see the Author menu. It will look something like this:
Click on “Preview or Publish” under the “Book Info” column, and you will see something like this:
Select “Preview’ in the column to the right, and you will go to the “Preview” page for your book:
Click the “Create Preview” button. You will go to a page like this, where you will see a progress bar at the top:
When the preview process is complete, you will see download links for the preview, in a variety of formats:
Click on the links to see what your book looks like in the various formats.

**Next Steps**

Next, we recommend you read the Getting Started page for your book. You’ve already done all the setting up - all that’s left is for you to learn how to write in your book, which should only take a few more minutes!

In the menu on Leanpub, you can find the Getting Started page for your book in your Author menu at:

Author > Books > [Your Book Title] > Book Info > Getting Started

If you have any questions or can’t find anything, please search our Help Center for authors here: [http://help.leanpub.com/author-help](http://help.leanpub.com/author-help)⁹.

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Happy writing!
Getting Started with Git and GitHub Writing Mode

You can write a Leanpub book using Git and GitHub. In this chapter we’ll show you how to create a book and generate your first preview.

Once you have successfully generated your first preview, you’ll know everything you know to get started writing in the GitHub writing mode.

You’ll find more information and detailed instructions on the “Getting Started” page for your book, which you’ll go to automatically when you create your book.

Creating Your Book’s GitHub Repository

The first thing you need to is create a repository for your book on GitHub.

To do this, go to https://github.com¹⁰ and sign in.

Click the green “New” button to the right of the list of Repositories.

This will take you to a page where you can set up a new repository for your Leanpub book.

¹⁰https://github.com
By default, “Public” will be selected. This means anyone can see your repository. Select “Private” if you don’t want anyone to be able to see your repository.
Next, type a name for your repository.
Click the green “Create repository” button. If you want, you can click the checkbox to initialize the repository with a README. It doesn’t matter, but this will get rid of the warning message later.

This will take you to a “Quick setup” page:
Select the repository information and copy it, or click the little copy-to-clipboard icon button.
Go to the command line on your computer. In this tutorial we’re using a Mac, so we use Terminal.
Go to the folder on your computer where you want to clone your GitHub repository. In this tutorial, that is a folder called repos.
Type `git clone` and paste in the repository information you copied on GitHub, and hit Enter.
After a moment, you will see a message saying that the repository has been cloned.
Creating a Book in GitHub Writing Mode

Go to https://leanpub.com/create/book¹¹ to create a book in GitHub writing mode.

¹¹https://leanpub.com/create/book
First, type a title for your book into the “TITLE” box. You can change your title later.
Click in the “BOOK URL” box. Leanpub will automatically suggest a URL for your book’s web page on Leanpub. You can change this URL at any time.

In this case, the URL that was automatically generated was already taken. This will be rare for you, but is a lot more common for us when making tutorials!
If a URL you want is already taken, you can add hyphens or numbers to create a URL that is close to it, but it’s better to use other words so people don’t get confused between your book and someone else’s!
Scroll down and you will see “MAIN LANGUAGE USED IN YOUR BOOK.” You can select a language from the drop-down. Like the other settings, you can change this at any time.
Scroll down and you will see the “BOOK THEME” options. “Business” will be selected by default. The Book Theme is just a set of standard formatting options conventional for books on these subjects. You are not required to choose any particular option. You can change your Book Theme at any time.
For this tutorial, we selected the “Fiction” Book Theme.
In the section below, you will be presented with various Writing Mode options. For this tutorial, select “Using Git and GitHub.”
Scroll down and you will see a box to enter your GitHub username, followed by a forward slash / and your GitHub repo name.
Enter your GitHub username, followed by a forward slash / and your GitHub repo name.
When you scroll down further, you will see the subscription plan options. By default, “Free” will be selected. If you have a paid Leanpub account already, you will see that plan selected automatically.

Select a plan.
Scroll down and, if you are not signed in to a Leanpub account, you will see an option to enter information to create a new account. You will also see an option to sign in, if you already have a Leanpub account.
To create a new account, fill in the relevant information.
Tick the box to prove you’re a person and click the blue button to finish creating your new GitHub book.
You will now see that you are on the Getting Started page for your book.

If you use bookmarks in your web browser, we recommend you bookmark this page in your web browser in a bookmark folder for your book, but this is not required.
Look at the Book Tools “breadcrumb” menu at the top of the screen. This is how you will navigate to the web pages you will be using in Leanpub to work on your book and see all the features we provide, like uploading a book cover, or setting a price for your book.

When you are finished this tutorial, we recommend you explore the various Book Tools options.

### Adding Leanpub As A Collaborator on Your Book’s GitHub Repository

Go back to the GitHub page for your book’s GitHub repository.
Click on “Settings” near the top right, to go to the “Settings” page for the repository.
Click on “Collaborators” in the menu on the left, to go to the “Collaborators” page for the repository.
Type “leanpub” in the search box to find the leanpub GitHub user.
Select the “leanpub” user and click the “Add collaborator” button.
You will see that Leanpub has been added as a collaborator on the repository.
Adding Default Content to Your GitHub Repository

Next, you need to add some content to your GitHub repository. (Leanpub NEVER commits to your GitHub repository, since we do not want to cause merge conflicts.)

Go back to the Getting Started page for your book.
Scroll down to Step 2 and click the this zip file link, or click the link in this sentence in the tutorial. This will download the default content to your computer.

You will now find the file wherever you store downloads on your computer.

Double-click the folder to unzip it.

Copy the “manuscript” folder. Then, go to the cloned GitHub repository on your computer, and paste the “manuscript” folder into the repository.
Go back to the command line on your computer and change to the GitHub repository for your book.

Type `git add .` to the content using Git.
Type `git commit -m "adding default manuscript folder"`. You will see messages indicating that the content has been committed.
Type `git push` to push the commit to the repository on GitHub.
Creating a Preview

To create your first preview, using the default content we included in your new book, go back the Getting Started page for your book:
Click on “Getting Started” at the top, and you will see your the Book Tools menu. It will look something like this:
Click on “Preview or Publish” under the “Book Info” column, and you will see something like this:
Select “Preview’ in the column to the right, and you will go to the “Preview” page for your book:
Click the “Create Preview” button. You will go to a page like this, where you will see a progress bar at the top:
When the preview process is complete, you will see download links for the preview, in a variety of formats:
Click on the links to see what your book looks like in the various formats.

**Next Steps**

Next, we recommend you read the Getting Started page for your book. You’ve already done all the setting up - all that’s left is for you to learn how to write in your book, which should only take a few more minutes!

In the menu on Leanpub, you can find the Getting Started page for your in your Book Tools menu at:

Author > Books > [Your Book Title] > Book Info > Getting Started

If you have any questions or can’t find anything, please search our Help Center for authors here: [http://help.leanpub.com/author-help](http://help.leanpub.com/author-help).
Happy writing!
Getting Started with Git and Bitbucket Writing Mode

You can write a Leanpub book using Git and Bitbucket. In this chapter we’ll show you how to create a book and generate your first preview.

Once you have successfully generated your first preview, you’ll know everything you know to get started writing in the Bitbucket writing mode.

You’ll find more information and detailed instructions on the “Getting Started” page for your book, which you’ll go to automatically when you create your book.

Creating Your Book’s Bitbucket Repository

The first thing you need to is create a repository for your book on Bitbucket.

To do this, go to https://bitbucket.org and sign in.

Click the + plus sign to the left in the menu at the top of the page.

¹⁴https://bitbucket.org
Under “CREATE”, select “Repository.”
This will take you to a page where you can set up a new repository for your Leanpub book.
By default, “Private” will be selected. Leave this set to “Private” if you don’t want anyone to be able to see your repository.

Next, type a name for your repository.
Click the blue “Create repository” button.
This will take you to a “Get started quickly” page:
Select the repository information and copy it.
Go to the command line on your computer. In this tutorial we’re using a Mac, so we use Terminal.
Go to the folder on your computer where you want to clone your Bitbucket repository. In this tutorial, that is a folder called repos.
Paste in the repository information you copied on Bitbucket, and hit Enter.
You may see a message asking if you are sure you want to connect. If you are sure, type “yes” and hit return.
After a moment, you will see a message saying that the repository has been cloned.
Creating a Book in Bitbucket Writing Mode

Go to https://leanpub.com/create/book\(^\text{15}\) to create a book in Bitbucket writing mode.

\(^{15}\text{https://leanpub.com/create/book}\)
First, type a title for your book into the “TITLE” box. You can change your title later.
Click in the “BOOK URL” box. Leanpub will automatically suggest a URL for your book’s web page on Leanpub. You can change this URL at any time.
Scroll down and you will see “MAIN LANGUAGE USED IN YOUR BOOK.” You can select a language from the drop-down. Like the other settings, you can change this at any time.
Scroll down and you will see the “BOOK THEME” options. “Business” will be selected by default. The Book Theme is just a set of standard formatting options conventional for books on these subjects. You are not required to choose any particular option. You can change your Book Theme at any time.
For this tutorial, we selected the “Fiction” Book Theme.
In the section below, you will be presented with various Writing Mode options. For this tutorial, select “Using Git and Bitbucket.”
Scroll down and you will see a box to enter your Bitbucket username, followed by a forward slash / and your Bitbucket repo name.

Enter your Bitbucket username, followed by a forward slash / and your Bitbucket repo name.
When you scroll down further, you will see the subscription plan options. By default, “Free” will be selected. If you have a paid Leanpub account already, you will see that plan selected automatically.

Select a plan.
Scroll down and, if you are not signed in to a Leanpub account, you will see an option to enter information to create a new account. You will also see an option to sign in, if you already have a Leanpub account.
To create a new account, fill in the relevant information.
Tick the box to prove you’re a person and click the blue button to finish creating your new Bitbucket book.
You will now see that you are on the Getting Started page for your book.

If you use bookmarks in your web browser, we recommend you bookmark this page in your web browser in a bookmark folder for your book, but this is not required.
Look at the Author “breadcrumb” menu at the top of the screen. This is how you will navigate to the web pages you will be using in Leanpub to work on your book and see all the features we provide, like uploading a book cover, or setting a price for your book.

When you are finished this tutorial, we recommend you explore the various Author options.

**Adding Leanpub As A Collaborator on Your Book’s Bitbucket Repository**

Go back to the Bitbucket page for your book’s Bitbucket repository.
Click on “Settings” in the menu to the left, to go to the “Settings” page for the repository.
Click on “User and group access” in the menu on the left, to go to the “Collaborators” page for the repository.
Type “Leanpub” in the search box.
Select the “Leanpub” option and click the “Add” button.

You will see that Leanpub has been added as a collaborator on the repository.
Adding Default Content to Your Bitbucket Repository

Next, you need to add some content to your Bitbucket repository. (Leanpub NEVER commits to your Bitbucket repository, since we do not want to cause merge conflicts.)

Go back to the Getting Started page for your book.
Scroll down to Step 2 and click the this zip file link, or click the link in this sentence in the tutorial. This will download the default content to your computer.

You will now find the file wherever you store downloads on your computer.

Double-click the folder to unzip it.

Copy the “manuscript” folder. Then, go to the cloned Bitbucket repository on your computer, and paste the “manuscript” folder into the repository.
Go back to the command line on your computer and change to the Bitbucket repository for your book.
Type `git add .` to add the content using Git.
Type `git commit -m "adding default manuscript folder"`. You will see messages indicating that the content has been committed.
Type `git push origin master` to push the commit to the repository on Bitbucket.
Creating a Preview

To create your first preview, using the default content we included in your new book, go back the Getting Started page for your book:
Click on “Getting Started” at the top, and you will see your the Author menu. It will look something like this:
Click on “Preview or Publish” under the “Book Info” column, and you will see something like this:
Select “Preview’ in the column to the right, and you will go to the “Preview” page for your book:
Click the “Create Preview” button. You will go to a page like this, where you will see a progress bar at the top:
When the preview process is complete, you will see download links for the preview, in a variety of formats:
Click on the links to see what your book looks like in the various formats.

**Next Steps**

Next, we recommend you read the Getting Started page for your book. You’ve already done all the setting up - all that’s left is for you to learn how to write in your book, which should only take a few more minutes!

In the menu on Leanpub, you can find the Getting Started page for your in your Author menu at:

Author > Books > [Your Book Title] > Book Info > Getting Started

If you have any questions or can’t find anything, please search our Help Center for authors here: [http://help.leanpub.com/author-help](http://help.leanpub.com/author-help).
Happy writing!
Getting Started with In-Browser Plain Text Editor Writing Mode

You can write a Leanpub book using the In-Browser Plain Text Editor writing mode. In this chapter we’ll show you how to create a book and generate your first preview.

Once you have successfully generated your first preview, you’ll know everything you know to get started writing in the In-Browser Plain Text Editor writing mode.

You’ll find more information and detailed instructions on the “Getting Started” page for your book, which you’ll go to automatically when you create your book.

Creating a Book in In-Browser Plain Text Editor Writing Mode

Go to https://leanpub.com/create/book¹⁸ to create a book in In-Browser Plain Text Editor.

¹⁸https://leanpub.com/create/book
Next, type a title for your book into the “TITLE” box. You can change your title later.
Click in the “BOOK URL” box. Leanpub will automatically suggest a URL for your book’s web page on Leanpub. You can change this URL at any time.
Scroll down and you will see “MAIN LANGUAGE USED IN YOUR BOOK.” You can select a language from the drop-down. Like the other settings, you can change this at any time.
Scroll down and you will see the “BOOK THEME” options. “Business” will be selected by default. The Book Theme is just a set of standard formatting options conventional for books on these subjects. You are not required to choose any particular option. You can change your Book Theme at any time.
For this tutorial, we selected the “Fiction” Book Theme.
In the section below, you will be presented with various Writing Mode options. For this tutorial, select “In your browser on Leanpub”: 
Scroll down and you will see the “How do you want to write?” options. Select “In our Plain Text Editor”: 
When you scroll down, you will see the subscription plan options. By default, “Free” will be selected. If you have a paid Leanpub account already, you will see that plan selected automatically.

Select a plan.
Scroll down and, if you are not signed in to a Leanpub account, you will see an option to enter information to create a new account. You will also see an option to sign in, if you already have a Leanpub account.
Getting Started with In-Browser Plain Text Editor Writing Mode

To create a new account, fill in the relevant information.
Tick the box to prove you’re a person and click the blue button to finish creating your new In-Browser Plain Text Editor book.
You will now see that you are on the Getting Started page for your book.

If you use bookmarks in your web browser, we recommend you bookmark this page in your web browser in a bookmark folder for your book, but this is not required.
Look at the Author “breadcrumb” menu at the top of the screen. This is how you will navigate to the web pages you will be using in Leanpub to work on your book and see all the features we provide, like uploading a book cover, or setting a price for your book.

When you are finished this tutorial, we recommend you explore the various Author options.

Creating a Preview

Click on “Getting Started” at the top, and you will see your the Author menu. It will look something like this:
Click on “Preview or Publish” under the “Book Info” column, and you will see something like this:
Select “Preview’ in the column to the right, and you will go to the “Preview” page for your book:
Click the “Create Preview” button. You will go to a page like this, where you will see a progress bar at the top:
When the preview process is complete, you will see download links for the preview, in a variety of formats:
Click on the links to see what your book looks like in the various formats.

**Where You Write Your Book**

To see where you write your book, click on “Download Preview” in the menu at the top of the page:
To go to the “Write” page for your book, on “Write” at the bottom of the second column from the right:
Select “chapter1.txt” in the menu at the left to see some of the default content we provide when you create a new book.

This is where you write your book, by creating chapters in the menu to the left, clicking on them, and then writing in the browser.
Next Steps

Next, we recommend you read the Getting Started page for your book. You’ve already done all the setting up - all that’s left is for you to learn how to write in your book, which should only take a few more minutes!

In the menu on Leanpub, you can find the Getting Started page for your in your Author menu at:

Author > Books > [Your Book Title] > Book Info > Getting Started

If you have any questions or can’t find anything, please search our Help Center for authors here: http://help.leanpub.com/author-help¹⁹.

Happy writing!

¹⁹http://help.leanpub.com/author-help
Getting Started with Visual Editor Writing Mode

You can write a Leanpub book using the Visual Editor writing mode. In this chapter we’ll show you how to create a book and generate your first preview.

Once you have successfully generated your first preview, you’ll know everything you know to get started writing in the Visual Editor writing mode.

You’ll find more information and detailed instructions on the “Getting Started” page for your book; you’ll be shown how to get to that page at the end of these instructions.

Creating a Book in Visual Editor Writing Mode


²⁰https://leanpub.com/create/book
Next, type a title for your book into the “TITLE” box. You can change your title later.
Click in the “BOOK URL” box. Leanpub will automatically suggest a URL for your book’s web page on Leanpub. You can change this URL at any time.
Scroll down and you will see “MAIN LANGUAGE USED IN YOUR BOOK.” You can select a language from the drop-down. Like the other settings, you can change this at any time.
Scroll down and you will see the “BOOK THEME” options. “Business” will be selected by default. The Book Theme is just a set of standard formatting options conventional for books on these subjects. You are not required to choose any particular option. You can change your Book Theme at any time.
For this tutorial, we selected the “Fiction” Book Theme.
In the section below, you will be presented with various Writing Mode options. For this tutorial, select “In your browser on Leanpub.”
If you scroll down, you will see that the “In our Visual Editor” option is selected by default.
When you scroll down, you will see the subscription plan options. By default, “Free” will be selected. If you have a paid Leanpub account already, you will see that plan selected automatically.

Select a plan.
Scroll down and, if you are not signed in to a Leanpub account, you will see an option to enter information to create a new account. You will also see an option to sign in, if you already have a Leanpub account.
To create a new account, fill in the relevant information.
Tick the box to prove you’re a person and click the blue button to finish creating your new Visual Editor book.
You will now be taken directly to the Visual Editor, where you will see some default content. You type directly into the Visual Editor here, to write your book.
Creating a Preview

Click on “Write” at the top, and you will see your Book Tools menu. It will look something like this:
Click on “Preview or Publish” in the menu, and you will see something like this:
Select “Preview’ in the column to the right, and you will go to the “Preview” page for your book:
Click the “Create Preview” button. You will go to a page like this, where you will see a progress bar at the top:
When the preview process is complete, you will see download links for the preview, in a variety of formats:
Click on the links to see what your book looks like in the various formats.

Next Steps

Next, we recommend you read the Getting Started page for your book. You’ve already done all the setting up - all that’s left is for you to learn how to write in your book, which should only take a few more minutes!

In the menu on Leanpub, you can find the Getting Started page for your in your Book Tools menu at:

Author > Books > [Your Book Title] > Book Info > Getting Started

If you have any questions or can’t find anything, please search our Help Center for authors here: http://help.leanpub.com/author-help²¹.

²¹http://help.leanpub.com/author-help
Happy writing!
Getting Started with Google Docs Writing Mode

You can write a Leanpub book using Google Docs. In this chapter we’ll show you how to create a book and generate your first preview.

Once you have successfully generated your first preview, you’ll know everything you know to get started writing in the Google Docs writing mode.

You’ll find more information and detailed instructions on the “Getting Started” page for your book, which you’ll go to automatically when you create your book.

Creating a Book in Google Docs Writing Mode


²²https://leanpub.com/create/book
Next, type a title for your book into the “TITLE” box. You can change your title later.
Click in the “BOOK URL” box. Leanpub will automatically suggest a URL for your book’s web page on Leanpub. You can change this URL at any time.
Scroll down and you will see the “BOOK THEME” options. “Business” will be selected by default. The Book Theme is just a set of standard formatting options conventional for books on these subjects. You are not required to choose any particular option. You can change your Book Theme at any time.
For this tutorial, we selected the “Fiction” Book Theme.
Scroll down and you will see “MAIN LANGUAGE USED IN YOUR BOOK.” You can select a language from the drop-down. Like the other settings, you can change this at any time.
In the section below, you will be presented with various Writing Mode options. For this tutorial, select “In Google Docs.”
When you scroll down, you will see the subscription plan options. By default, “Free” will be selected. If you have a paid Leanpub account already, you will see that plan selected automatically.

Select a plan.
Scroll down and, if you are not signed in to a Leanpub account, you will see an option to enter information to create a new account. You will also see an option to sign in, if you already have a Leanpub account.
To create a new account, fill in the relevant information.
Tick the box to prove you’re a person and click the blue button to finish creating your new Google Docs book.
You will now see that you are on the Getting Started page for your book.
Look at the Book Tools “breadcrumb” menu at the top of the screen. This is how you will navigate to the web pages you will be using in Leanpub to work on your book and see all the features we provide, like uploading a book cover, or setting a price for your book.

When you are finished this tutorial, we recommend you explore the various Book Tools options.

**Setting Up Your Book In Google Docs**

You will need to add the Leanpub Add-on to your Google Drive, if you have not done so already.

To install the Leanpub Add-on, log in to your Google account in your browser and follow this link²³.

²³https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/leanpub/gegaefpgcjffojgplfendomidpagflme
Getting Started with Google Docs Writing Mode

You will be taken to a page that looks like this:

Click the button at the top right (in the screenshot above it says “Free”).
You will then be asked to grant Leanpub access to your account:
Go back to the Getting Started page for your book and scroll down to Step 3:
Click the blue button that says “Setup Google Drive.” It will take a moment for Leanpub to do its magic:
Getting Started with Google Docs Writing Mode

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When the process is complete, you will go back to the top of the page. Scroll down to Step 4 and click the link that says “Click here.”
This will take you to the folder Leanpub has set up for your book in your Google Drive. You will see something like this if you are viewing files as a list:

Note that the Leanpub Google Docs Add-on is NOT a Chrome extension that you add to your browser. Instead, it is something that you are adding to Google Docs. The Leanpub Google Docs Add-on has been tested with Chrome, Safari and Firefox, and should also work with Edge and it.

The first step is to install the Leanpub Google Docs Add-on into Google Docs. Again, this is not a Chrome extension; you're modifying the behavior of Google Docs, not of Chrome.

If you've already installed the Leanpub Google Docs Add-On and granted the required permissions, proceed to Step 3 in this tutorial.

**Step 2: Give the Leanpub Google Docs Add-on Permission to Run**

After you install it, you need to give the Leanpub Google Docs Add-on permission to run and access your Google Drive.

Click the blue "Continue" button you will see in the "Let's get started" box you will see on your screen.

After clicking the blue "Continue," you may be asked to choose an email account before proceeding. This email account is the email you account you use when you are working in Google Docs. It does not have to be the same email account that you use for your Leanpub account.

If you are content with the list of permissions you will then see, scroll down and click the blue "Allow" button.

**DO NOT START THE ADD-ON YET!** We have an automated setup process you need to use. That is explained in the next step in this tutorial.

**Step 3: Click the Setup Button in Leanpub**

You have already set up your book successfully. Please proceed to Step 4.

**Step 4: Select a Default Content Document in Google Docs**

Let's open one of the documents in your book folder.
If you are not in list mode, you will see something like this:
What you are seeing is the three default chapters Leanpub has included in your book. You should read all of these chapters, because they explain in detail all of the features you can use in Google Docs when you are creating a Leanpub book.

(To be clear, not all of the features you will find in Google Docs will work in a Leanpub book. You should make your book look like what you see in these default chapters.)

**Starting the Leanpub Add-on**

Next, double-click on Chapter One to see the document:
Chapter One

This is a sample chapter of a Leanpub book that is being written using Google Docs.

When you’re creating a new chapter, select the “Title” style in the Google Docs menu, and then type the name of your chapter.

Then, just hit enter and start writing your first paragraph. The style will automatically change back to “Normal Text.”

When you create a preview of your Leanpub book, or publish a new version of your book to our bookstore, Leanpub’s book generator will automatically create a Table of Contents for you, based on the chapter titles in your manuscript.

Click on the “Add-ons” item in the menu for the document:
Select “Leanpub” and then “Start.”
You will then see the Leanpub sidebar appear to the right.
Chapter One

This is a sample chapter of a Leanpub book that is being written using Google Docs.

When you’re creating a new chapter, select the “Title” style in the Google Docs menu, and then type the name of your chapter.

Then, just hit enter and start writing your first paragraph. The style will automatically change back to “Normal text.”

When you create a preview of your Leanpub book, or publish a new version of your book to our bookstore, Leanpub’s book generators will automatically create a Table of Contents for you, based on the chapter titles in your manuscript.

You may be asked to sign in to Leanpub the first time you do those. To sign into Leanpub in the sidebar, you need to use your Leanpub account email address and your Leanpub account password.

You will then see your book in the Leanpub sidebar.
Creating a Preview

Click the “Preview” link for your book in the sidebar. You will see something this:
Chapter One
This is a sample chapter of a Leanpub book that is being written using Google Docs.

When you’re creating a new chapter, select the “Title” style in the Google Docs menu, and then type the name of your chapter.

Then, just hit enter and start writing your first paragraph. The style will automatically change back to “Normal text.”

When you create a preview of your Leanpub book, or publish a new version of your book to our bookstore, Leanpub’s book generator will automatically create a Table of Contents for you, based on the chapter titles in your manuscript.

Click the “Start Preview” button. You will see a progress bar at the bottom of the sidebar:
Chapter One

This is a sample chapter of a Leanpub book that is being written using Google Docs.

When you’re creating a new chapter, select the “Title” style in the Google Docs menu, and then type the name of your chapter.

Then, just hit enter and start writing your first paragraph. The style will automatically change back to “Normal text.”

When you create a preview of your Leanpub book, or publish a new version of your book to our bookstore, Leanpub’s book generators will automatically create a Table of Contents for you, based on the chapter titles in your manuscript.

The progress bar will turn green when the process is complete:
Chapter One

This is a sample chapter of a Leanpub book that is being written using Google Docs. When you're creating a new chapter, select the "Title" style in the Google Docs menu, and then type the name of your chapter.

Then, just hit enter and start writing your first paragraph. The style will automatically change back to "Normal Text."

When you create a preview of your Leanpub book, or publish a new version of your book to our bookstore, Leanpub's book generator will automatically create a Table of Contents for you, based on the chapter titles in your manuscript.

You will then see links to download the different ebook versions of your book that have been created:
Click the PDF link to download the PDF preview you have created and open it on your device.

Next Steps

Next, we recommend you read from Step 7 to the end of the Getting Started page for your book.

If you have any questions or can’t find anything, please search our Help Center for authors here: http://help.leanpub.com/author-help²⁴.

Happy writing!

²⁴http://help.leanpub.com/author-help
Getting Started with Bring Your Own Book Writing Mode

You can write a Leanpub book using the Bring Your Own Book writing mode. In this chapter we’ll show you how to create a book and generate your first preview.

Once you have successfully generated your first preview, you’ll know everything you know to get started writing in the Bring Your Own Book writing mode.

You’ll find more information and detailed instructions on the “Getting Started” page for your book, which you’ll go to automatically when you create your book.

Creating a Book in Bring Your Own Book Writing Mode


Next, type a title for your book into the “TITLE” box. You can change your title later.
Click in the “BOOK URL” box. Leanpub will automatically suggest a URL for your book’s web page on Leanpub. You can change this URL at any time.
Scroll down and you will see “MAIN LANGUAGE USED IN YOUR BOOK.” You can select a language from the drop-down. Like the other settings, you can change this at any time.
Scroll down and you will see the “BOOK THEME” options. “Business” will be selected by default. The Book Theme is just a set of standard formatting options conventional for books on these subjects. You are not required to choose any particular option. You can change your Book Theme at any time.
For this tutorial, we selected the “Fiction” Book Theme.
In the section below, you will be presented with various Writing Mode options. For this tutorial, select “Bring your own book.”
When you scroll down, you will see the subscription plan options. By default, “Free” will be selected. If you have a paid Leanpub account already, you will see that plan selected automatically.

Select a plan.
Scroll down and, if you are not signed in to a Leanpub account, you will see an option to enter information to create a new account. You will also see an option to sign in, if you already have a Leanpub account.
To create a new account, fill in the relevant information.
Tick the box to prove you’re a person and click the blue button to finish creating your new Bring Your Own Book book.
You will now see that you are on the Getting Started page for your book.

If you use bookmarks in your web browser, we recommend you bookmark this page in your web browser in a bookmark folder for your book, but this is not required.
Look at the Book Tools “breadcrumb” menu at the top of the screen. This is how you will navigate to the web pages you will be using in Leanpub to work on your book and see all the features we provide, like uploading a book cover, or setting a price for your book.

When you are finished this tutorial, we recommend you explore the various Book Tools options.

**Uploading Your Book In Bring Your Own Book**

Click on “Getting Started” at the top, and you will see your the Book Tools menu. It will look something like this:
Click on “Preview or Publish” in the menu, and you will see something like this:
Select “Upload” in the column to the right:
On your computer, find the book file or files you would like to upload. (The file does not have to named “book.pdf”; you can use any file name you prefer.)

Drag the file onto the top box that under “Upload Your Book Files.” You will see a progress bar as the file uploads:
When the file is uploaded, you will see a check mark:
That’s it, you’re done uploading your file! After you have added information about your book to Leanpub, then all you have to do is click the Publish button.

**Publishing Your Book**

To do this, click on “Upload” in the menu at the top:
Select “Publish Your Book” at the top right, to go to the Publish page for your book.
Scroll down and you will see the blue “Publish Book” button.
Next Steps

Next, we recommend you read the Getting Started page for your book. You’ve already done all the setting up - all that’s left is for you to learn how to write in your book, which should only take a few more minutes!

In the menu on Leanpub, you can find the Getting Started page for your in your Book Tools menu at:

Author > Books > [Your Book Title] > Book Info > Getting Started

If you have any questions or can’t find anything, please search our Help Center for authors here: http://help.leanpub.com/author-help²⁶.

Happy writing!

²⁶http://help.leanpub.com/author-help