Cicero Documentation

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You **write your talk in Markdown**, host it on GitHub or GitLab. **We render it** using remark of reveal.js and serve it for you before you can say blueberry pie. You can **style your slides** to your heart's content.

CHAPTER 1

Getting started in 5 minutes

Place the following Markdown file on https://github.com or https://gitlab.com, perhaps as `mytalk.md`:

````
class: center, middle

# Simple example presentation

## Author

---

## Another slide

Try **F** and **P** keys.

- A bullet point
- Another convincing argument

---

## Code blocks are no problem

Here we have some Python code:

```python
from itertools import cycle

fizz = cycle(['', '', 'Fizz'])
buzz = cycle(['', '', '', '', 'Buzz'])

for i in range(1, 101):
    print((next(fizz) + next(buzz)) or i)
```

[Source](https://github.com/olemb/nonsense/blob/master/fizzbuzz/itertools_cycle.py)
````

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```
---

## Images

An image fetched from the web:

![Sample image](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/4f/The_Young_
↪Cicero_Reading.jpg/316px-The_Young_Cicero_Reading.jpg)
```

Let us assume your talk is on (replace <namespace> and <repository>):

```
https://github.com/<namespace>/<repository>/mytalk.md
```

You can now visit (replace <namespace> and <repository>):

```
https://cicero.xyz/v3/remark/0.14.0/github.com/<namespace>/<repository>/main/mytalk.md
```

Of course you can reference another branch or tag or hash than `main`.

If you like https://revealjs.com better, then check https://github.com/bast/cicero/tree/main/demo/reveal.js.

CHAPTER 2

Exporting slides to PDF

The to my knowledge best way to export slides to PDF is using https://github.com/astefanutti/decktape.

First install the tool following https://github.com/astefanutti/decktape#install, then you can export slides, e.g.:

```
$ decktape https://example.org/my-slides.md/ my-slides.pdf
```

If you prefer not to install it but have Singularity installed, you can do this instead:

```
$ singularity pull docker://astefanutti/decktape
$ ./decktape_latest.sif https://example.org/my-slides.md/ my-slides.pdf
```

CHAPTER 3

Running the app locally

You can preview your changes locally and also present your talk without relying on https://cicero.xyz:

```
$ pip install cicero
$ cicero --file /home/user/my-talk/talk.md
```

3.1 Available options

```
$ cicero --help

usage: cicero.py [-h] [--file FILENAME] [--engine ENGINE] [--debug]
                 [--host HOST] [--port PORT]

optional arguments:
  -h, --help            show this help message and exit
  --file FILENAME, -f FILENAME
                        serve a local file (default: None)
  --engine ENGINE       rendering engine (available: remark-0.13.0,
                        remark-0.14.0, remark-legacy, reveal.js-3.7.0)
                        (default: remark-0.14.0)
  --debug
  --host HOST
  --port PORT
```

CHAPTER 4

How to use your own CSS

If you place a file in the same path as your talk, with the same name as your talk, and only replace the `.md` suffix by `.css`. Then the rendering engine will use this file: https://github.com/bast/cicero/blob/main/cicero/templates/render.html#L11-L13

In other words, if your talk is called `mytalk.md` and you want to customize CSS, place a file called `mytalk.css` in the same place as your `mytalk.md`.

With this you can even override CSS directives and style your slides to your heart's content.

Example: https://github.com/bast/cicero/tree/main/demo/remark/styling

CHAPTER 5

Images

You can either include images the Markdown way:

```
![alt text](https://github.com/adam-p/markdown-here/raw/master/src/common/images/
↪icon48.png "Logo Title Text 1")

![alt text](path/myimage.jpg "Local image")
```

or the HTML way:

```
<img src="file.jpg" style="height: 450px;"/>
```

CHAPTER 6

Background image

6.1 remark

Setting and changing the background image is nicely documented here: https://github.com/gnab/remark/wiki/Markdown#background-image

CHAPTER 7

How to customize everything

You want to change looks and fonts? CSS is not enough? Perhaps you need an external JavaScript library?

You can place `*.head.html` and/or `*.body.html` alongside your `*.md` slides. In these files you can do and change almost everything: https://github.com/bast/cicero/blob/main/cicero/templates/render.html.

To get inspired of what is in these by default and what can be changed, please browse https://github.com/bast/cicero/tree/main/cicero/static/engines.

CHAPTER 8

Math equations

Here is an example: https://github.com/bast/cicero/tree/main/demo/remark/equations

CHAPTER 9

v3

This API is currently the default:

```
/v3/<engine>/<engine_version>/<repo>/<branch>/<path>
```

Examples with files on GitHub:

- https://cicero.xyz/v3/remark/0.14.0/github.com/bast/cicero/main/demo/remark/simple/talk.md
- https://cicero.xyz/v3/remark/0.14.0/github.com/bast/cicero/main/demo/remark/styling/talk.md
- https://cicero.xyz/v3/remark/0.14.0/github.com/bast/cicero/main/demo/remark/equations/talk.md
- https://cicero.xyz/v3/remark/0.14.0/github.com/bast/cicero/main/demo/remark/original/talk.md
- https://cicero.xyz/v3/remark/0.14.0/github.com/bast/cicero/main/demo/remark/header-footer/talk.md
- https://cicero.xyz/v3/reveal.js/3.7.0/github.com/bast/cicero/main/demo/reveal.js/talk.md

Examples with files on GitLab:

- https://cicero.xyz/v3/remark/0.14.0/gitlab.com/bast/cicero-example/master/demo/remark/simple/talk.md
- https://cicero.xyz/v3/remark/0.14.0/gitlab.com/bast/cicero-example/master/demo/remark/styling/talk.md
- https://cicero.xyz/v3/remark/0.14.0/gitlab.com/bast/cicero-example/master/demo/remark/equations/talk.md
- https://cicero.xyz/v3/remark/0.14.0/gitlab.com/bast/cicero-example/master/demo/remark/original/talk.md
- https://cicero.xyz/v3/reveal.js/3.7.0/gitlab.com/bast/cicero-example/master/demo/reveal.js/talk.md

CHAPTER 10

v2

This API is the past but still supported:

```
/v2/remark/github/<namespace>/<repo>/<branch>/<path>
```

Example: https://cicero.xyz/v2/remark/github/bast/cicero/main/demo/remark/original/talk.md

CHAPTER 11

v1

This API is deprecated since it does not allow talks in subdirectories:

```
/v1/github/<namespace>/<repo>/<branch>/<path>/remark/
```

CHAPTER 12

Running your own server

You can run your own Cicero instance on your own server. Cicero is a Flask app and to serve it you should use a WSGI server for production. The sources are open: https://github.com/bast/cicero

CHAPTER 13

Environment variables

You will need to define `CICERO_URL_BASE` to the URL of your server. This sets the URL base for generated links in the Markdown file finder.

As an example, for https://cicero.xyz we set:

```
CICERO_URL_BASE=https://cicero.xyz
```

CHAPTER 14

Dependencies

The app depends on the following Python packages:

- Flask 1.0.2
- Requests 2.20.0

On the front-end side we depend on the following libraries:

- Vue 2.5.16
- Bootstrap 4.1.3

CHAPTER 15

Setting up your environment

First install the dependencies (you need a network connection for this step):

```
$ git checkout https://github.com/bast/cicero
$ cd cicero
```

Now install https://flit.readthedocs.io/ from `requirements.txt`.

Then install the package and start the server:

```
$ flit install --symlink
$ cicero

* Running on http://127.0.0.1:5000/ (Press CTRL+C to quit)
```